

resurrection
REALity

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Resurrection Reality

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (1 Co. 15:20). Big word: *Indeed!* It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the punctiliar moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, He would be a failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what He claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now. A great theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breathtaking implications of the resurrection reality.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor’s Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor’s Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com /
text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



THE HOLY FESTIVAL OF EASTER

443 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

CW 443 sts. 1-4



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness— see what to -
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay
3 This is a sight that glad - dens— what peace it
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my



day is done! Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes
in the tomb; but lo, he now is rout - ed, his
does im - part! Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the
Sav - ior dear. My Lord will leave me nev - er; with



forth the glo - rious sun. My Sav - ior there was
boast is turned to gloom. For Christ a - gain is
joy with - in my heart. No gloom shall ev - er
him I need not fear. He rends death's i - ron



laid where our bed must be made when to the
free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry he who is
shake, no foe shall ev - er take the hope which
chain; he breaks through sin and pain. He shat - ters



realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.
strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
God's own Son in love for me has won.
hell's dark thrall; I fol - low him through all.

Text: tr. John Kelly, 1833-1890, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, abr.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

We celebrate the greatest victory of all in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Easter Call to Worship / Confession & Absolution

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The stone has been rolled away! Alleluia!

The Crucified One is Risen! Alleluia!

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

For Christ the Lord is Risen!

He wipes away the tears from our faces.

He removes the disgrace of his people.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I know that my Redeemer Lives!

The season of Lent, and especially the sadness, betrayal, and horror of Good Friday remind us how costly our redemption is. He did what was needed right up to the perfect standards of God, and faced the torturous fate of hell that the sinner deserves.

We confess, O Lord, that we are by nature sinful. We caused the hell You endured on Good Friday by the sins that we have committed. You paid the price in full. We are eternally grateful.

Because of His victory over the grave, at by His authority I proclaim the good news to you: All your sins are indeed forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. All praise and honor to our God for the marvelous plan of salvation. For carrying it out with perfection, and for making it ours by the gift of Faith.

We lift up our hearts with joy and exclaim:
Jesus Christ is risen today!

438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CW 438 sts. 1, 3

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and joyful, with a repeating refrain of 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first two lines of the score correspond to the first two lines of lyrics, and so on.

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Latin, 14th cent.
Tune: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708
Text and tune: Public domain

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

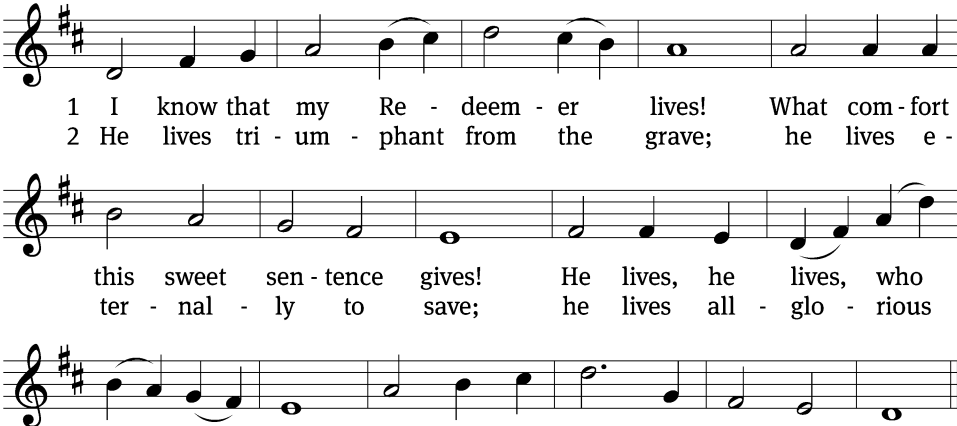
First Reading

Job 19:23–27

²³“Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
²⁷I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

441 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

CW 441 sts. 1-2



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious
once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.

Psalm 118

read responsively

This is the day the LORD has made,

let us rejoice and be glad!

The LORD is my strength and my defense;

He has become my salvation.

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,

and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

I will give You thanks, for You answered me;

You have become my salvation.

The Stone the builders rejected

has become the Cornerstone;

the LORD has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:19–26

¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Easter Verse of the Day

1 Corinthians 15:22

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Alleluia.

