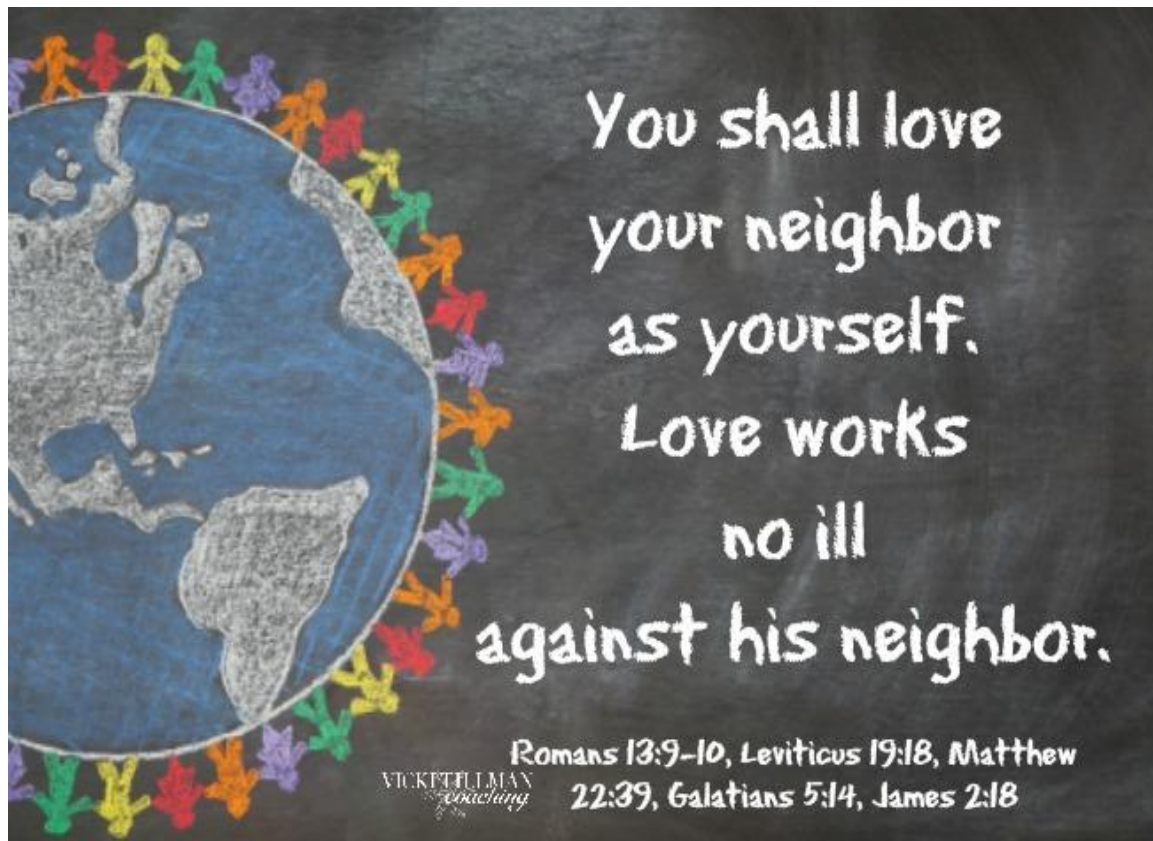


***The Lutheran Church of the Covenant***  
***“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”***



*Third Sunday of Easter*  
*April 18, 2021*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! We continue to do our best in providing the safest environment possible for you to worship our Risen Lord with your whole heart, even during these COVID-19 times. Here are the precautions we are taking on behalf of our whole community of faith, so that we best care for one another and those we are around during the week.

- We ask you wear a mask the entire time you are in the building, unless you have a medical condition preventing you from doing so.
- Bulletins and individual Communion elements are available for you to pick up as you enter from the back of the sanctuary. The Communion elements are available in wine and grape juice form as well as wheat and gluten-free wafers. We will partake of the body and blood of Christ together from our respective seats.
- There will not be a separate time for an offering to be collected for supporting our congregational and wider-church ministry, and so an offering basket is placed beside the bulletins and Communion elements, for those who wish to give this day.
- We are asking you to refrain from singing, as we do our best to minimize the spread of droplets and aerosols around our masks. You may do so in your heart, where we believe God hears just as well as if spoken or sung aloud. We, also, ask that you continue participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print, but doing so in a whisper voice.
- There will not be a time for sharing of the peace, but we encourage you to do so with one another before or after the worship (while maintaining the physical distancing recommendations of six feet).
- There will not be a processional or recessional of the cross, nor will there be a receiving line with the pastor after the worship. If you wish to speak for Pastor Brad, for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact him through email, text or calling him directly.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we will always err on the side of caution while knowing that we can still transmit the virus even with the full vaccination.

