

“Faithfully Reporting GOD’S Word”



“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
– Psalm 119:105

**ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

April 5, 2026

THE PATHLIGHT (A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR)

April 5, 2026

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The Pathlight

*Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet And A
Light To My Path.
PS 119:105*

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Victory Won

“You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.” Mark 16:6

There are things that people try to hide. Death is the one of them. We hide death away in hospitals and nursing homes so no one can see it. We may acknowledge it in obituaries but those are relegated to inside or back pages. We're so afraid of it, that we can't even look death in the eye when it's right in front of our faces, unless we dress it up as something it isn't, say, "a relief from suffering". We are afraid of it. We're afraid because we are powerless against death. And no one has ever beaten it...Except for One.

That One changed everything. Mary, Mary, and Salome were looking for a dead Jesus. But they don't find Him in the tomb. Instead, they are told that He is not here. He is not in the grave. He is not dead. He is risen. Jesus lives! What does this mean? It means that death has been overcome. Not just for Jesus, but for all people. The grave is not the end. The thing that we're the most afraid of has been conquered. And that changes everything.

Resurrection is now possible. Jesus died and then rose for you. By faith in Him, Jesus gives you forgiveness of sins and His resurrection. It is yours.

All the things we feared about death no longer have any sting to them. We no longer need to hide death or ignore those who are dying. We can look death in the eye and not be afraid, because we have a Savior that is stronger than even death itself. Even if death does take us or those we loved, it can't hold those who die in Jesus Christ. The day is coming when all will rise. The faithful will enter into eternal life with Jesus.

Easter Sunday is central to the Christian faith. Even when our bodies die, it won't be forever. That's why every Sunday is a little Easter. This is the day Jesus rose. This is the day we receive the promise of His resurrection for ourselves also. All because Jesus lives! He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The fifth stanza of the hymn "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" reads: Jesus lives! And now is death – But the gate of life immortal; This shall calm my trembling breath – When I pass its gloomy portal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: -Jesus is my confidence!

Pastor Christensen

For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1Cor. 13



Lutheran Worship Service Printed

HYMNS FOR THE SERVICE:

- 465-** “Now All the Vaults of Heaven Resounds”
- 457-** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”
- 544-** “O Love, How Deep”
- 633-** “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”
- 466-** “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”
- 631-** “Hear, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”
- 461-** “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

April 5, 2026

INTROIT *Ex. 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; antiphon: Ex. 15:1b*

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and he has become my sal- | vation;

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you | have r
you have guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which you have made for | your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have es- | tablished.*

The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus
overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. G
celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised
sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, wh
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading: Acts 10:34–43

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Epistle: Colossians 3:1–4

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your

minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1–10

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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.” ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Servants today

St.Paul

Organist – Gail Nicolaus & Jeanie Boehm Ushers /Greeters- Murl Abts
& Chuck Juhl

Zion

Organist-Gail Nicolaus & Jeanie Boehm, Ushers/Greeters-Mark &
Shelle, Altar Guild-Shelle, Jodi, & Tonia



CALENDAR

St. Paul

April 6-9:00AM-Bible Study

April 9-6:30PM-Miriam Circle

April 12-8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00A- Worship Service

Servants for Worship Service-Gail Nicolaus/Brad Ehmke/Gayle Newth

Zion

April 8-3:30PM-Midweek

April 12-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship Service Gail Nicolaus /Mark & Shelle/Tonia, Jodi & Shelle



April 6- Shelle Heidemann

April 10- Lori Hensley

Pastoral Vacation Notice

Pastor will be away on vacation from April 6th through April 16th. We pray this will be a time of rest, renewal, and blessing. If you have any needs during this time, please feel free to reach out to one of our church elders, who will be happy to assist you. Thank you for your understanding, love, and continued support.



Christ Is Risen – Congregation Word Challenge

Read the Easter story above carefully. Hidden throughout the passage are many important words connected to Christ's resurrection.

Your challenge:

Find and circle (or list) all the hidden words, words may appear **backward**, some are **hidden inside other words**, some may be **split across spaces**. Look carefully-some are easy to miss!

After finding them, reflect on how each word connects to the message of Easter.

Bonus Challenge:

Use the words you find to describe the meaning of Christ's resurrection in one sentence.

