

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

[LSB 474 - 5 stanzas]

Alleluia!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Heaven forever!

Jesus is risen!
Splendor, the Lamb,
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! *Refrain*

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

Walking the way,
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Giving us glory:

Christ in the center
Breaking our bread,
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

Jesus the vine,
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Christ to the people,

We are the branches;
Heaven to earth,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*

Weeping, be gone;
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
“O grave, be open!”

Sorrow, be silent:
Cherubim sing:
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. **Refrain**

City of God,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
Saints and archangels,

Easter forever,
River of life,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Refrain**

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Trusting in what Christ accomplished for us on the cross and through the empty tomb, let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

People: **I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Pastor: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

People: **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

People: **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

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: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; 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)

FIRST READING: Acts 3:11-21

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And his name - by faith in his name - has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 3:1-7

(We are God's children now.)

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are

God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:36-49

(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

(please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate before them. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

[LSB 466 – 5 stanzas]

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom. *Refrain*

*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*

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there." *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*

Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. *Refrain*

MESSAGE: "Our Flesh and Bones Savior"

Luke 24:36-49

Pastor Doug Bielefeldt

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.

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!

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, who has taught us to pray . . .

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.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: 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.

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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the 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 the families of **Carl Landinger** who recently passed away

Larry & Pam Risley request prayers for the families of **Richard Atkins** who recently passed away

Prayers for the families of **Mike Wright** – brother of **Pam Risley** has passed away

Prayers for the families of **Robert English** – brother of **Shirley Moore** has passed away

Prayers for **Chris Carter & wife Penny** in the hospital with an infection.

Brad & Laura Sanders prayers for grandson **Kaeden Pittman**; prayers 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 for daughter **Amelia's knee infection**, & for her brothers.

Larry & Pam Risley for grandson **Lucas** who broke his wrist

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 Minica recovering from strokes.

Kim Pfaff recovering from quadruple heart bypass surgery.

Kathy Giardinelli requests prayers for the National Day of Prayer on May 2nd

Rutledge Family requests prayers for **Sister-in-Law Heather Muledy'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.

For the Pastoral call committee and process – especially for Pastor Neil Vanderhouse.

Prayers for Justice & Peace around the world

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.**

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

Apr 7th – Judy Georg – celebrating Charles's birthday

Apr 14th – Vonda Petmecky – in memory of Fred Petmecky

Apr 21st – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in honor of Sarah & Avery's birthdays
and our 51st wedding anniversary

Apr 28th – Mike & Lynn Lang – celebrating 11th wedding anniversary

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!

Pastor's Doug Bielefeldt - Pastor will lead us in a Study on the appearances of Jesus post-resurrection up to His ascension.

Today's Afternoon Bible Study – Join us as we discuss David Jeremiah's Book "Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven" along with Robert Jeffress's Book "A Place Called Heaven". Hope to see you there!

Calling a Pastor – Last Sunday in church it was announced that the Call Committee is recommending extending a Divine Call to Pastor Neil Vanderbush. A bio sheet is available for your information. The Voters Meeting will be held on Sun., Apr 21st following the Worship Service to vote on issuing the call.

Vacation Bible School – The Board of Elders met and have made the decision that we will not be hosting a Vacation Bible School Program this summer due to lack of volunteers / workers.

Messiah Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study April 16th we will meet at 8:30 am at Centinela, 215 West Bandera Road. George Berberich is leading our study on Spiritual Warfare.

Messiah Ladies April Lunch – Thu. April 11th on the Patio at the Dodging Duck Café at 11:00 am.

April Breakfast Outing – Fri. April 19th Café on the Ridge in Kerrville at 9:30 am

Adult Game Day – Sat. April 20th from 2-5 pm in the Fellowship Room of the Family Life Center.

National Day of Prayer – Two events will be offered at this year's National Day of Prayer. You may register for one or both. The morning prayer segment will start with a light breakfast fare and will focus on Family, Education and Health. The noon National Day of Prayer event will focus on Work, Government, First Responders and Media and will include pizza and beverages for lunch. Please register at messiahboerne.org/prayer. Kathy Giardinelli

Fellowship Committee's Wine Tasting – Sat. May 4th from 4-7 pm at the home of Kathleen & David Blakely 179 Mira Vista Drive, Comfort, Tx.

Fellowship Committee's Family Picnic – Sat. June 1st from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Joshua Springs Park Large Pavilion – lunch will be catered by Bill Miller. Tickets go on sale April 28th.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School. – Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for candidates to fill a part-time resource room teacher position Applicants must hold a current Texas Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. If you are interested, please contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.



Jesus himself stood among
them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."

Luke 24:36, NRSV

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 Today – April 14 , 2024

Elders: Hal Eschenko & Maurice Doublet
Coffee: George & Linda Berberich
Breakfast: George & Linda Berberich
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Doug Bielefeldt
Kid's Message: Pastor Doug Bielefeldt
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader: Alana Kemmy
Ushers: Tom Bibb – Joe Sorensen – Snookie & Shirley Moore
Greeter: Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – April 21, 2024

Elders: Hal Eschenko & Maurice Doublet
Coffee: Shirley Moore
Breakfast: Vonda Petmecky
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Roger & Kathryn Winkelmann
Reader: Pam Fields
Ushers: Vonda Petmecky – Mike Stender – Dennis & Sue Parker
Greeter: Kathy Giardinelli

Our Response to God Wednesday Worship Attendance: 75

March 2024 Contributions			
General Fund		Building Fund	
Renovation Fund		FLC Rental	