

Easter

April 5, 2026

Liturgy: Song Service

Organist: Lana Strike



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Order of Service ✠



Soloist

“Christ is Arisen”

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

C Amen.

P He is risen!

C He is risen indeed!

P Remember how He spoke to you, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

Luke 24:6-7

C Our Savior is risen!

P He is risen indeed, just as He said.

C Hallelujah!

P May our risen Lord be with you always!

C The risen Lord be with you as well!

Response

Tune of TLH #270

C ♪ *Oh, what joy and heartfelt comfort:*

Christ has risen from the grave!

Sin and death are now defeated;

He is living; He can save!

All who trust the Gospel message

Shall in glory rise again,

Then with Christ to live forever,

Free from death and free from sin.

✠ Opening Prayer ✠

First Lesson

At the Empty Tomb

Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as

snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. Very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away; for it was very large. Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Then they (the other women) went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you. He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words. So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Hymn: TLH #210

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Resurrection Proclamation

1 Corinthians 15; John 20

P "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. . . . But if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty"

C **"and our faith is also empty."**

P "For if the dead do not rise,"

C **"then Christ is not risen."**

P "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile;"

C **"We are still in our sins!"**

P "But now Christ is risen from the dead,"

C **"and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep."**

P "For as in Adam all die,"

C **"even so in Christ all shall be made alive."**

P Peace to you! Receive the Holy Spirit. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed.

C **Glory be to You, My Lord and My God!**

P He is risen!

C **He is risen indeed!**

Hymn: TLH #199

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!"

Second Lesson

In the Garden

Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying

there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, 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, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Hymn: TLH #198 *"He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord"*

Third Lesson

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" He asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Confession of Faith

P Our Lord bore our sins in His body on the tree;

C But now He is risen from the grave!

P But what does this mean?

C It means that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God, for it is written: “His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. . . was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power. . . by the resurrection from the dead.” *Romans 1:3-4*

P Yes, but what certainty does the resurrection of Jesus give us?

C It makes us certain that our sins are forgiven, as the Apostle Paul writes that Jesus “was delivered up because of our offenses, and raised because of our justification.” *Romans 4:25*

P Should we be afraid of death?

C No, for Jesus will raise us up from the dead, just as it is written: “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. . . For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.” *1 Corinthians 5:20, 22-23*

P We confess together with Job:

C “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart years within me!” *Job 19:23-27*

Hymn: TLH #201:1,4,5

“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

Fourth Lesson

Behind Closed Doors

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise

in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Choir

"Alleluia! Christ Has Destroyed Death"

Hymn: WS #736

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"



Job 19:23-27

"Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ Oh that

with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

Hope in the "Hall of Death"

P Christ is arisen!

C ♪ *He is arisen! Glorious Word!
 Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
 The gates of heav’n are open.
 My Jesus did triumphant die,
 And Satan’s arrows broken lie,
 Destroyed hell’s direst weapon.
 Oh, hear What cheer!
 Christ victorious Riseth glorious,
 Life He giveth—
 He was dead, but see, He liveth!*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: TLH #200:1,2,5-8

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

✠ **Easter Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer** ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: WS #732

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

✠ ✠ ✠

Welcome! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book in the back of the church. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe and teach.

Voters' Meeting – The Voters of St. John's are invited and encouraged to attend our April Quarterly meeting in the auditorium after a noon potluck meal on Sunday, April 19. Besides regular Board reports, Agenda items will include: Unfinished Business: Status of St. John's audits of accounts; proposed Constitution changes; dates for VBS / Sunday School picnic; School Board to call VBS teachers; Delegates for CLC Convention (June 25-28, 2026); Summer worship schedule; Budget Committee Meeting date; July Quarterly Meeting date. Please give any additional Agenda items to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

Kindergarten Roundup – All children entering Kindergarten this fall are invited to join us for Kindergarten Round Up on Wednesday, April 15, from 8:30-10:30 am. We will enjoy educational activities and parents are also welcome if they would like to attend. Please register by April 13 by talking to one of our teachers or contacting Ruth Eigenberg at 507-360-7725.

CDS Easter Service – The Christian day school children will present an Easter Service on Sunday, April 12, at 10:30 am. The theme is "Our Lifted, Uplifted Lord." A potluck will follow, so please stay if you are able and bring a dish to share.

Thank you! Jess and I are very thankful for the cards and monetary gifts and blessings we received from you on the occasion of our 10th anniversary a few weeks ago. We are very blessed to call this place our home and this congregation our family. Thank you for all your loving support.

Seminar at Berea - Berea, Inver Grove Heights will be hosting a seminar entitled "The War on Genders and Sexuality" on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. To 12:30 p.m. Pastor Neal Radichel will be presenting a Biblical view on the matter and Matt Starland will be presenting an apologetic response to arguments presented in society. Please email Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer if you have any questions - revpfei@gmail.com

Pastor Tom Naumann will be installed as pastor at Grace Lutheran, Fridley on Sun., April 26th at 4:00 pm. If anyone is planning to attend, please let Pastor know, so that he can send an estimate of attendees from St. John's for meal planning.

CLC Call News – Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has **returned** the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has **received** the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **received** the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN, has **retired** due to non life-threatening health concerns. His last service was March 29, 2026.

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| Ushers | 4/5 | Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R. |
| | 4/12 | Kendall B, Larry B. |
| | 4/19 | Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R. |
| Cleaning | | This Week – Kazemba, Thaemlitz (wk. 1) |
| | | Up Next – Dronen, Baumann, Olmanson |

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 6th - 11th, 2026

Mon Mark 16:1-8 The women's devotion to Jesus brought them to the empty tomb, where they learned the startling news: "He has risen!" (v6) Thus they became messengers of the good news to His disciples.

Tues 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 As the Passover meant a new lease on life for God's people, so the resurrection means new life. Let us, therefore, leave behind the old wicked ways and celebrate with sincerity and truth.

Wed Isaiah 52:13-15 As we ponder the wondrous Easter news, we remember how the prophet Isaiah proclaimed well in advance the exaltation of the Lord's Servant, after His deep humiliation.

Thurs Psalm 111 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for His glorious and majestic work (v3) on our behalf! He sent redemption for His people (v9), as we learn from His awesome Word!

Fri Psalm 113 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The name of the Lord is to be praised always and everywhere. It is higher than the earth and the heavens. He bends down to see and lift up the poor and needy. Hallelujah!

Sat Psalm 114 Israel's deliverance from Egypt reminds us of our deliverance from death and hell. On the way to the promised land, the waters could not stop them and Sinai trembled. We, too, are led safely home!



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