## Third Sunday of Easter

*The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*

Prelude Partita on *Sonne der Gerechtigkeit* (ORGAN)

\*Thanksgiving for Baptism

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at our baptism, remembering our everlasting bond with our Risen Lord.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.  
We praise you, Holy Spirit,  
for coming to us in these grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.  
Breathe your peace of serenity  
on your whole church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us as loving companions on our journey  
as we share your new life among us.  
Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.  
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain*

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*

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"  
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things."

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

#726

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

- 1 Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

- 2 Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

- 3 Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

\*Prayers of Intercession

On this third Sunday of Easter, we pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with words echoing today's psalm, "Hear us when we call."

*A brief silence.*

Holy and righteous God, watch over your whole church: for our own Covenant family, for the faith communities of all our neighbors and around the globe, including those in Nigeria and wherever martyrdoms threaten. O God our Savior, bless your people, and have mercy on us. **Hear us when we call.**

Creating God, continue to tend for the well-being of terrains, plants, and animals wild and tame, for the birds, including songbirds whose numbers are decreasing, and for this week's Earth Day, that good will come from our collective humanity. O God our Creator, restore your handiwork, and have mercy on us. **Hear us when we call.**

God of hope, we long for the end of warfare, terrorism, and cruelty to the poor, for a respectful treatment of refugees and all who are incarcerated. Heal divisions in Northern Ireland and other places of civil unrest, including in our own nation. O God our Sovereign, bring peace to the world you still love, and have mercy on us. **Hear us when we call.**

Healing God, we lift up all who are sick and suffering, for those who have no access to the coronavirus vaccines, for the children afflicted with the virus variants, for everyone who fears receiving medical advice and assistance, for those who live with chronic pain, for those whose pain is known only to you. O God our Caregiver, nurture the sick, and have mercy on us. **Hear us when we call.**

We remember before you all the witnesses of the resurrection, the saints of old, those who have died by violence or by the coronavirus, and especially our relatives and friends. O God our Resurrection, give us life now and forever, and have mercy on us. **Hear us when we call.**

Receive these prayers into your heart of mercy for the sake of the holy and righteous one, Jesus Christ, our wondrous Redeemer. **Amen.**



\*Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Holy Spirit, breathe on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your living disciples,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Music Interlude *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (HANSEN)

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Blessing

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.
- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude *Sing Praise to God* (PAXTON)

## Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Alexis Carr, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Judy Jones, Matt Jones, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Heather Lasher, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Don Rusher Jr, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

### LAST WEEK

General Fund receipts for week ending 4/11/2021: \$1597

## *Lectionary Blog: Why Are You Surprised?*



*iStock.com/IngridHS*

The biblical narrative doesn't go directly from the crucifixion to Paul's letters about how to understand Jesus and how to live in community, thank goodness. We read in the Bible that Jesus was resurrected and appeared to many of his disciples, and not just the 12. He was able to comment on and interpret his death and resurrection for those who had followed him. Then the disciples who had actually known Jesus were able to interpret his life, death and resurrection for those who would believe through them. The common refrain throughout Jesus' and his disciples' post-resurrection teaching is incredulity that what came to pass could have come as a surprise.

In the pericope immediately before this week's reading in Luke, Jesus joined two disciples who were walking away from Jerusalem. While they were on their way, they discussed what they thought were the last days of Jesus' ministry. But they were confused by the report from some women in their group who said that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Jesus' response was to chide them and then patiently explain again what he had no doubt told his followers many times before:

*“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 (Luke 24:25-27; NIV).*

These two then invited Jesus to share the evening meal of the festival of unleavened bread with them. They saw Jesus in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup—as we are blessed to see him in communion as well. Afterward they hurried to tell their comrades that they had seen the risen Jesus.

The disciples were discussing this appearance of their risen Messiah when Jesus stood among them and wished peace upon them. They were shocked, but Jesus' response again was one of surprise at their lack of equanimity. “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds?” (Luke 24:37; NIV).

After allowing them to touch him and then eating a fish to prove that he was really resurrected and not just a spirit, Jesus then pointed back to the Scriptures. He went through “Moses, the prophets and the psalms” in order to open their minds to what they should have expected. He told them to wait in the city for the gift from the Father. But crucially, Jesus didn't want the Spirit to come in power before his disciples knew and understood the Scriptures. He delayed his ascension to heaven to be reintegrated into the royal throne room of God because it was *so* important that his disciples receive a few final Bible studies.

