

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD – EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, The Year Of Our Lord 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Point, Nebraska

### AS WE GATHER

Are you wearing a new outfit for Easter? The custom of putting on new clothes for Easter Day has a long Christian history. In the earliest centuries after the ascension of Christ, newly baptized Christians wore white garments of new linen as a visible sign of the newness that being baptized had brought into their lives. Soon it became a tradition that all the faithful would join the newly baptized in arraying themselves on Easter in a new outfit to symbolize the new life that Jesus, through His resurrection, made a reality for all believers. The new clothes were much more than a fashion statement; they were a statement of faith. *No matter what we are wearing today as individuals, together we share the best eternal clothing there is which God has provided through Jesus Christ!*

### EASTER GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P Christ is risen!

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

P *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the end He will stand on the earth." (Job 19:25)*

C **He is risen!**

P "God set Him free from death and raised Him to life. Death could not hold Him." (*Acts 2:24*)

C **He is risen!**

P "Three days later, God raised Him to life and let Him be seen." (*Acts 10:40*)

C **He is risen!**

P God's Spirit now lives in you and He will raise you to life by His Spirit. (*Romans 8:11*)

C **He is risen!**

P Jesus said, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life. Everyone who has faith in Me will live, even if they die." (*John 11:25*)

C **He is risen!**

P "Don't be afraid! I am the First, the Last and the Living One. I died, but now I am alive forevermore and I have the keys to death and the world of the dead." (*Revelation 1:17-18*)

C **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!!!**

### HYMN "He's Risen, He's Risen" LSB 480

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.

Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811-87; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

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## INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; 2 Timothy 1:10b; Romans 4:28, 10:9; 1 Corinthians 6:14*

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

C **Jesus our Lord was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.**

P If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

C **God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our creator and preserver, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are stained by sin from our very beginnings and we have sinned again and again in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have often 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 all our many sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by the power of the Holy Spirit direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us victory over all that oppresses us and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P In His boundless mercy, God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him for restoration and renewal. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you strong in the Holy Spirit and grant you a life on earth in which you live in baptismal grace and joyfully tell of His greatness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## Then Came The Morning - Adult Choir

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to life before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

*Acts 10:34–42*

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

*Colossians 3:1–4*

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 28:1–10*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**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.**

**HYMN “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” LSB 461**

*sts. 1–4*

- 1 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.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 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.

- 4 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.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

**SERMON “I KNOW That My Redeemer Lives!”**

**Text: Job 19:25**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS – We return to the Lord from His blessings for the work of His kingdom**

**HYMN “I Know That My Redeemer Lives: LSB 461**

*sts. 5–8*

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 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; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

That the church live out its calling and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be joyfully celebrated in all places, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the nations of the world find peace with justice in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the abiding blessing of God rest upon our families, our neighborhoods, our places of business, and our schools, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That those whose confession of the true faith leads to bodily peril or other sufferings know relief and deliverance from every danger, let us pray of the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That all whose labor adds meaning and beauty to the life of the church—the musicians, artists, craft workers, flower arrangers, and others—find joy and blessing in all that they do to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That all those whose lives know specific challenges, including those who are ill and those who mourn, [*including . . .*], know heavenly benediction and strength for each day, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the memory of the faithful departed be held in reverence and honor by all of us as we await a time of resurrection and reunion at the close of the age, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P These things and all else that we should have asked on this day of holy rejoicing, grant to us Lord, for the sake of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## 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.**

## SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

### PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, our gracious heavenly Father, for in Your goodness You have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of Your Spirit direct our ways that we be filled with His presence. Kindle in us the fire of Your love

and grant that we ever make the good confession of our faith. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN “Oh, Holy, Holy Is The Lord”** (*sung to tune of LSB 805 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

1 Oh, holy, holy is the Lord,  
The God by heav'n and earth adored.  
We join the angels in their song,  
Their glorious praises to prolong.

2 How blest is He, the coming One,  
Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
Hosanna with galactic space,  
Sing we, saved only by His grace.

Text: James Pierce

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**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P Holy are You, O God, almighty and most merciful Lord. We thank You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the fearsome power of sin, death, and the devil and blessing our lives from before our birth to beyond our death with Your abiding love. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with gratitude and joy. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow confidently and securely as people of faith, filled with Your peace and awaiting the eternal feast to come in glory everlasting.

C **Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. Do this 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 covenant in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

**HYMN “O Lamb Of God, The Only Son”** (*sung to tune of LSB 805 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

1 O Lamb of God, the only Son,  
Who for us our salvation won,  
The sins of all You take away.  
Give ear, O Savior, as we pray.

