

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 5, 2026

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

EASTER





THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD—EASTER DAY

RESURRECTION CONFIDENCE

AS WE GATHER

Jesus compels us to ponder the unthinkable, the amazing—to embrace a cataclysmic event that destroys death and literally makes all things new. Resurrection! Christ's brutal coronation and crucifixion ensures that the entire cosmos, the heavens and the earth, are renewed—in resurrection! Chills soar through our souls at the very thought of it all. In confident faith we are bold to confess that king Jesus unleashes His incomparable reign, crushing the evil aggression of principalities, authorities, and even Satan himself. Unrelenting shouts and songs of alleluia shape the church today because of resurrection. Setting aside all timidity, fear, and anxiety, the church acclaim "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Resurrection confidence in Jesus unites our speech and our song on this day, as we await—with the same confidence—our own day of resurrection, with all the saints in glory.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRESERVICE MUSIC

(Please keep a respectful silence during the Preparation Music so you and those around you may ready your hearts and minds for worship.)

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

Michael Burkhardt

Clay Christiansen

Michael Burkhardt

Michael Burkhardt

PRELUDE

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

LSB 465

(Please rise and turn to follow the cross)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 Δ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: In the name of the Father—who creates and re-creates new life in the kingdom of resurrection,

People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: and of ✠ Jesus—who redeems and resurrects new life in the kingdom of resurrection,

People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit—who sanctifies and breathes new life in the kingdom of resurrection.

People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER INTROIT (*please remain standing if you are able*)

“Christ Triumphant!”

Mark Patterson
Ascension Chorale

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God our Father, and Christ, our risen King!

People: Resurrected Lord and Savior, we confess before You that our Easter faith is meager; we have not acted decisively in sharing Your love. Our forgiveness for others is tepid. We fail to be gracious in conflict and forget that all believers belong to You—the crucified and risen Lord. Although we are undeserving, You have crowned us with resurrection certainty by Your life-changing grace and mercy. Death is destroyed. Easter life flourishes, now and forever!

Pastor: Christ has died. We, too, shall die. Christ has risen. We, too, shall rise, because we are more than conquerors in and through Christ Jesus. Our eternal confidence and unwavering faith are in Him alone! Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

KYRIE (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 152

In the front of the hymnal

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This is the Feast” (Divine Service, Setting One) LSB 155

In the front of the hymnal

✠ **WORD** ✠

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

(Peter preaches and witnesses to the risen Lord.)

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened

throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

(Paul writes that our lives are hidden with Christ in God.)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



MINISTRY OF MUSIC (8:00 and 10:30 am) "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"
arr. Cathy Moglebust
Gloria Dei Handbell Ringers

Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

(He is not here!)

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. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that 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.” 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 worshiped 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

LSB 457

SERMON “Against All Odds”

Pastor John Larson

Text: Matthew 28:1-10

CREED The Second Article with Explanation (Luther’s Catechism)

Pastor: Jesus fulfilled all Scripture as the Word made flesh. Forty days after His victory over sin, death, and the devil by His rising from the dead, He ascended into heaven. Believing in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, as our Lord and Savior and humanity’s redemption and source of all salvation, we focus on the Small Catechism’s explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, which we confess together:

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.



Pastor: What does this mean?

People: 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, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

That the church live out its calling and that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ be joyfully celebrated in all places, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the nations of the world find peace with justice in our time, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the abiding blessing of God rest upon our families, our neighborhoods, our places of business, and our schools, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That those whose confession of the true faith leads to bodily peril or other sufferings know relief and deliverance from every danger, let us pray of the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all whose labor adds meaning and beauty to the life of the church—the musicians, artists, craft workers, flower arrangers, and others—find joy and blessing in all that they do to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That all those whose lives know specific challenges, including those who are ill and those who mourn, [including . . .], know heavenly benediction and strength for each day, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the memory of the faithful departed be held in reverence and honor by all of us as we await a time of resurrection and reunion at the close of the age, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

(Other intercessions may be added here)



Pastor: These things and all else that we should have asked on this day of holy rejoicing, grant to us Lord, for the sake of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Offering "Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"

arr. James Koerts
Ascension Chorale

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Psalm 136

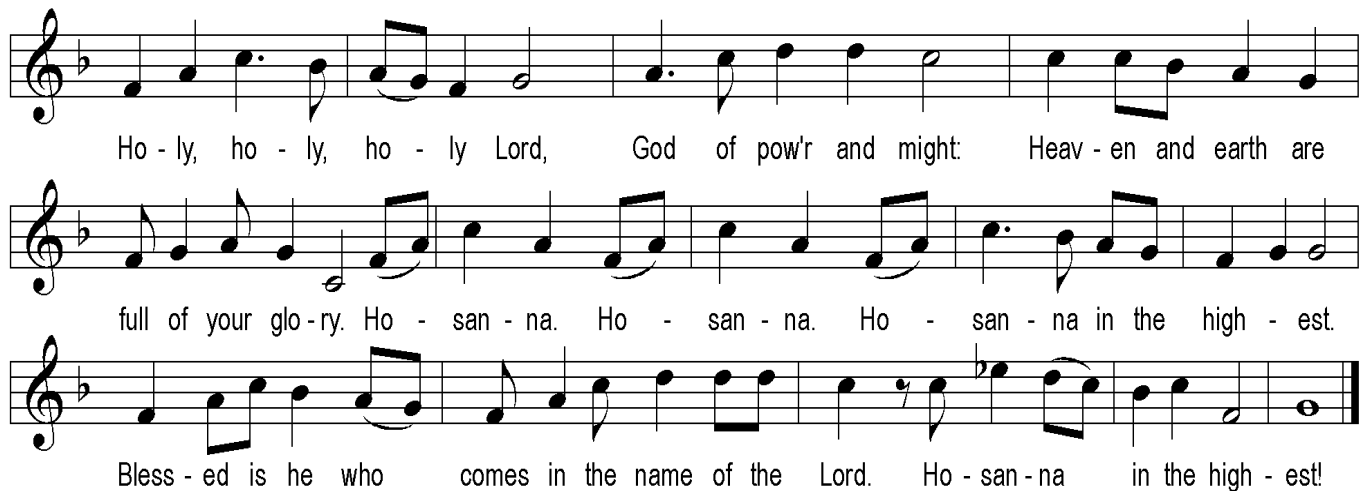
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**



PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us; lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant _____ us peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *(Not necessarily in this order)*

Hymn

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

LSB 461
arr. Bunjes

Verse 1: All

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living head!

Verse 2: All (with Soprano descant)

He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His Church in love.

Verse 3: Men Only

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Verse 4: Choir Only

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

Verse 5: All

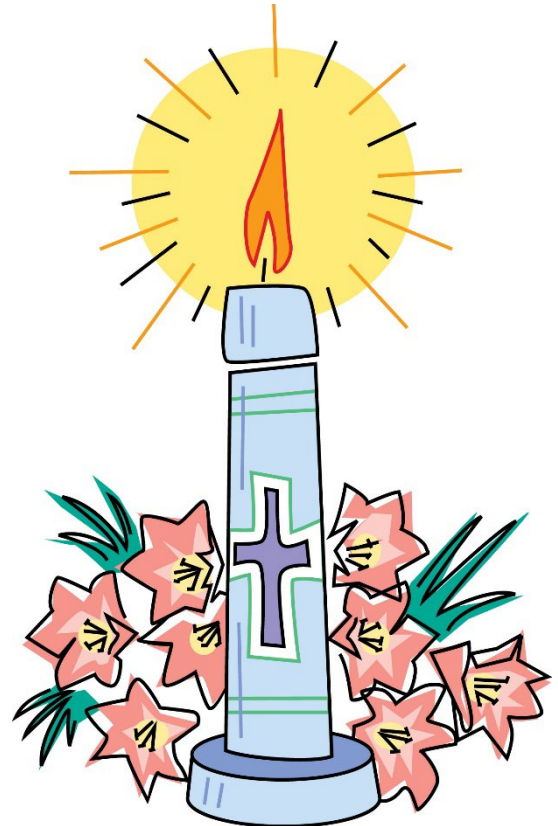
He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

Verse 6: All

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

Verse 7: Women Only

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.



Verse 8: All (with Soprano descant)

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Easter Organ Music (as time permits)

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

Paul Manz

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Michael Burkhardt

“At the Lamb’s High Feast”

Charles Ore

EASTER HYMN “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

LSB 633
(Verses 1-4, 7)

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

EASTER BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you in Jesus’ resurrection!
The Lord renew you in the promise of your resurrection—yet to be revealed.
The Lord guarantee you every dimension of eternal joy, hope, and new life.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

Paul Manz

2026 Lilies were given by:

Ron & Ann Kaneko
Crystal Sundet
Ken & Diane Cole
Gloria Gaudreault
Jason Smith
Andy & Mavis Slifka
John & Lori Rolling
Joann Sorrentino



2026 Palms were given by:

Fred & Kathy Wucherpfennig

Dan & Kim McCormick

Tracy Huggins

THANK YOU!

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

CHOIR and HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

TIMPANIST

LECTORS

ACOLYTES

ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Diana Gaide

Stephanie Roettjer

Eli Faulk

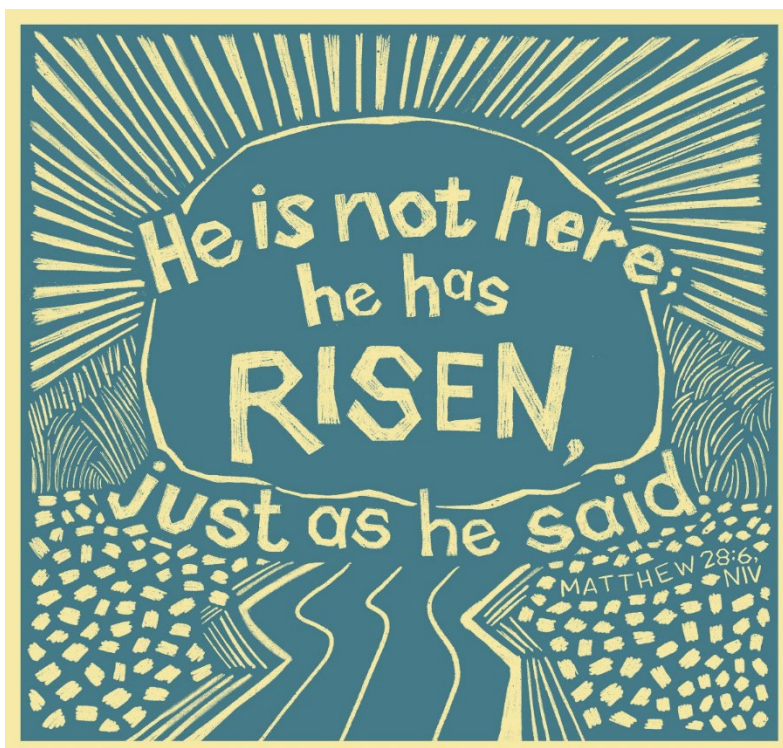
Scott Luethy, Roland Scott

Juliette Dallet

Tobin Lawrenz

Charmaine Rohde

Tanya Schmitt



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