Days later, Jesus' disciples Peter and John finally arrived at the point where they could successfully emulate their master, teacher and friend with whom they had spent so long learning the ways of life. When the two entered the temple courts, a beggar asked for a gift. The power of God flowed through Peter and the lame beggar was healed (Acts 3:1-8). Many people had regularly seen this beggar, who was now running around inside the temple courts, and they pressed Peter for answers as to how this had come to pass. Peter responded just as Jesus had only a few weeks earlier to similar questions of who and why these things were happening: "Why are you surprised?"

Peter then rehearsed the circumstances leading to Jesus' death and resurrection. He pointed to the power that had caused the man to be healed and freed them all from their sins. To support his argument, Peter quoted Moses, Samuel, the prophets and the conversations between God and Abraham. Peter was imitating Jesus by performing signs and quoting Scripture to point to the Messiah's salvific ministry.

The bottom line is that after the resurrection people are continually surprised by the life and power of Jesus. But we should not be. Jesus and the disciples repeatedly pointed to Scripture and how studying and knowing it helps us see, understand and anticipate what God will do in the world.

In the spirit of this instruction, I am re-engaging in close study of the major prophets that Jesus referenced so often, especially focusing on Isaiah. I'd invite you, if you're not already, to consider rereading some of the Hebrew Bible that the Lord and his disciples repeatedly pointed to as necessary for understanding what God was up to in Jesus' ministry.

*This, and other resources for the journey of faith, available at [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org)*



*Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.*



We continue to hear plenty of positive feedback about our outdoor worship opportunities last year, when we first returned to in-person worship following the initial local outbreak of COVID-19. As the vaccines continue to be rolled out across the country and herd immunity develops, and with so much of our Covenant family appreciating how we worshiped last summer, our Covenant council is considering returning to worshipping outdoors starting Sunday, June 6 (still at 9AM) and continuing outdoors through the months of June, July, and August.

We are fully aware of the broad spectrum of current worship practices with congregations near and far away: some are not wearing masks, not distancing, and full-on singing. Some have yet to meet in-person. We wish to continue to provide the safest environment for those who have yet to be vaccinated, including for potential visitors who may come with youth, who are more affected by the new variants of the virus.

If we move outdoors, we would still celebrate Communion every Sunday, as well as sing together! If weather does not cooperate that respective Sunday, we would move into the sanctuary with the same protocols as we have been using so far this year. For those who would prefer to worship inside the sanctuary on a more regular basis, we are tentatively planning to hold our Saturday worships (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month at 5pm) in the sanctuary (with our same current protocols). We encourage you to take time to let us know what you think by Wednesday, April 28 (in time for our May newsletter) about this plan for worships at Covenant during the summer months. Feel free to contact anyone on our Covenant council, as well as Pastor Brad and Jen in the church office.

# Celebrate the Resurrection! (Luke 24)

B Q J G P I N T J B V U A P I M Y N P F T G G D  
 V P V M C B I S F O Y S F T T Y X Z A Q N N T U  
 Q W J Y L C A H K H E U X O S E P U L C H R E S  
 C L E R Z D X E B L J Z C H V U I Q W H T B Z Z  
 N N R D B K U A F I J S Y U V G Z S I W U B W V  
 L C E U J I A V X M E F G K Z K H G V K U T S C  
 T X S X E N F E A A S G Q K D X I K P O C L C U  
 Q D U C R G T N K I U H F A V U X Z N P R X F Z  
 H N R F U H O D Z J S T V L V D Y N V V R W T O  
 L N R Y S G M L L V Z N I Q X L Y P Q Q D L P A  
 G F E F A O H J H O Z O V H N Q B Z U V K C B X  
 A H C B L X Y P P U M V S S C P C Q H X D W N N  
 R N T G E V C K F D F R I S E N V L C S O W S R  
 M R I T M F U Y T R G E V G N N P T Z T P Z M N  
 E F O H M C A C V I O S K T A X D H E V O K U V  
 N B N J N J B E M S C R I P T U R E S Y T O R U  
 T O P P A S B E O O X X B L Q B R J D A Y J O F  
 S P X Y L P B M P V W M O R N I N G Q X C J L B  
 M P Q J M A R Y A A U K N P R W L P X C A I C O  
 R I C Z M J M J N U B J M D C U D N U F H Y C N  
 G A F W R G P U K Y V P A M N M V V D Q P M X C  
 W X E A F F T O P P R L N Z U D P F S F G G D D  
 B G N F R T C N C U E P P F P S S L E J G F G M  
 J C M R J Q S D O X R L A Y Q A P O S T L E S U

HEAVEN	SCRIPTURES	JERUSALEM	MARY
GARMENTS	RESURRECTION	MORNING	SEPULCHRE
KING	JESUS	RISEN	APOSTLES