

EASTER CELEBRATION

A TIME TO LIVE

4-5-2026

THEME: A TIME TO LIVE

“For everything there is a season and time for every purpose under heaven...God has made everything beautiful in its time” - Ecclesiastes 3. On Easter, God declares that death’s time is over, this is a time to live. Easter is the time when God turns mourning into joy and darkness into dawn! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

† THE CELEBRATION BEGINS †

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Grace Bell Choir

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Ecclesiastes 3

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
ALL Amen!

Pastor Christ is risen!
ALL He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor For everything there is a season and time for every purpose under
heaven.
ALL A time to heal!

Pastor For the wounds of the world meet the power of the resurrection.
ALL A time to laugh!

Pastor For death has lost its sting.
ALL A time to live!

Pastor For Christ is Risen!
ALL He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SONG

“From All Who Dwells Below the Skies” (LW 440)

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the creator’s praise arise: Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the redeemer’s name be sung

Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord:
Eternal truth attends Thy Word; Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to thee; Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC
Grace Praise Choir

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Lord of life. I am a sinner in need of your saving love. Forgive me of my sins. At times my life has lost its way. Show me your mercy, for you have died for me. Reveal to me the hope that is mine, for you are risen for me. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: On this Easter Day, the living Lord, the empty tomb, and the reality of the resurrection, assure us that though the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. The burden of sin and death are lifted. Christ is our life! So live in His peace and joy, for I declare this Easter Day, "You are forgiven!" In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

SONG OF PRAISE

"When Peace Like A River" (LSB 763 v. 1-3)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. (Refrain)

He lives-oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

† THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER †

FIRST READING:
Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC
Grace Bell Choir

HOLY GOSPEL:
Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see

the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

**MESSAGE:
A TIME TO LIVE**

SONG:

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (LSB 525 v. 1, 3, 4)

**1-Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

**3-Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**4-Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS
With thanksgiving in our offerings

SPECIAL MUSIC:
Praise Choir

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SONG

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB 461 v. 1, 2, 7, 8)

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head.

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!

RESURRECTION BLESSING

Pastor: Christ is risen from the grave! So on this Easter Day, we go with declaration!

ALL: Sorrow gives way to joy
Weeping gives way to laughter
Death gives way to life
Despair gives way to hope
Because He is alive!

Pastor: He is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed. Alleluia and Amen!

CLOSING SONG

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (LSB 457)

Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he’s king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav’nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!