



**Easter Sunday**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**Divine Service, Setting 3**  
**10:00 AM**

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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*Rev. Steve Unger ~ Covering Pastor*

*Rev. Charles Bell ~ Pastor Emeritus*

*Mr. Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon*

*Mr. Chris Cuvier ~ Organist*

## **WELCOME TO MESSIAH!**

To all who carry a burden of sin and need a Savior; to all who wish to rejoice and give thanks; to all who are strangers and need a Church home; to all who are lonely and long for companionship; to all who worship the Lord, our Creator; to all who hunger for the Word; to all who are weary and need rest, the people of Messiah, in the Spirit and Name of Jesus, say

WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, we ask you to please introduce yourself to our pastors (don't worry, they're friendly!) and please sign our Guest Register in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in your bulletin. This will help us to get to know you better!

If you would like us to pray for you (or with you), please see one of our pastors before the church service or write a prayer request on the back of the yellow card.

### **OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church exists in order to lead people to faith in Christ Jesus and Fellowship in His family, to celebrate His presence in worship and the study of His Word, and to use all their God-given Time, Talents, and Treasures according to His Will in the ministry of His church and mission to the world.

### **PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORSHIP:**

#### **On entering a church**

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

#### **Before worship**

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

#### **Before confession & absolution**

Almighty, everlasting God, for my many sins I justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, who won for me forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant me a true confession that, dead to sin, I may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

#### **Before communing**

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **After communing**

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Prelude

Welcome

Choral Prelude: "Magdalen, Cease from Sobs and Sighs"

Easter Acclamation

*Stand*

Opening Hymn: 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
△ 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1-3): Latin, 14th cent.; (st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707-88  
Tune: Lyra Davidica, 1708, London  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

**Introit**

*Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: v. 1b*

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously,\*  
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

**The LORD is my strength | and my song,\***  
**and he has become my sal- | vation.**

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,\*  
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.

**You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you | have redeemed;\***  
**you have guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.**

You will bring them in and plant them on your own | mountain,\*  
the place, O LORD, which you have made for | your abode,  
**the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have es- | tablished.\***

**The LORD will reign forever and | ever.**



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;




as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

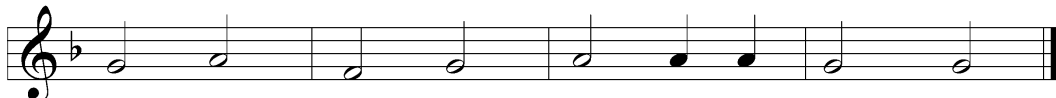
I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously,\*  
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

Kyrie

LSB 186



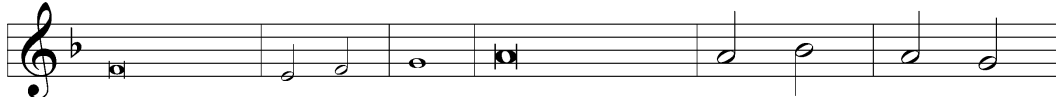
**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

*Sit*

### Lectionary Summary

#### *The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection*

Every Sunday is the Lord's day, the day of His resurrection, "after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week" (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal "eighth day." The Lord Jesus, "who was crucified," who "has risen, as he said" (Matt. 28:5-6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because "you have died" with Him in Holy Baptism, "you have been raised with Christ" and "your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is "the God of all the clans of Israel," and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He "shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34), but "everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43). As "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power" and "raised him on the third day," He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).

### Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 31:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>"At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people."

<sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD:

"The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup>the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup>Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
 O virgin Israel!  
 Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines  
 and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.  
<sup>5</sup>Again you shall plant vineyards  
 on the mountains of Samaria;  
 the planters shall plant  
 and shall enjoy the fruit.  
<sup>6</sup>For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
 in the hill country of Ephraim:  
 ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,  
 to the LORD our God.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

**C** Christ has risen | from the dead.\*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle

*Colossians 3:1–4*

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 28:1-10*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

Hymn of the Day: 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

*sts. 1-3, 5, 7-8*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
 5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
 wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
 trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- 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!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.  
 Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Offertory

LSB 192



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

*The response for the prayers of the church is as follows:*

- P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## The Sharing of the Peace

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3). You are invited to greet one-another in whichever manner you are comfortable.*

## Service of the Sacrament

*In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. Therefore, we invite all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Christian faith and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table. If you have any questions about this, please speak to our pastor. He will be happy to discuss it with you.*

*If you do not wish to commune or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. When you come forward toward the altar, please ask the pastor if he would bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!*

## Preface

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

*Sit*

### Distribution

*Prior to the communion liturgy, we ask that all attendees fill out the yellow attendance card in the pew. When the usher dismisses your row to go to the altar, please hand your yellow card to the usher. Thank you!*

### Distribution Song: Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon;  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He  
lives. *(Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone:  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to vict'ry,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He  
lives. *(Refrain)*

Text: Gloria Gaither and William J. Gaither  
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### The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

### Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 199*

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy  
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

**Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

**Salutation**

*LSB 201*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Sit*

## Matters of Importance

*Stand*

### Closing Hymn: 463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809-81, alt.  
Tune: Robert Williams, c. 1781-1821  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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