

# Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

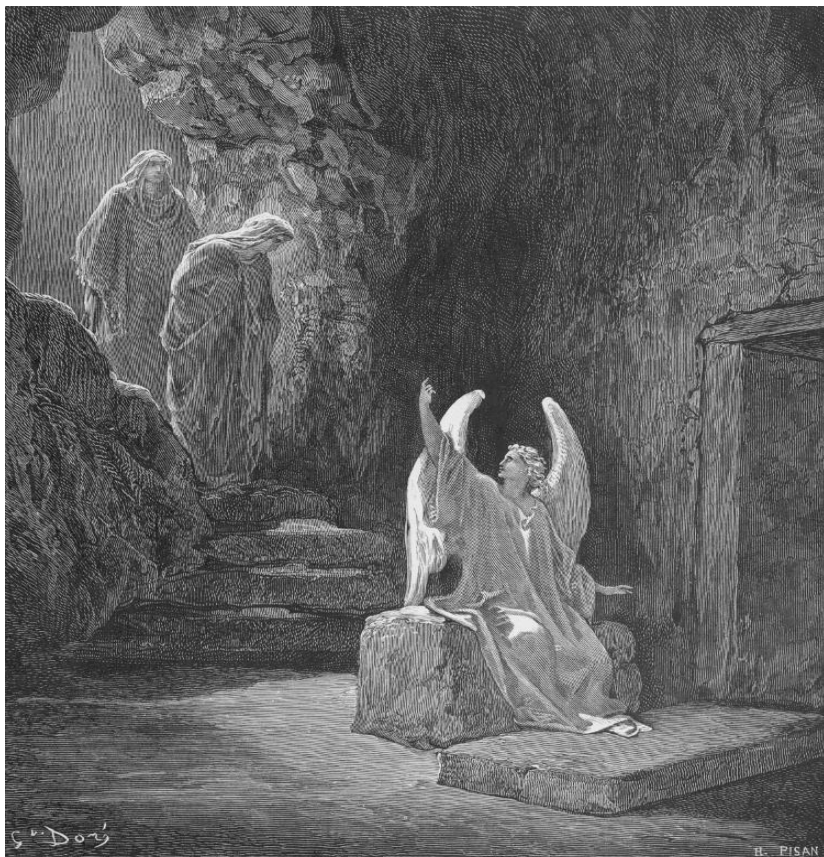
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

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## THE RESURRECTION

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. . . . (Matthew 28: 5, 6)

# Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Rev. Michael Mathey, Pastor

**The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

**Life Quotes: April 5** “As Christians, we rejoice in the Savior who shines light on our lives when we only expected inky blackness. May God's strong Word remind us that the fullness of life is meant to be lived in the light. In our weakness, may the Lord bring alongside us faithful brothers and sisters to proclaim that God is light and life to us, and let us walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). In Jesus we have light, and to have light is to have life. May we rejoice in proclaiming the message of Jesus as the Apostle John did. Thanks be to God that He is light, and He shines in the darkness.” *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Life Thoughts: – (Easter Day) –** Alleluia, Christ has risen! This is *the* pro-life proclamation! Our Lord has defeated death to give life to the world. There is no person whom Jesus does not wish to rescue from the curse of death, as “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34). And we, who have already “been raised with Christ” through faith and Holy Baptism, “seek the things that are above” (Colossians 3:1), desiring that all would have life, now and when He appears in glory (Colossians 3:4).

# Divine Service I

## Service of the Word

### Easter Greeting:

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen

C **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

*STJ: Sunday School Chimes: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

### Entrance Hymn:

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" LSB 465

Kyrie (p.152)

This is the Feast (p.155)

### Salutation and Collect of the Day (p.156)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading *Exodus 14:10—15:1*

<sup>10</sup>When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup>And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

<sup>15</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup>Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>24</sup>And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, <sup>25</sup>clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.”

<sup>26</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against

the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** 118:15 – 29

*STJ Chimes: “Day of Resurrection”*

**Epistle**                    *1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia (p.156)

**Holy Gospel**                    *John 20:1–18*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So 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.” <sup>3</sup>So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They 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.” <sup>14</sup>Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” 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.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for 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.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Office Hymn: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

LSB 457

Sermon

Rite of Confirmation (p. 273)



**Next SUNDAY at Bethlehem and St. John**

Beth:	Sun.	April 12	Worship Service	8:00 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 12	Sunday School	9:15 am
Beth:	Sun.	April 12	Adult Bible Study	9:15 am
STJ:	Sun.	April 12	Sunday School	9:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	April 12	Worship Service	10:30 am
STJ:	Sun.	April 12	Adult Bible Study	11:45 am

**Next SUNDAY Acolytes and Greeters**

Beth:	Sun.	April 12	Acolyte: Kylee Johnson
			Greeters: Matt & Janessa Thomas Family
STJ:	Sun.	April 12	Acolyte: Isabelle Kramp

**St. John Easter Breakfast** Sunday, April 5th 9:00 am to 10:15 am.  
Free will offering for the Mroczenski Mission.

The **Bethlehem Out-Reach**— Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 4pm.  
More details to come.

***DATE CORRECTION from 3/29 Bulletin and the April Newsletter.*** The **LWML, Zone 10 Spring Rally** held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, WI will be on **Thursday, April 23, 2026.**

April – June 2026 **Portals of Prayers** are available at church.

**Church Secretary Hours for the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>:**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am to noon.

