

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335

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RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY



April 5, 2025

10:00 am

Ministers: Everyone

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher


Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D

Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann

Office Manager: Marie Cook

“This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE: Christ lag in Todesbanden BWV 625 (organ) J. S. Bach

Allegro Scherzando from Sonata in G, op. 168/2 C. Saint Saens Daniel Fendrick,

bassoon

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today ELW 365

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

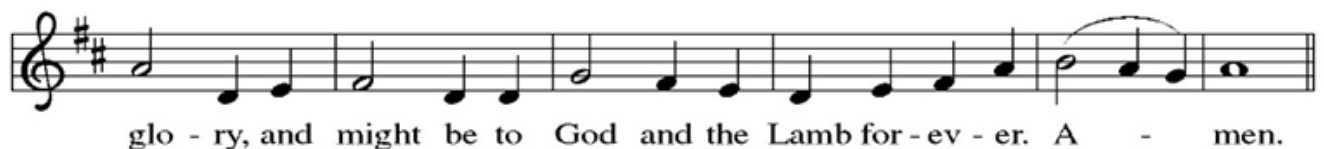
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.....O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Ms. Ashleigh Altemann

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

A: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

C: **Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

A: The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

C: **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

A: The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

C: **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

A: The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

C: **Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

A: "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

C: **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

A: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

C: **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

A: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

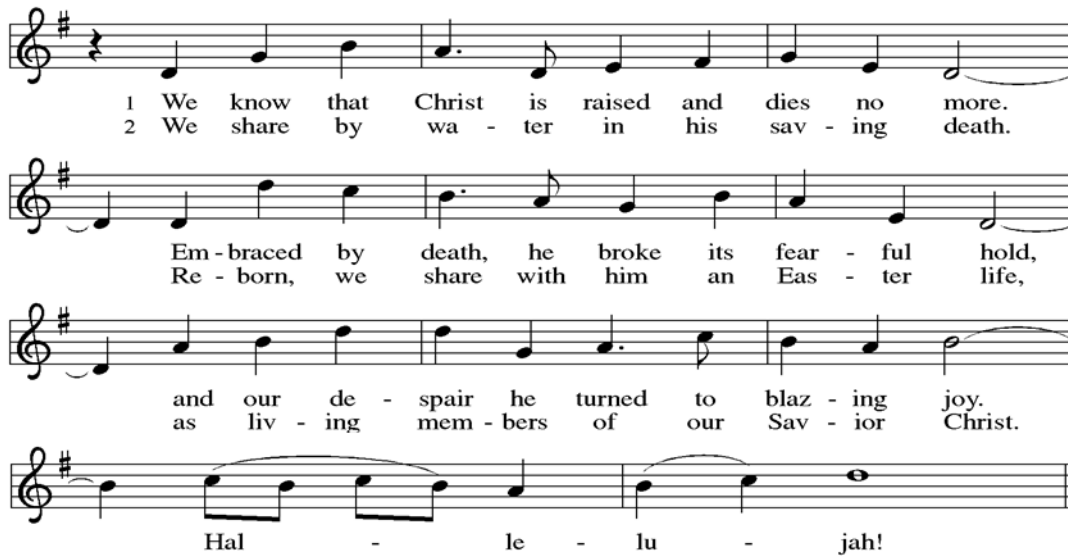
Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹If 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 the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

A: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

All rise as are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: We Know That Christ Is Raised ELW 449 vs. 1,2



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Hal - le - lu - jah!

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON: Celebrate!

Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia ELW 364



M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
 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.



m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
 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.



A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 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.



m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

Refrain



Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
 He has arisen this world to save.
 Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
 Even the battle with sin is won."
Refrain
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
 Alleluia, to him praises be.
 Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
 he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Refrain

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
 Music: MFURAHINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian traditional
 Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and
the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM: A Gaelic Easter Celebration Arr. P. Drennan

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (especially). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Live the Promise by Rory Cooney Jean Marie Learman

OFFERING PRAYER: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

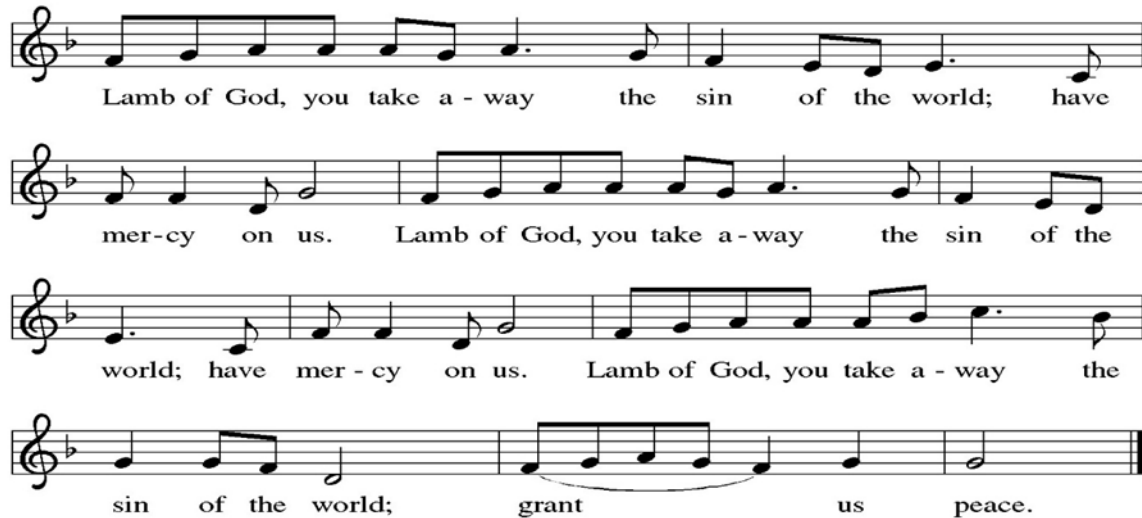
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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**

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen



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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC: O For the Wings of Dove F. Mendelssohn, Charlie Dentel
Because He Lives G. and W.J. Gaither. Arr. J. Schrader Jean Marie Learman, Charlie Dentel

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CLOSING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.....Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: May God bless us with discomfort, at easy answers and half-truths,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears, to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation, and war.

So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless us with enough hope to believe that through Christ,
we can make a difference in this world. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: Hallelujah Chorus by G.F. Handel St John choir and Friends

Please stand as you are able for the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus, there is music available in the narthex if needed and if you would like to sing along.

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Easter Medley Arr. J. M. Learman, S. Jackman

Easter Flowers

Debbie & Denny Behrendsen
In memory of Debbie's Dad

The Blaker Family
In memory of Dorothy and Eugene Parker

Maria and Penny
In honor of Rebecca Parkers Mother

Julie and Dennis Cyrus

John and Barbara Dresden
In honor of our children

Beth and Mark Fisher
In memory of our parents

Jim and Pat Hochthanner
In honor of our loving daughters

Art & Pam Mikkola
in memory of Augie & Annie Mikkola
In honor of Lee & Pat Garbarino

Glenn and Phyllis Ming
In memory of Ernest Ming

Cindi Sailus
In memory of loved ones

Loraine Stear
In memory of Parents

The Tilton Family

Virginia Wiessbock
In memory of Mr & Mrs Walter Wiessbock
and Mr. Hal Wiessbock

RINGING OF THE BELL

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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