

*WELCOME TO*  
**LUTHER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



5 APRIL 2026  
**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD,**  
*Easter Day*  
10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Together, let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

~ Here are a few notes to help you participate in worship today: Almost everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type**. You are invited to stand as you are able where indicated. Please join in singing all the music! Today especially we raise our voices in praise!

~ **You don't need to disconnect here!** You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to check in and let your friends know where you are!

~ We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wiggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise. If you would like a children's bulletin, a soft toy, or a book, they're near the ramp door (out the doors next to the pulpit on the long Welcome Table).

~ **Restrooms** may be found out either door at the front of the Sanctuary. There is an accessible ramp through the doors near the pulpit. At the top of the ramp(s), follow signs to the restrooms. A fully accessible restroom is available through the parlor.

**PRELUDE** – Prelude and Fugue D, BWV 532

J. S. Bach

*Please rise in body or spirit and face the cross as it leads us into worship.*

**THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

**ONE:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**ALL:** Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

ELW 365

**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!

## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**


The grace of the Risen Christ, the love of our ever-living God,  
and the fellowship of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE


*Refrain sung by all. High Voices: verse 1 and 3-4 Low Voices: verses 2 and 5*

*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic to-ry for our God, Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose  
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength, And  
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And  
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to  
5. For the Lamb who was slain Has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. ... *refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing and glo - ry are his. ... *refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: ... *to verse 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. ... *refrain*  
gun his reign, Al - le - lu - ia! ... *final refrain*

*Final Refrain*



This is the feast of victo-ry for our God, Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Dignus est Agnus, tr. John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

MARY AND THE GARDENER

written by Paul Kerensa

illustrated by Leanne Daphne

**FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 31:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. <sup>2</sup>Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup>the Lord appeared to Israel from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. <sup>4</sup>Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. <sup>5</sup>Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. <sup>6</sup>For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Antiphon sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by **A**.*



This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD. **A**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. **A**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes. **A**

**SECOND READING****Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel. You are invited to turn to face the Gospel as the Word is brought into our midst.*

**SEQUENCE**

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:



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

**GOSPEL****Matthew 28:1-10**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>The appearance of the angel was like lightning, and its clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of the angel the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>So the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my disciples to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.****GRADUAL**

3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics 'Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!' and the second system has 'Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!'. The music is in a key with three flats and a 4/4 time signature.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
 Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

St Paul writes, “Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the great flood that revealed nature’s power and God’s commitment to life after death.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the One who turned water into wine and met a woman at the well with living water.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For Living Water poured out on all people, washing the eunuch and Philip and us alike.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!

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

Let us pray: God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation; our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation. Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched thanks to the risen Jesus, the Beloved of God.

**Amen.**

*As this hymn is sung, all are sprinkled with water from the font as a reminder of baptism. It is customary to make the sign of the cross when the water reaches you to remember you are "marked with the cross of Christ forever."*

## We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

With all who dance in the Resurrection Dawn, we raise our voices in praise of God's work.

For the Church; for all who follow the example of Mary Magdalene and the faithful women in raising their voices to tell the good news of life everlasting; for all who use their gifts to lead worship on this and every Resurrection Day, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

For creation; for the lengthening of days and the beauty of spring that remind us that God's life is abundant and eternal; for the opportunity to care for all God has given us, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

For the nations; for those who work for international peace and harmony; for those who serve the common good, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

For healing and wholeness of the sick and suffering; for God's gifts of science and medicine, and for those who share these gifts with others, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

For Luther Memorial: for our council and leaders; for our teachers and administration; for our children—those preparing for graduation and those preparing to receive their First Communion; and for the joy of growing with them in faith, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

For all who have claimed baptismal promises: for Mary and Peter, Albrecht, Matthias, Lucas, Dietrich, and Mikael; for our beloved dead: Lois, Christopher, Bill, Dorothy, C. Richard, Roberta, and all those we remember with our flowers this morning; and for the promise of new life—the promise of baptism—which holds us until we join with them around the Feast of the Lamb, we raise our voices in glad strains of:

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of the crucified-risen one, Jesus.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you being mindful of others' comfort with touch. Please be seated.*

### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



*An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.*

MUSICAL OFFERING – “Sing Alleluia, Sing!”

