

A photograph of a sunset over a dune. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and the dune. A large, dark cross is silhouetted against the sky on the peak of the dune. The foreground is filled with tall, dark grasses.

OUR LIFTED,
uplifted
LORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
APRIL 12, 2026

OUR LIFTED, *eplifted* LORD

Lift High the Cross (Students and Congregation)

Refrain: **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.** (Refrain)

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The host of God in conquering ranks combine.** (Refrain)

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!** (Refrain)

Introduction

(Verrick) He is risen! This morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we invite you to consider with us three times Christ “went up.” He was lifted up on the cross for our sins. He rose and broke the power of death. He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.

I Will Sing of My Redeemer (Students)

I will sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered from the curse to set me free.

(Refrain) Sing, O sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me.
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free.

I will praise my dear Redeemer: His triumphant power I'll tell,
How the victory He giveth over sin and death and hell.

I will sing of my Redeemer and His heavenly love for me;
He from death to life hath brought me, Son of God, with Him to be.

Part I: Lifted on the Cross

(Trysten) Being lifted up is usually a sign of celebration that comes after a great victory. A star player or coach may be lifted

onto the shoulders of a team. Arms are raised, voices are shouting, and you feel the energy emanating from their joy.

(Isaac) God's Word also tells of crowds of people waving their arms and shouting, but this time it is not joyful energy. Instead, it is the feelings of hatred, anger, sinful pride, and fear that pour out from the mass of people following the soldiers who were leading Jesus to the cross. The crowd was not cheering for Jesus - they were shouting for His death.

(Jessa) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

(Ella) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." (Matthew 27:22-25)

(Kysa) Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. And the inscription of His accusation was written above: THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Mark 15:25-26)

(Remmie) Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. (Mark 15:33-34,37)

Drawn to the Cross (Congregation)

**Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blest
With healing gifts for souls distress,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my mispent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

(Amy) The sinful nature that all people have inherited from Adam and Eve, and the sins we each continue to commit, group us together with the mob demanding Jesus' death. There are many, perhaps even ourselves, that believe they would NEVER have joined in the call for the death of Jesus. With believers of all times we confess:

(Cong. and Students) "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord." Just as certain as we are of that confession, so we also know and confess: "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells." (Romans 7:18)

(Aubrey) Our sins lead us to eternal death. Our sins keep us from heaven. God our Heavenly Father knew it was impossible for us to save ourselves. He knew this before each of us was born, even before He created the World. He already loved us so much that He also knew how He would save us.

(Lylyan) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

(Daniel) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:14-16)

(Matthew) Jesus Himself said, "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:31-32)

(Aaron) God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. (Romans 8:32)

(Ava) It was because of my sin and yours, everyone who ever lived or would live, that Jesus suffered and died. Yes, Jesus was lifted up. Although it appeared to be in defeat, His crucifixion meant absolute victory. With that true knowledge we can confidently say:

(Congregation and Students) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

In the Cross of Christ I Glory (Students)

In the Cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way
From the Cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

The Power of the Cross (Choir)

O to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

(Refrain) This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,
"Finished!" the victory cry.

O to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the power of the cross:
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Part II: Risen From Death

(Katelyn) The death of Jesus was misunderstood by so many people. They had seen Jesus and His miracles, heard His teachings and His laugh. Those men and women, just as we, needed the Spirit to give faith to believe and confess:

(Congregation and Students) He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

(Verrick) “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went 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 and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

(Katelyn) But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you.”

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (Congregation)

Now all the vault of heaven resounds,

In praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Sing choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: Christ has triumphed!

Christ has triumphed!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring

And with the heavenly bless-ed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”

Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most Holy God,

All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

(Ava) “So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10)

(Levi) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

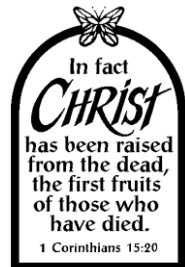
Alleluia! Sing, Christ is Risen (Students)

Alleluia! Sing alleluia! Christ is risen, He is alive!
Alleluia! Sing alleluia! Let songs of celebration arise!

Our hearts were filled with sorrow and gloom,
When Jesus lay within the tomb.
Then Christ arose on Easter’s dawn!
Now we can sing a glad new song!

(Trysten) The joyful news of Jesus’ resurrection spread. Jesus, Himself, appeared to many. They heard and saw, and they believed. Unfortunately, some closed their hearts to the gospel. Even though they heard, they did not believe. They had doubts and raised questions.

(Amy) Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up - if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:12-20)



(Lylyan) God's Word is true. His promises are certain. "And He says, 'He was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.'" (Romans 4:25) Through the grace of God, each and every sin of ours is gone forever.

(Matthew) For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14:8-9)

(Levi) Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

(Students st 1, Congregation and Students st 2-4)

"Christ the Lord is risen today,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply.

**Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo He sets in blood no more.**

**Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to Thee by both be given!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

Part III: Ascended to Heaven

(Isaac) The days after the resurrection must have been quite reassuring for many that had followed Jesus. What a comfort for them to know Jesus had risen, that He was with them once again!

The Bible records that during the next forty days Jesus appeared to over 500 people! He met with His disciples. He made breakfast for them on the shores of Galilee.

(Verrick) In all of this He was making well known that He was alive, not a ghost, with flesh and the scars of the crucifixion remaining. Jesus spoke with His disciples, giving them more instruction and promised them the Holy Spirit. Then the time came. The time for Jesus Christ to ascend to heaven and take His place at the right hand of God the Father.

(Aubrey) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Ac. 1:9-11)



(Amy) They watched Him rise. Their hearts were undoubtedly filled with awe, love, emptiness, and fear. Things would be so different without Jesus there with them. The angels brought them back to attention to the work they had been given to do. It is the same work we have all been called to do - to spread the gospel of our Lord. To live our lives that others may see Him, to be ready anytime to share the joy we have in Christ with others so they, too, will be ready for Jesus' return.

(Remmie) Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3)

(Kysa) Jesus is preparing for His children to come home. He wants us with Him. His whole life - from His birth in a stable to His death on the cross, was for us. The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

(Ella) For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.

(Jessa) He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. (1 Peter 2:21-25)

(Congregation and Students) He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

What is This Bread (Congregation)

**How shall I live, for Him who fully doth forgive
my sinful ways? Through all my days
I'll strive to honor Him with praise;
Until the end, my life amend.**

**What shall I fear though dangers threaten and be near?
His promise sure, makes me secure,
He guides my life from year to year.
So faithfully, God is with me.**

**I, too, shall rise to join my Savior in the skies;
When trumpets blast, and life is past --
He will from death awaken me.
Eternally, with Him I'll be.**

(Amy) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24,25)

I Will Rise (Students)

There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"
Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead

[Chorus] And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise. I will rise.

There's a day that's drawing near
When this darkness breaks to light
And the shadows disappear
And my faith shall be my eyes
Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead [Chorus:]

And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb" [Chorus:]

(Verrick) May the grace of our lifted, uplifted Lord, be with you. Amen.



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.

Ladies' Aid will be Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 pm.

Kindergarten Roundup – All children entering Kindergarten *this fall or the year after* 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.

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.

Flowers on the altar are placed in memory of Martin Strike.



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Ushers	4/12	Kendall B, Larry B.
	4/19	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	4/26	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
Cleaning		This Week – Dronen, Baumann, Olmanson (wk. 2)
		Up Next – The Boernsens