

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher. Assisted listening devices, including both ear bud and loop receivers for digital hearing aids, are also available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- Welcome to our guests! You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. This is his house, and he is your heavenly Father. Come, then, into his presence, offering him your love and service. Come, expecting to share in the greatest things that life can offer. Come, hearing of full and free forgiveness. Come, knowing that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you are "more than conquerors" over sin, death, and the devil. And please, come again. If you currently have no church home and are looking for one, please indicate this on the guest card.

Easter Festival Service⁺

April 1, 2018

Jesus Lives: To Heal Brokenness

Call to Worship

Adult Choir

Begin the Song of Glory Now

by Alfred V. Fedak

Begin the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!
The night of mourning long is past; life has a purpose after all.
Our Samson smashed the gates of hell, and we are free at last, at last!
Begin the song of glory now: the Son has risen from our grave!

Prepare the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!
Composers, players, find new sounds for ev'ry instrument and voice:
A note, a chord, an aria, a Kyrie, a Gloria.
Prepare the song of glory now: the Son has risen from our grave!

Repeat the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!
Complete the Easter overture, and join the alleluia choir.
"In Jesus' name" the song begin, and end, "All praise to God alone!"
Repeat the song of glory now: the Son has risen from our grave!

+ Cross Processional: Following the call to worship, our Easter festival service begins with a cross processional. In past years, St. John's borrowed a cross and candles for use in our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service. But this year, our congregation obtained our own set for more regular use in festival worship services.

There is rich symbolism behind a cross processional. Worship happens when God's people gather together around the good news found at the cross of Christ. The cross connects the Scripture readings, showing Christ throughout the pages of the Old and New Testaments. The cross stands in the background of the hymns and songs of praise. The cross serves as the foundation for the sermon. Jesus' death and resurrection are the cornerstone of the Christian faith: the only reason to worship. When worship concludes, the same scene reverses itself. The cross and candles recess as God's people joyfully follow the Savior out of the church and into the world, where once again the cross and the accompanying good news of sins forgiven change hearts and lives.

Opening Hymn

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

setting by Paul G. Bunjes

During the singing of the opening hymn, the congregation is asked to rise and turn to the back of the church to visually follow the entrance of the cross on its way to the chancel.

**C: 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.**

Choir: He lives triumphant from the grave, he lives eternally to save,
He lives all-glorious in the sky, he lives exalted there on high.

**C: 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.**

Choir: 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.

**C: 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.**

Choir: 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.

**C: 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.**

**He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

M: People of God, Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

M: We celebrate this festival day in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE FOR EASTER

M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. *Ephesians 2:4-7*

C: **What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

M: Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. *Romans 6:1-4*

C: **Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.** *1 Corinthians 5:8*

M: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C: **He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.** *1 John 2:1, 2*

(sung) **At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight; you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!**

**Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

On the mountain of the LORD, death will be destroyed and brokenness will be made whole.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;
he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Response to the Word

Adult Choir & Congregation

Christ is Arisen

arranged by William Braun

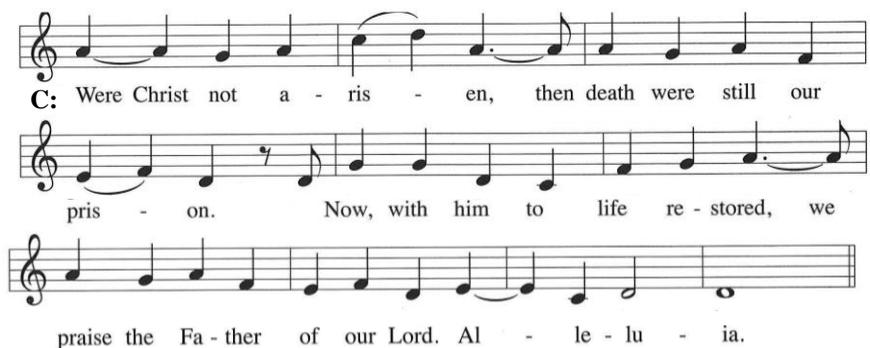
Choir: Alleluia, alleluia!

Christians, to the paschal victim offer your thankful praises –
A Lamb the sheep redeeming, Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciling sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous;
The Prince of Life, who died, reigns immortal.



C: Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark
 pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;
 Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring.
 “The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
 Bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting.
 My Lord, my hope, is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.”



C: Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our
 pris - on. Now, with him to life re - stored, we
 praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
 Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!



C: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free:
 Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Because Christ has been raised from the dead, we too will be raised and made whole.

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

Please stand

Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

Because Jesus rose – just as he said – he made whole our relationship with God.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Anthem*Adult Choir***O Risen Lord***by K. Lee Scott*

O risen Lord, O glorious Son, now is the mighty battle won:
Songs of praising we are raising: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On the third morning he arose, shining in vict'ry o'er his foes;
Earth is singing, heaven is ringing: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

After the death that him befell, Christ our Lord has harrowed hell.
Sing with gladness, gone is sadness, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of all things lives anew, and all his saints are rising, too.
May our living be thanksgiving: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn of the Day**Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands***Christian Worship 161***Sermon****Mark 16:1-8**

Better Than Expected

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.

Please stand

Prayer of the Church for Easter

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: In your compassion, you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

C: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: **Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: **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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

Hymn

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (see pg. 14)
Christian Worship Supplement 719

Please stand

M: Lord Jesus Christ, we give you praise and thanks for your glorious resurrection from the dead and for the opportunity to once again hear this good news and rejoice in it. Through your death our sins were buried with you, but now through your resurrection sin and death are left behind. May we live our lives in this resurrection joy, continually putting off the old and striving to live a new and holy life which reflects glory to your name, until we also rise and reign with you in everlasting joy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Christian Worship 157

*During the recessional, the congregation is asked to remain standing to sing
and turn to visually follow the cross as it leaves the sanctuary.
Please be seated at the completion of the hymn to await dismissal by the ushers.*

Announcements

Postlude

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.

Parents' Preview for April 8

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

Gospel Acclamation

This response is sung after the reading of the Gospel.
We praise our crucified and risen Lord whose words we hear in the Gospel.



Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Eric Schroeder
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Lector	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Musicians	Lynn Kozlowski, organ Adam Sipe & Mike Swenson, trumpet Ed Miller & Eric Sipe, trombone
Adult Choir Director	Dr. William Braun
Head Ushers	Jon Johnson (8:30 AM); Michael Schneider (10:30 AM)

Worship Notes

- The Easter plants which beautify the altar area have been placed by members of the congregation. If you purchased a plant, please pick it up following the 10:30 AM festival service. Altar Guild members will assist you in making sure you receive the plant you ordered.

In Our Prayers

- Dorothy Felsing, recovering from hip surgery on Monday
- Cheryl Thompson, recovering from hip surgery on Wednesday
- Ann Washburn and Jason Sasada, married at St. John's on Saturday, March 24

Readings for the Week of Easter

M	Acts 10:34-43.....	Luke 24:13-35
T	Acts 13:16a, 26-33.....	Luke 24:36-47
W	Acts 3:12-20.....	John 21:1-14
TH	Acts 8:26-40.....	Matthew 28:16-20
F	1 Peter 3:18-22.....	John 20:11-18
S	1 Peter 2:1-10.....	John 20:1-9

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; he sets us free.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.
 Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go.
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done.
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

This Tanzanian Easter hymn reminds us that the empty tomb is a message that transcends all time and culture.

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