445 He's Risen, He's Risen

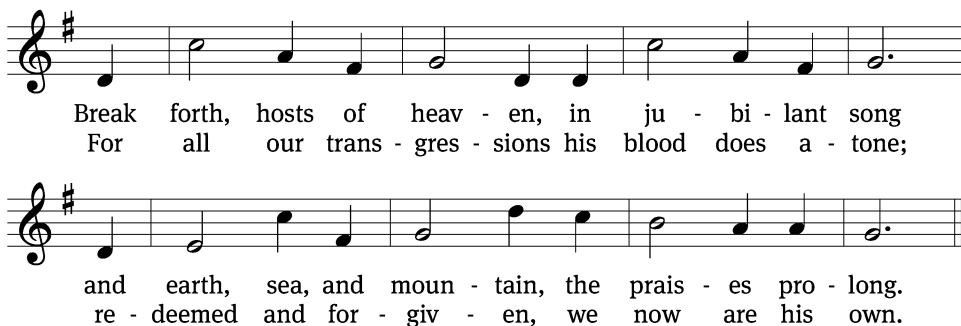
CW 445 sts. 1, 4



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;



he o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;
and earth, sea, and moun - tain, the prais - es pro - long.
re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.

Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1–8

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶"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. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

442 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

CW 442



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Christ, who once for sin - ners bled, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ners' stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now the first - born from the dead, Al - le - lu - ia!



see the place where he was laid; Al - le - lu - ia!
 "Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry; Al - le - lu - ia!
 while, in strange and awe - full strife, Al - le - lu - ia!
 throned in end - less might and pow'r, Al - le - lu - ia!



praise him for the ran - som paid. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met to - geth - er death and life. Al - le - lu - ia!
 lives and reigns for - ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.; Latin, 11th cent., attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050, abr.
 Tune: Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

1 Corinthians 15:17-22 *“Does it really matter . . . if Jesus REALLY rose from the dead?”*

444 *Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*

CW 444 st. 1



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er
can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will re - call me. Bright - er
scenes will then com - mence; this shall be my con - fi - dence.

Offering

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, have mercy upon us and be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn the loss of loved ones. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to trust His promises and follow His ways. To all who are experiencing the hopelessness of despair, direct them to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life – our risen Lord Jesus.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the hurting, the lost and the troubled. Use our lives and our testimony to comfort others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against You, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against Your saving will – false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan’s lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion— remove it for the sake of the gospel’s free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us, we pray.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, “He is risen!” As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the Keys of the Kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in His resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in Your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as Your dear children is sealed. **Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.**

Hear us, Lord, as we bring to You those people and issues that weigh upon our hearts . . .

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through Him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.**

We join in the prayer that our risen and victorious King Himself has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

**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;
and 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.**

Closing Blessing

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.
Amen.

Acknowledgments

Setting Six (American) from Christian Worship

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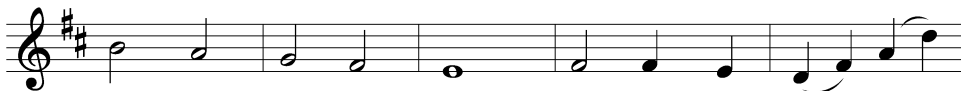
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441 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

CW 441 sts. 3, 5-6, 8



3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; he lives and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my



plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my
loves me to the end; he lives, and while he
Je - sus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this



soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.
lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!



FLOWERS WERE GIVEN IN HONOR / MEMORY OF:

Hubert & Florence Rachuig
Rick & Susan Rachuig Dalager
Ralph Strand
Robert Patterson
Jacob Halldorson
Will & Char Nork
All our loved ones resting in heaven

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Easter!

Thanks to everyone who brought flowers today, and please stick around and enjoy brunch together!

Grace Outreach Event

We're planning another event for children and families this spring – a Grace Fun Day. It's planned for Saturday, May 4th. Please speak with Mike if you want to be involved.

Easter For Kids

Rebecca is planning a special MWM for Easter on April 4 at the regular time (10am-11am). If you know people with kids or have a place you can post an advertisement, please let her know.

Bible Classes

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – Genesis on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month (10:30 am at Grace) with the men's and women's lunch out to follow at 11:30 am. The Discovering Grace class on Christian doctrine is available to anyone interested, and you are most welcome to attend one of the classes currently running.

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Easter Sunday Worship
Today	11:00 am	Easter Brunch
Apr. 3	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Apr. 4	10:00 am	Easter MWM
Apr. 4	6:00 pm	Revelation Bible Class