- 2 You with the Father ever reign,  
With Holy Spirit to ordain  
By grace our failings to forgive.  
Grant us Your peace that we may live.

Text: James Pierce

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**Above All – (Michael W. Smith – Hosanna Integrity’s iWorship video)**

**HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” LSB 457**

- 1 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!
  - 2 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!
  - 3 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!
- D 4 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!
- Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, London, alt.; (sts. 1–3): Latin, 14th cent.;  
(st. 4): Charles Wesley, 1707–88  
Tune: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
Text and music: Public domain

**HYMN “Awake, My Heart, With Gladness” LSB 467**

- 1 Awake, my heart, with gladness,  
See what today is done;  
Now, after gloom and sadness,  
Comes forth the glorious sun.  
My Savior there was laid  
Where our bed must be made  
When to the realms of light  
Our spirit wings its flight.
- 2 The foe in triumph shouted  
When Christ lay in the tomb;  
But lo, he now is routed,  
His boast is turned to gloom.  
For Christ again is free;  
In glorious victory

He who is strong to save  
Has triumphed o'er the grave.

3 This is a sight that gladdens—  
What peace it doth impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son  
In love for me has won.

4 Now hell, its prince, the devil,  
Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
Now I am safe from evil,  
And sin I laugh to scorn.  
Grim death with all its might  
Cannot my soul affright;  
It is a pow'rless form,  
Howe'er it rave and storm.

5 The world against me rages,  
Its fury I disdain;  
Though bitter war it wages,  
Its work is all in vain.  
My heart from care is free,  
No trouble troubles me.  
Misfortune now is play,  
And night is bright as day.

6 Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er He passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

7 He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared  
Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

## HYMN “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen” LSB 474

- 1 Alleluia!  
Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb,  
Heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain
  
- ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
  
- 2 Walking the way,  
Christ in the center  
Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread,  
Giving us glory:  
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain
  
- 3 Jesus the vine,  
We are the branches;  
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth,  
Christ to the people,  
Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain
  
- 4 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. Refrain
  
- 5 City of God,  
Easter forever,  
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life,  
Saints and archangels,  
Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1992-87; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

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Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House; setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House

## HYMN “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” LSB 741

- 1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense  
And my Savior, now is living!  
Knowing this, my confidence  
Rests upon the hope here given,  
Though the night of death be fraught  
Still with many\_an anxious thought.

- 2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;  
Likewise I to life shall waken.  
He will bring me where He is;  
Shall my courage then be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the Head  
Rise and leave His members dead?
- 3 No, too closely I am bound  
By my hope to Christ forever;  
Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,  
Grasped it, and will leave it never;  
Even death now cannot part  
From its Lord the trusting heart.
- 4 I am flesh and must return  
To the dust, whence I am taken;  
But by faith I now discern  
That from death I shall awaken  
With my Savior to abide  
In His glory, at His side.
- 5 Glorified, I shall anew  
With this flesh then be enshrouded;  
In this body I shall view  
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
In this flesh I then shall see  
Jesus Christ eternally.
- 6 Then take comfort and rejoice,  
For His members Christ will cherish.  
Fear not, they will hear His voice;  
Dying, they will never perish;  
For the very grave is stirred  
When the trumpet's blast is heard.
- 7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave  
And at death no longer tremble;  
He, the Lord, who came to save  
Will at last His own assemble.  
They will go their Lord to meet,  
Treading death beneath their feet.
- 8 O, then, draw away your hearts  
From all pleasures base and hollow;  
Strive to share what He imparts  
While you here His footsteps follow.  
As you now still wait to rise,  
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–79; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
Text and music: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, ruler of all things, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come through this blessed Meal. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having now received this wondrous Sacrament, we may die daily to sin through our Baptism and rise new and restored as we joyfully continue our earthly pilgrimage until that time when we are gathered into Your heavenly kingdom to share in Your glory for all eternity. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

## BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

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.**

## HYMN “The Day Of Resurrection” LSB 478

1 The day of resurrection!

Earth, tell it out abroad,

The passover of gladness,

The passover of God.

From death to life eternal,

From sin’s dominion free,

Our Christ has brought us over

With hymns of victory.

2 Let hearts be purged of evil

That we may see aright

The Lord in rays eternal

Of resurrection light

And, list’ning to His accents,

May hear, so calm and plain,

His own “All hail!” and, hearing,

May raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heav’ns be joyful,

Let earth its song begin,

Let all the world keep triumph

And all that is therein.

Let all things, seen and unseen,

Their notes of gladness blend;

For Christ the Lord has risen,

Our joy that has no end!

4 All praise to God the Father,

All praise to God the Son,

All praise to God the Spirit,

Eternal Three in One!

Let all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory  
Ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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