Easter Story

Very early on the first day of the week, while darkness still covered the land, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. Her heart raced as she wondered what this could mean, and she ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John hurried to the place, and looking in, they saw linen cloths lying there, but the body was gone. The tomb was empty—~~pmotytpme~~—just as He had foretold. At first there was confusion, but soon the truth began to emerge: tsirhC si nesir,

and everything had changed. What once seemed like defeat was now revealed as yrotciv, for the grave could not hold the Savior. The power of htaed was broken, and in its place came efil and hope. As understanding grew, the disciples remembered His words and believed. On the t h i r d d a y, just as promised, the Lord had risen. The gnik of glory had triumphed, and the ssorc was no longer a symbol of loss but of redemption—noitpmeder—for all people. Even now, the message continues to unfold for those who look closely: drol lives, ecarg is given, and nevah is opened. For in Him we receive gnitsalever efil, a promise that stands forever. Therefore, let all who read understand and rejoice, for the risen Christ brings salvation, light in darkness, and peace that surpasses all understanding.

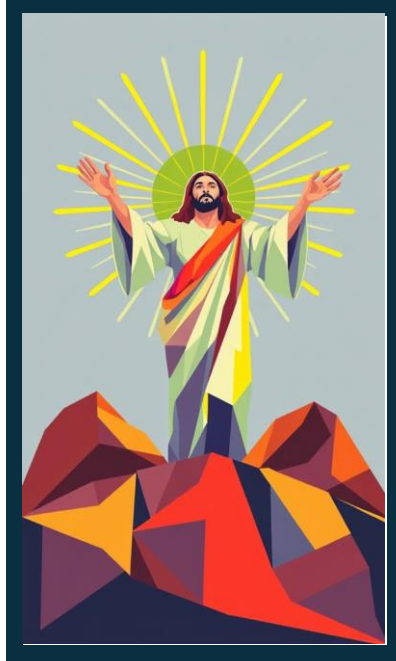
Answer Key

- pmotytpme → empty tomb
- tsirhC si nesir → Christ is risen
- yrotciv → victory
- htaed → death
- efil → life
- gnik → king
- ssorc → cross
- noitpmeder → redemption
- drol → lord
- ecarg → grace
- nevah → heaven
- gnitsalever efil → everlasting life

Spread Across Text:

- t h i r d d a y → third day

Hidden Message 🖱️ “Christ is risen, victorious over death, bringing grace, redemption, and everlasting life.”



Easter Devotion: Hope That Finds Us

Early on Easter morning, before the sun had fully risen, a woman walked quietly through a hospital hallway. She had spent the night sitting beside her husband's bed, listening to the steady rhythm of machines and wondering what the future might hold. Fear, exhaustion, and grief pressed heavily on her heart.

As she passed the hospital chapel, she paused. The door was slightly open. Inside, a simple wooden cross stood at the front, draped with a white cloth. A small sign read, "He is not here; He has risen."

She stepped inside and sat down. For the first time in hours, everything was still. No beeping monitors, no hurried footsteps—just silence. And in that silence, she whispered a prayer she wasn't sure she had the strength to say: "Lord, I don't know what will happen... but I need hope."

In that quiet moment, Easter became more than a date on the calendar. It became a promise.

The resurrection of Jesus is not only the story of an empty tomb long ago—it is God’s declaration that even in our darkest moments, death and despair do not have the final word.

As Scripture tells us:

“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.” (Matthew 28:6)

Because Christ is risen, hope is alive. Because He lives, we are not alone in our suffering, and we are not without a future.

The Apostle Paul reminds us:

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.” (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20)

Easter assures us that God is always at work—even when we cannot see it. The cross was not the end of the story, and neither are the struggles we face today.

For that woman in the hospital, the situation did not instantly change. But something within her did. She returned to her husband’s room with a quiet peace—not because all her questions were answered, but because she remembered that Christ had already overcome the greatest darkness.

This is the heart of our Lutheran faith: we do not trust in our own strength or understanding, but in the finished work of Jesus Christ—crucified and risen for us.

As we hear in Romans: **“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)**

And again:

“Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19) This Easter, whatever you may be carrying—grief, uncertainty, weariness, or fear—bring it to the empty tomb. There you will find not just answers, but a Savior who lives, who loves you, and who walks with you.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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