N. Price & D. Besig

*Sing alleluia, sing! Sing alleluia, alleluia, sing with joy!  
Sing alleluia, sing! Sing alleluia, sing with songs of joyful praise;  
for Christ, the Lord, is risen, indeed, this happy Easter day! Sing alleluia, sing!  
Come, raise your voices high and tell the news to all the world,  
“The Savior is alive!” Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Come raise the joyful song on high, the Savior is alive!  
Come ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness.  
Love has brought his people forth into joy from sadness.  
‘Tis the spring of souls today, Christ has burst his prison;  
and from three day’s sleep in death now the Son is risen.  
Sing Alleluia, sing! Sing alleluia, alleluia, sing with joy; sing alleluia, sing!  
Sing alleluia, sing and spread the joyful news.  
Let all rejoice this Easter morn; the promise has come true!  
Sing alleluia, sing! Go tell it far and wide  
that Christ will reign forevermore, the Savior is alive! Alleluia, alleluia!  
Our Lord will reign forevermore, the Savior is alive!  
Sing alleluia, sing! Alleluia, sing!*

*The congregation rises in body or spirit as the gifts are presented.*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has

sprung to life this mor - - row.

*Refrain*

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

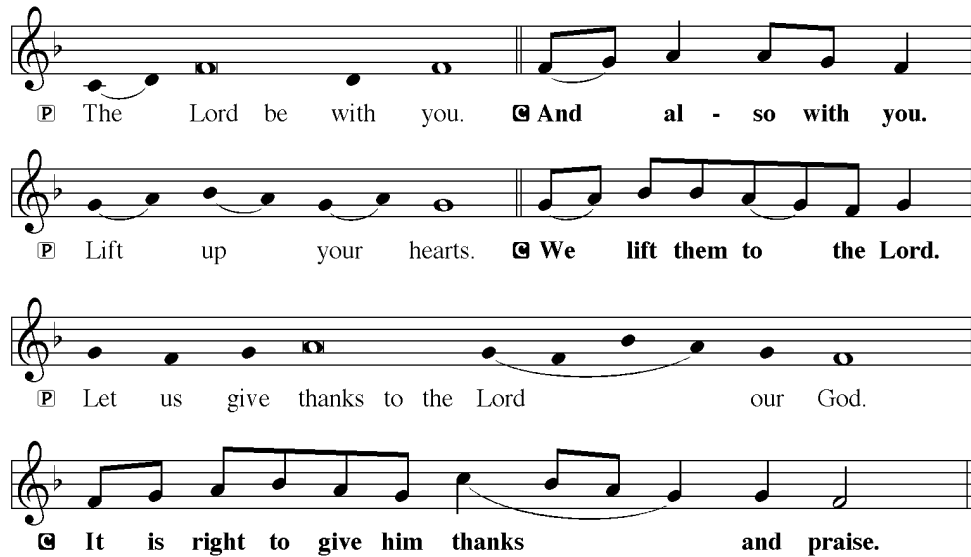
faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

