

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 31, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall as you leave the service.

TODAY'S FOCUS

Today we hear: "*In fact* Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). The resurrection is not a legend. It really happened. It is *fact*. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history.

Jesus' Easter victory defines reality for us all. Since Christ has indeed been raised, since the tomb was and is empty, the *fact* is: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. His Word is the truth. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the *fact* is Jesus' resurrection proves that "all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The *fact* of the resurrection changes our eternal future and how we look at life right now.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF "CLOSE COMMUNION"

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you've had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

Easter’s significance is too great to observe just for a day. There is so much more to say about how the fact of Jesus’ resurrection changes our lives now and forever. The church has historically celebrated Easter for 7 weeks. Join us every Sunday to hear the good news of what Jesus’ resurrection means for you now and forever!

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Today’s service begins in darkness as we hear how the women went to the tomb early in the morning expecting to carry out funeral rites. At the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, the lights are brought up to full, for with Jesus’ victory over death, a new day has indeed dawned for God’s people!

LEARN MORE – BIBLE BASICS BEGINNING SOON

Want to understand the whole message of the Bible better? Want to learn more about ourselves and above all our Savior? Want to be better prepared to read the Bible with understanding? Both courses are free and use Luther’s Small Catechism as an outline to study the teachings of the Bible and serves to prepare those who are interested in becoming members of Peace Lutheran as well as providing a great review and growth for longtime Christians.

Wednesdays beginning April 10 - 6:00–8:00 p.m.

(This curriculum runs for about 10 weeks with minimal study outside of class)
Please register shaun.arndt@peacewels.org or (608) 837-5346

Thursdays beginning April 11 – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

(This curriculum runs for about 8 weeks and asks for some additional study outside the classroom)
Please register luke.werre@peacewels.org or (608) 837-5346

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Sermon Rev. Luke C. Werre
Keyboard Mrs. Sarah Bilitz

THE EMPTY TOMB

Matthew 28:1-7

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”

M: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today | CW 465:1-3,6



1 “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day!” saints on
2 Love’s re - deem - ing work is done, fought the
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has
6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n! Praise to



earth and an - gels say. Raise your joys and
fight, the bat - tle won. Lo, our sun’s e -
burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -
you by both be giv’n! God has now ful -



tri - umphs high; sing, O heav’n, and earth, re - ply.
clipse is o’er; lo, he sets in blood no more.
bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
filled his Word; praise the res - ur - rect - ed Lord!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE DIALOGUE INCOPORATING CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION¹

Hasten to save me, O God.

O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;

**according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;

**Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us

So that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus was delivered over to death because of our trespasses

And was raised to life because of our justification.

As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

¹ From: Psalm 70, Psalm 51, 2 Corinthians 5, Romans 4, John 20, Matthew 28, 1 Corinthians 15

HYMN

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia | CW 466:1,3

1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare,



e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 on - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

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!

Text: tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922–2010; Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938

Tune: Tanzanian

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

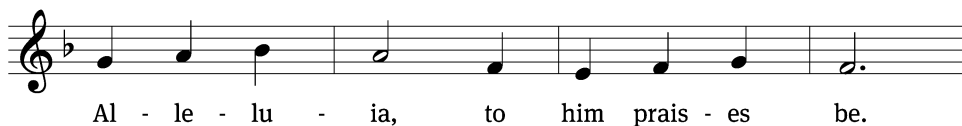
Let us pray.

O God, for our redemption you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection you have delivered us from the power of the enemy. May we die to sin daily so that we may always live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia | CW 466:5



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The Word

Isaiah 25:6-9

7

HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia | CW 442:1,2,4



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!
 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!
 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!
 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!
 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

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how is it that some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is pointless, and your faith is pointless too. ¹⁵Then we are even guilty of giving false testimony about God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise, if it were true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then it also follows that those who fell asleep in Christ perished. ¹⁹If our hope in Christ applies only to this life, we are the most pitiful people of all.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide | CW 449

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide a - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber till trump from east to west



has sprung to life this mor - row.
 my pass - ing soul de - liv - er.
 shall wake the dead in num - ber.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on,



our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Tune: Davids Psalmen, Amsterdam, 1684

Text and tune: Public domain



Please stand when presider indicates.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,” she told them, “and we don’t know where they put him!”

