

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
March 31, 2024

AS WE GATHER

When Isaiah wrote about God’s plans in terms of a feast, people may have wondered, “Says who?” The prophecy wasn’t clear, and the resurrection of Jesus was still centuries in the future. If the women at the tomb decided to tell someone later, they might not have been believed. But today’s Epistle includes a list of those who did hear and see Jesus Himself, including Paul, who had persecuted the church. We are here because untold millions of our brothers and sisters heard God’s Word, came to faith, and couldn’t keep the news to themselves. Who told you? Whom will you tell? And if anyone asks, “Says who?” invite them to join us in worship to hear for themselves.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24* *{please stand}*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;
People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!** *{please be seated}*

HYMN **“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”** [*LSB 457 – 4 stanzas*]

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!

{stand}

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!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed! In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

☩ **WORD** ☩

INTROIT *The Resurrection of Our Lord*

Pastor: Alleluia [Christ] has risen, as he said.

People: **He has risen from the dead. Alleluia**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

People: **his love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let Israel say:
People: “His love endures forever.”

Pastor: I was pushed back and about to fall
People: but the Lord helped me.

Pastor: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
People: you have become my salvation.

Pastor: The stone the builders rejected.
People: has become the capstone:

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made;
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia [Christ] has risen, as he said.
People: He has risen from the dead. Alleluia

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,
People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **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;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 25:6-9

(When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING:

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

("Paul, persecutor of Christians, is one of many people who saw Jesus alive after death. The news is of primary importance for people of faith.")

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But 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. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

(please stand)

(The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back - it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." 8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

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)*

HYMN “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

[LSB 480 – 5 stanzas]

He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

{stand}

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

MESSAGE: “The Cross of Glory: Victory!”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ’s church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

[LSB 781 vv. 1-2]

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand Your love or comprehend eternity, we lift our voices in thanksgiving and pray You to strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as Your witnesses.

People: Give us opportunity, use our gifts, and move us by Your Holy Spirit to tell the news of Jesus' victory over death each day that You give us for loving service.

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the sin of the world away;
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

[LSB – 469 6 stanzas]

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today!”
Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Saints on earth and angels say;
Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply.

Love’s redeeming work is done,
Lo! Our Sun’s eclipse is o’er;

Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Death in vain forbids His rise;

Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King!
Once He died our souls to save;

Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led;
Made like Him, like Him we rise;

Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:

Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

HYMN: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

[LSB – 461 8 stanzas]

I know that my Redeemer lives;
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;

He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;

He lives to plead for me above;
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to comfort me when faint;

He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;

He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;

He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives, all glory to His name!
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:

He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives to bring me safely there.
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
I know that my Redeemer lives!

HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

[LSB 643 – 2 stanzas]

Sent forth by God's blessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
O now be extended
The seed of His teaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His love shall unite us

Our true faith confessing,
The Supper is ended.
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
Receptive souls reaching,
His grace did invite us,
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
In love ever caring,
With Your feast You feed us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
With praise and thanksgiving

To God ever-living,
Our faith ever sharing,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your light now lead us;
Then may all the living
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You have refreshed us through this gift of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Strengthen us by this Sacrament to announce this gracious Good News so that many may join us at the Lamb's high feast; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

[LSB 465 - 4 stanzas]

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Repeat their song of glory here:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In praise of love that still abounds:
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Eternal is the gift He brings,
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
And by His presence stills all strife.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
Now still He comes to give us life
Christ has triumphed! He is living!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
That we conquer through Your triumph;
That by our lives we truly say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Set heart and will on things above
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

(stand)

Adoring praises now we bring
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And with the heav’nly blessed sing:
Be to the Father and our Lord,
All the glory, never ending!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve our living Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...

*Prayers for **Chris Carter & wife Penny** undergoing chemo and radiation.*

***Brad & Laura Sanders** praise for daughter Naomi's baby boy born March 20th, **Kaeden Socrates Pittman**; pray for Laura's Father, **Jack**.*

*Prayers for **David Sattler** recovering from air passage surgery Friday March 22.*

*Prayers for **John Soper** for healing & pain relief.*

*Prayers for **Gloria Bloecher & her medical team** as she remains in their care.*

***Debra Beard** requests prayers for her brother, **Tod Dunlevy** in Wisconsin.*

***Karen Brosien** requests prayers for her **Father, Carl Landinger**, now in home hospice care; for daughter **Amelia's knee infection**, & for her **brothers**.*

***Shirley Moore** for brother, **Robert English**, awaiting liver biopsy results.*

***Larry & Pam Risley** for grandson **Lucas** who broke his wrist; and for a friend **Richard Atkins**, in hospice care with brain stem cancer, & for **his wife**.*

***Rebecca Bottlinger** requests prayer for **Kristi Wagner**, St. John's in Hamilton, a cousin's wife, with recurrent pericarditis in and out of ICU.*

***Jim Mitchell's mother Helma**, 103, now in hospice care in Fargo, ND.*

***Jim Minica** recovering from strokes.*

***Kim Pfaff** recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery.*

***Kathy Giardinelli** requests prayers for the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** & especially **the Wolf Family** as they train to serve the Dem. Republic of the Congo*

***Rutledge Family** requests prayers for **Sister-in-Law Heather Mulledy's** breast cancer*

***Mark Giardinelli** who will be going to MAF headquarters in Idaho in May.*

***Parkers and Theis** request prayers for **Robert Patterson** undergoing cancer treatment.*

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world

For the Pastoral call committee and process.

For family discord, reconciliation, & healing; for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs

Prayers for all who are lost to hear & receive Jesus' Gospel message

***Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray,
trusting in Your mercy; thru Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

Mar 3rd – Vonda Petmecky – in memory of Fred's birthday

Mar 10th – Linda Dicke – Thanking God for His many blessings

Mar 17th – Marilyn Mazurek – celebrating Ernie's birthday

Mar 24th – Rolf & Linda Schulz – celebrating 60th wedding anniversary

Mar 31st – Joe & Verna Sorensen – Thanking God for His many blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!

Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

Messiah Lutheran Church celebrates the Lord's Supper as a visible expression of our unity in the faith and a confession of our Lord's death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

Those who desire to commune with us must:

- 1) be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;*
- 2) believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;*
- 3) believe that they receive, with the bread and the wine, the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sin (1 Cor. 10:16);*
- 4) sincerely desire to amend their sinful way of life.*

Please announce your intention to receive the Lord's Supper to the pastor or one of our elders before communing.



He is not here;
he has RISEN!

Mark 16:6

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Easter Sunrise Service – March 31, 2024, at 7:30 am

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	OPEN
Reader:	OPEN
Ushers:	OPEN
Greeter:	OPEN

***JOIN MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR FELLOWSHIP AND A CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST SERVED FROM 8:30 AM TO 10:30 AM***

Serving us Easter Festival Service – March 31, 2024, at 10:30 am

Elders:	Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader:	Kathy Rottman
Ushers:	Larry Rottman – Eric Sagebiel – Hal Eschenko – Russ Leachman
Greeter:	Kathy Rottman

Serving us on April 7, 2024

Elders:	Maurice Doublett & Hal Eschenko
Coffee:	Sue Parker
Breakfast:	Sue Parker
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Doug Beilefeldt
Kid's Message:	Pastor Doug Beilefeldt
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Rutledge Family
Reader:	Hal Eschenko
Ushers:	Tom Bibb – Joe Sorensen – Snookie & Shirley Moore
Greeter:	Lindy Eschenko