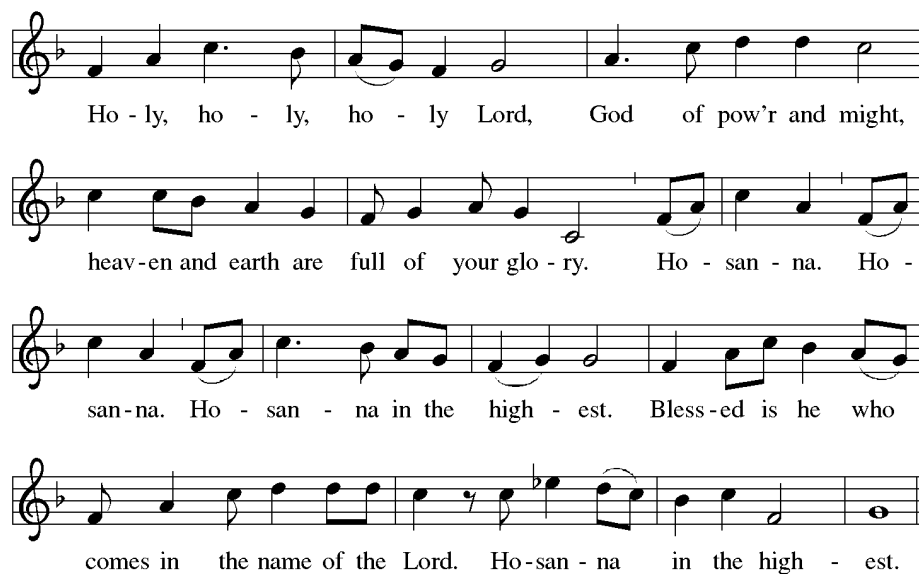


**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

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 ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for Christ is the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sins, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

## 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.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

This is the day that you gave light to the earth. This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom. Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ:

**Thanks be to God.**

This is the day that you broke the chains of death. This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth, you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace. The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

*On the night before he died,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks,  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit. Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior. Illumine our lives with your presence, and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race, for that light is Christ:

**Thanks be to God.**

All holy and mighty and glorious God, radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit, we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy, and we praise your victory through all time and space, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb has been sacrificed for us!

**Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ for you.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. Receive the bread in your open palm. **All bread this morning is gluten-free.** Proceeding to either communion assistant, hold your cup steady for the them to fill. Silver chalices contain alcoholized wine. Earthenware chalices contain non-alcoholized grape juice. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the bowls. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the Table, please let a neighbor know to tell the communion ministers and the Sacrament will be brought to you.*

## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION

ELW 362

### At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 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!

7 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!

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

8 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!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.  
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

The date of Easter Sunday is determined by the natural world: the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, a time of natural balance in our universe. Grounded in this natural world, hymnwriter Herman Stuempfle provides us a bold Easter hymn using many images from creation. Dr. Stuempfle lived most of his life in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he served as president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

This invigorating tune was crafted by Sally Ann Morris, who, though a lifelong Presbyterian, served a Catholic church much of her career and provided a wealth of hymn tunes known throughout the ecumenical church.

ACS 937

## Earth, Earth, Awake!



1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 All na - ture sings of hope re - born! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Win - ter is past; the night is gone! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



Greet with the dawn your ris - en King! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ lives to com - fort those who mourn! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ's light, tri - um - phant, brings the dawn! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!



Bright suns and stars, your hom - age pay! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 First fruit of all the dead who sleep! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Cre - a - tion spreads its spring-time bloom! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!



Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Prom - ise of joy for all who weep! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Life bursts like flame from death's cold tomb! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007  
 Music: STUEMPFLE, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952  
 Text and music © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

TFF 94

## Low in the Grave He Lay Up from the Grave He Arose



1 Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,  
 2 Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;  
 3 Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;



wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord.  
 vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord.  
 he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord.

*Refrain*

Up from the grave he a - rose, with a might-y tri-umph o'er his foes;  
 he a - rose a vic - tor o - ver death's do - main, and he lives for - ev - er, with his  
 saints to reign. He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899  
 Music: CHRIST AROSE. Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

LBW 153

## Welcome, Happy Morning!

1 “Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say;  
 2 Mak - er and re - deem - er, life and health of all,  
 3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,  
 4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;

“Hell to - day is van - quished, heav'n is won to - day!”  
 God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,  
 plumbd the depths of hell to raise us up on high.  
 all that once had fall - en raise to life a - gain;

Christ, once dead, is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!  
 you, the true and on - ly Son of God a - bove,  
 Come then, true and faith - ful; come, ful - fill your word;  
 show your face in bright - ness, shine in ev - 'ry land

Him, their true cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.  
 died as mor - tal man to save us by your love.  
 this is your third morn - ing: rise, O bur - ied Lord!  
 as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.

“Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!” age to age shall say.

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, adapt.  
 Music: FORTUNATUS. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you;  
keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 391

3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

*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, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934  
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

,...and the blessing of God almighty: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you this Easter and always.  
**Amen!**

## SENDING HYMN

## Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell the Good News! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude – Rubrics I: Hallelujah Has Been Restored**

Dan Locklair

+ + +

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*Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

**The Paschal Candle** burns to the Glory of the Risen Christ and in loving memory of Mrs. Lois Fobes and Dr. Christopher Fobes by Les Fobes and Family.

**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Carol Schaal.

**Columbarium flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Bill by Carol Schaal.

**The Cross Spray** is given in honor and memory of all God's family by the McAfee and Shaner families.

**Bulletins** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Dorothy and C. Richard Overberg by their family.

**Our Love and Sympathy** to the family and friends of Roberta (Diane) Come. Diane died on March 28. Her service was held Thursday, April 2 with Pastor Jay officiating.

— LEADING IN WORSHIP —

**AT THE ALTAR**

PRESIDING MINISTER & PREACHER  
ASSISTING MINISTER  
LECTOR  
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell  
Stan Rose  
Karen Lundwall  
Cathy Beck, Sharon Burke, Sue Cappelletty,  
Elaine Kern, Jan MacInnes  
Sharon Burke

ALTAR GUILD

**AMONG THE PEOPLE**

GREETER  
USHERS

Linda Graffius  
Diane & Bob Banks, Jane & Dave Kinzig

**AT THE PROCESSIONS**

CRUCIFER  
ACOLYTES AND TORCHBEARERS  
BANNER BEARER  
BOOK BEARER

Patrick Cimino  
Tessa & Jack Bartlett  
Jessica Copfer  
Lincoln McCall

**IN THE BALCONY**

PRINCIPAL MUSICIAN

Cantor Bryan M. Timm, F.A.I.O.

TIMPANI  
VIDEO STREAMING

Cathie Dugan  
Christy Adams

+ + +

We remember the whispers of Advent as we anticipated the birth of Jesus. Now, as we journey through Holy Week, we anticipate the joyful noise of alleluias on Easter Sunday. But before we reach the Easter celebration, we make our way through Lent, through an in-between time where we don't know what tomorrow will bring. We often describe ourselves as an Easter church, but in this holy, solemn time that begins with Ash Wednesday and moves on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we are also a Lenten church. Living in uncertainty, waiting and hoping for renewal. Longing for the moments when God's presence feels closer and more sure.

During Lent, we learn what it means to live on unsettled ground.

In Matthew's retelling of the resurrection, he describes a "violent earthquake" as the angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the entrance to the tomb where Jesus lay.

I imagine the earthquake, the rumble deep below the earth, as the ground shifted far under the surface. Perhaps those who were nearby felt the tremble. Maybe the women who were on their way to the tomb with prepared spices felt the earth shift. They were unsettled, but they knew something powerful was happening.

We can understand that human experience of feeling out of control, of not being able to make sense of what's happening around us. Many of us can relate to this as we witness the current unrest in our world and in our communities. Like the women at the tomb, we feel isolated, disconnected. We're unsettled, unsure, living the Lenten reality of waiting and hoping.

And then, in the midst of that shaking, comes the promise.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen."

God's promise offers reassurance and hope. The resurrection does not deny disruption — it meets us within disorder and disturbance. The stone is rolled away. Death does not have the final word.

Yes, we are Easter people. Even when the ground below us is shaking, we will not grow weary. We know that Jesus is our foundation. Christ is risen, and that truth strengthens us. It gives us courage to live, to hope and to proclaim joy.

***Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!***



The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Office of the Bishop

Rev. Kristen M. Papson, Bishop

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My beloved siblings in Christ in the NWPA synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.

