



WELCOMING WORD *Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Why do you look for the living among the dead?

C: He is not here, but has risen!

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

HYMN: #151 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 you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of new life,

C: You have created and redeemed all things through the gift of your son. Yet we often live as though it makes no difference for us. We choose to remain stuck in old patterns, cling to the familiar and safe, and refuse opportunities to step out in courage and faith. Forgive our cowardice, stubbornness, and willful disobedience. Amen.

L: The Lord is risen, and with his resurrection brings a new day, a new chance to make new choices, and renewal between people, creation, and creator. Rejoice that you have been forgiven and called sisters and brothers of our savior and Lord! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of mercy,

C: we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43 ³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18 ¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in

Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because 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.’”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *Because He Lives*

directed by Diane Dangerfield, Ruth Heinecke, piano

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN LBW #144 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice & 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!

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EASTER MORNING

We believe in the God who brought immortality to life
in the gospel of Christ Jesus.
We believe in the Christ who brought faith in a loving
Father to life in the gospel of resurrection.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who brought hope in ourselves
to life in the gospel of boundless renewal.
We believe in grace that is stronger than evil,
in mercy that is larger than suffering,
and in joy that is greater than death.
Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

L: Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve (*especially*). Assure them of your promises. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. 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. 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.

BLESSING

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN #143 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! His is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Now still he comes to give us life, And by his presence stills all strife.

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through your triumph;

grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father, and our Lord, to the Spirit blest Most holy God,
all the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!



Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim

Kelliher), Mary Krantz, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)

Irene Brufat, Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt), Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - Happy Easter. No Sunday School on Zoom on Easter, April 4th. We will resume our online time on April 11th at 9:00 AM.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION - Our 7th and 8th graders will be taking a two week break from our classes. We will resume on **April 14th at 7 pm at ELC**. With the weather getting nicer, we would like to meet in person. Please wear a mask.

PRE-CONFIRMATION (6th Graders) - Wednesdays, **April 14th - May 12th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM** (5 sessions) at ELC. These gatherings are intended to enhance our Confirmation experience. Please wear a mask. Sign up by emailing Brenda.

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, April 13th at 7 pm**. A great time to enjoy an Outdoor Scavenger Hunt. Please wear a mask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!

NO ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on Zoom - Coffee Time will be taking a break from Zoom on April 7th. Watch for announcements about Coffee Time by mid April.

STARLA'S SEASONINGS - Youth Fundraiser for April 5th - April 25th

Starla's seasoning blends are as unique as their names and are sure to complement any event. These seasonings are made in Wisconsin, made with the finest quality ingredients.

TO ORDER: Complete the **SIGN UP LINK** below OR order at church after the worship services (April 11, 18, 25)

ONLINE SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/y5voPtvH5LqjCRVYA>

Funds raised will go towards our youth summer trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 and a mission trip.



CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) - ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org>.

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" – Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 4, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-14, A Song of Victory

Tuesday, I Corinthians 15:50-58, The Mystery of the Resurrection

Wednesday, Mark 16:1-8, The Resurrection of Jesus

Thursday, Psalm 133, The Blessedness of Unity

Friday, [Daniel 2:1-23, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream](#)

Saturday, John 12:44-50, Summary of Jesus' teaching

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. "John 20:1 *This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.*

- What questions, fears, or doubts do you bring this morning?
- Have you ever been slow to recognize God's presence in unexpected places?
- What new life are you looking forward to this season?
- Who can you tell the good news to today?

PRAY: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.