



Resurrection of Our Lord ~ Sunrise

6:30 AM

April 5, 2026



**CONNECT CARDS**

Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

**Serving Today...**

Message:  
Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:  
Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Organist:  
Gail Black



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

**INVOCATION**

*Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation (C): Amen!**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

P: Behold, the winter is past. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.

**ALL: Alleluia!**

*✠ Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel, and turn to face the empty cross, honoring Jesus Christ our Risen Savior. Alleluia! ✠*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

**THE RESURRECTION GOSPEL John 20:1-18**

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

### Prayer for Easter:

Our loving and living Lord! In the cool and quietness of this early morning hour, we ask Your presence among us. Touch our hearts with the reality of Your Resurrection! Through the power of Your Word and Spirit, revive our hope and renew our hearts as You did for those who first found Your tomb empty. And as You lovingly removed all fear, doubt, and anxiety from them by Your Presence, we ask You graciously to do the same for us. By Your grace, may we walk with You in newness of life, now and forever. Amen!



### The Alleluias are back!

While each Sunday in Lent is considered a "little Easter" and therefore singing Alleluias would not have been incorrect, at the same time, we walked the darkening road to the cross with Christ, waiting and watching as He suffered and died for our sins.

But today?

Today, we sing for joy—Alleluia upon Alleluia—as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection!

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that He had said these things to her.

### RESPONSE

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

### EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 461:1-2, 5-6 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**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.**

**He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;**

**He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;**

**He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;**

**He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

*Please be seated.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (FORGIVENESS) OF SINS

*John 20:19-23*

P: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father. Holy and gracious God,

C: **I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of the risen Jesus Christ, I ask You to forgive me all my sins. Deliver me from my guilt and death and raise me up to forgiveness and life, that my heart may be at peace. Amen.**

P: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

### SALUTATION AND PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNRISE

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: We pray: Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen!**

### HYMN OF PRAISE # 463 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia"

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!**

**Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!**

*paschal: relating to the Passover and Easter*

**For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!**

**Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!**

**When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awe-some strife. Alleluia!**

**Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!**

**Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT** *Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!*



*Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.*

**OFFERING AND PRAYER** *For giving options: [ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give](http://ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give)*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 14:10-15:1

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to

Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I AM the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea."

## RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## HYMN # 466:1 & 4 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!**

**Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.**

**Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.**

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,**

**River of life, saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM!**

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

## EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But

To His enemies, Jesus' resurrection is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense" (1 Peter 2:8).

But to His own people the resurrection is the headstone of the corner. Our Lord's resurrection is our triumph and delight. The resurrection acts much in the same manner as the pillar which God placed between Israel and Egypt. It was darkness to Egypt, but it gave light to Israel.

~Charles Spurgeon

Sin is death's parent. Had there been no sin, no one would have died. The first man received God's law on condition that if he kept it he should live; if he violated it he should die. By not believing that he would die, he did what caused him to die.

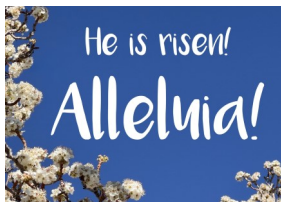
Thence came death. This tradition of death, this law of destruction, binds every man who is born, except that one Man who became Man, that man should not perish.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to die; by sharing in our penalty without our offences, He annulled both our offences and penalty.

What penalty? That which was due to us after this life. So He was crucified, that on the Cross He might show the dying-out of our old man; and He rose, that in His own life He might show our new life.

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the new life of believers in Jesus.

~St. Augustine



Oh, that my words were written!  
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!  
Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!  
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.  
And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!  
~Job 19:23-27



A **Creed** is a statement of faith. We encourage each other as we speak these words together. The creeds are also a great outline for sharing

HIS<sup>t</sup>ory with others!

The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion.

by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**RESPONSE**

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 475 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!**

**To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;**

**Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,**

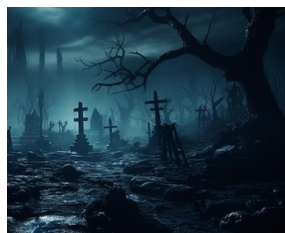
**And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord**

**The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**MESSAGE "Graves into GARDENS" text: John 20:1-18**

*Because Jesus is risen, a new day has dawned—  
and the day is coming when He will call us by name and turn even our graves into gardens.*



*Please stand.*

**STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED**

**ALL: 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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen!**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

*In April, we pray with open hearts for our Shepherd neighborhood/neighbors.*

### PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:2-29*

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

### HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE FOR EASTER, WITH PSALM 118

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

C: **The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.**

ALL: **I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD!**

P: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

C: **I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation.**

ALL: **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

P: We should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. But chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for by His death He has taken away our sin and destroyed death, and by His resurrection from the dead He has won for us eternal 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:

ALL: **Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: **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 FOR EVER AND EVER. Amen!**

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

### PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **And also with you!**

### AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

P: Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away. Have mercy on us, Lord.

C: **Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us peace. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.
- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

# 466:1-2, 4 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain: **Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy; death's fearful sting He has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

For three long days the grave did its worst until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death undergo; and in its conquest His might did show. Refrain:

Go spread the news: He's not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.

Jesus' redeeming labors are done; even the battle with sin is won. Refrain:



### Words of our Lord:

"Do this in remembrance of Me" can also be phrased: "Do this, remembering everything I have done for you." This is not just a meal remembering a special event; this is a proclamation and distribution of Christ's saving life, death, resurrection and all its blessings: forgiveness, renewed life, salvation!

~C.A. Gierke

### Agnus Dei means

"Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!

My eyes have seen Your salvation, Lord, that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for Glory to Your people Israel. ~Simeon, Luke 2:30-32



## The SON Is Risen!

The Lamb who died in darkness to save us is Christ, The Light, who lives to lead us. ALLELUIA!

"We know not what we shall be;" but we may be sure we shall be more, not less, than we were on earth. Our natural experiences (sensory, emotional, imaginative) are only like the drawing, like penciled lines on flat paper. If they vanish in the risen life, they will vanish only as pencil lines vanish from the real landscape, not as a candle flame that is put out but as a candle flame which becomes invisible because someone has pulled up the blind, thrown open the shutters, and let in the blaze of the risen sun. ~C.S. Lewis

△ Please stand. The delta symbol indicates a stanza that praises the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

### # 461:3-4, 7-8 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

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.

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!

*Please stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

### BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

### EXHORTATION AND EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6, 34*

P: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation and proclaim the triumph of our King! Rejoice, too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of The Light, our everlasting King! The ancient darkness has been forever banished! Rejoice, O church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people!

C: AMEN

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

### HYMN # 457 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

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 ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