³So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. ⁵Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The cloth that had been on Jesus’ head was not lying with the linen cloths, but was folded up in a separate place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.)

¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have laid him.”

¹⁴After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and replied in Aramaic, “*Rabboni!*” (which means, “Teacher”).

¹⁷Jesus told her, “Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” She also told them the things he said to her.

The Gospel of the Lord. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please be seated

HYMN

See, What a Morning | CW 451

1 See, what a morn-ing, glo-ri-ous-ly bright, with the dawn-ing of
 2 See Mar-y weep-ing, "Where is he laid?" as in sor-row she
 3 One with the Fa-ther, An-cient of Days, thro' the Spir-it who



hope in Je-ru-sa-lem; fold-ed the grave-clothes,
 turns from the emp-ty tomb. Hears a voice speak-ing,
 clothes faith with cer-tain-ty. Hon-or and bless-ing,



tomb filled with light, as the an-gels an-nounce, "Christ is
 call-ing her name; it's the Mas-ter, the Lord raised to
 glo-ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au-



ris-en!" See God's sal-va-tion plan, wrought in
 life a-gain! The voice that spans the years, speak-ing
 thor-i-ty! And we are raised with him; death is



love, borne in pain, paid in sac-ri-fice, ful-filled in
 life, stir-ring hope, bring-ing peace to us, will sound till
 dead, love has won, Christ has con-quer-ed. And we shall



Christ, the Man, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
 he ap-pears, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
 reign with him, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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“The Tomb Was Empty”

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Sung to the melody of CW93 486: “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

♪ **I believe in God the Father,
Maker of the heav’n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God’s own Son of human birth.
Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate,
Whom the Spirit did conceive;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
He’s my God whom I believe.**

**Crucified, was dead and buried;
Down to hell in victory;
From the dead he rose the third day;
Up to heav’n triumphantly.
There at God’s right hand he’s ruling
By his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations,
Both the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Spirit,
In his church, his chosen band.
They are joined in sweet communion,
Holy in his sight they stand.
I believe in sins forgiven;
I believe I’ll rise again;
I believe in life eternal.
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Please stand when presider indicates.

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

God, the Father in heaven,

have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of mankind,
Jesus, Conqueror of sin and Satan,
Jesus, triumphant over Death,
Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life,
who laid down your life for your sheep,
who rose again the third day,
who showed yourself to your chosen,
appearing to Mary Magdalene while she wept,
sending your angels to the holy women,
comforting the Eleven, saying to them, "Peace,"
speaking of the Kingdom of God,

have mercy on us.

That we may walk in newness of life,
that we may advance in the knowledge of you,
that we may grow in grace,
that we may persevere to the end,
that we may have confidence before you at your coming,
that we may behold your face with joy,
that we may be live with you forever,

hear us, good Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Risen and ever living Redeemer,
Remember us in your Kingdom as we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

The Sacrament

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of "Close Communion," meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see inside the front cover of this bulletin. Thank you.

HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives | CW 441

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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!

Please stand when presider indicates.

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

O everlasting God and Father, you are not a God of the dead but of the living. Keep us strong in faith in your dear Son, that thoughts of death may not trouble us. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit, that we may lead a Christian life, prepare for a blessed departure from this life, and finally fall asleep in peace, confident that when you open our graves with the sound of the last trumpet, you will call us forth to life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

The closing hymn is on the following page.

CLOSING HYMN

O Sons and Daughters of the King | CW 456:1,9



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
9 On this most ho - ly day of days to God your



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
hearts and voic - es raise in laud and ju - bi - lee and praise.



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

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.

Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615;

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