*“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ . . . But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). – John 20:1-2, 11-16*

As I reflect on the journey we have taken during this season, especially as we reflect on the last week of Christ’s life lived out in these holy days and the shocking news of the resurrection, I cannot help but think about the journey that we are walking in our own lives. We, too, are experiencing moments of dark Good Fridays, whether in our own personal lives or more corporately when we hear news of wars or other such painful events in our country and across the world.

It is because of these moments, especially, that we then need the Good News of Easter - the news that comforts our hearts and brings us peace. That even when the world looks bleak, we know that God is bringing about redemption and resurrection. What I appreciate most about John’s telling of the Resurrection is that the setting is “while it was still dark.” The hope and promise of Easter come to us when things are still in shadow, when light has not yet arrived.

Mary arrives at the tomb still carrying heavy grief. She is weeping, mourning, seeking comfort and stillness. She wants to be near her Lord, her friend. But what she finds is the unexpected, a reality that she struggles to piece together. She finds the empty tomb and then is greeted by angels, but cannot fathom resurrection hope. Instead, she continues to wonder “Where have they laid him? Why is he not here?” When she encounters the supposed garden, you can hear the distress in her plea – tell me where he is and I will take him away. But when this man speaks her name, she recognizes him. Through his tender greeting, she is met with this shocking truth – Jesus is alive, he is here! And she goes to share this news –the first to proclaim that Christ is risen! Alleluia!

This year, we, too, might arrive at the empty tomb, at Easter morning, carrying our own heavy grief and burdens, looking for comfort and stillness. We might be seeking God’s presence in our lives and in the world. But on this Easter morning, while still shrouded in darkness, we again discover God’s promises anew, the promises made to us in our baptism into Christ’s own death and resurrection. Death and our own Good Fridays do not have the final word! Christ is risen! We have seen the Lord! Alleluia.

So this Easter, whether you arrive with jubilant shouts of joy, ready for the light and the flowers and celebration; or you arrive with some fear and trembling, grief and heaviness: there is a place for you in our houses of worship. Christ does not demand that we rush out to share the good news immediately. We are given time to adjust to the light, to weep, to question, and to hear our names - wondering how this might all be possible. You are welcome to come to worship wherever you are on your faith journeys.

As we enter into the celebrations of Easter, I pray that the quiet hope found in that empty tomb and the relieved exclamation of “Teacher” sustain your hearts in this season as we share our faith with a world in need.

Easter blessings, Beloveds.  
Bishop Kristen Papson



## PATRIARCHS AND HEADS OF THE CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM

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### Easter Message — 2026

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . .”*

1 Peter 1:3

In the weeks leading up to this year’s commemoration of Christ’s death and resurrection, a new and devastating regional war has once again plunged the Holy Land and the wider Middle East into turmoil. Each passing day has brought increasingly fierce escalations—a relentless cycle of death, destruction, and frightful suffering that now ripples across the globe in rising economic hardship. From the blackened smoke of this expanding wreckage, a deep darkness has engulfed our region, as stifling as the air inside the sealed tomb of the crucified Christ. Hope itself appears to have abandoned us.

Yet as Scripture teaches and our faith reveals, the desolation of the tomb was not the end of the story. Death did not have the final word. By the power of God, Christ rose victorious from the grave, bursting the bonds of sin and death. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). As a consequence, for those who look to the Risen Lord in faith, God grants them “a new birth into a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3, above).

Thus, in the midst of these cataclysmic times, We, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, affirm these powerful and encouraging words to our communities and to Christians around the world as the heart of our Easter Message. For “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4b).

In keeping with this profound truth, we bid the faithful and all those of goodwill to work and pray ceaselessly for the relief of the countless multitudes throughout the Middle East and beyond who are suffering severely from the ravages of this war. Likewise, we appeal to them to advocate and intercede for an immediate end to the bloodshed and for justice and peace to finally prevail throughout our war-torn region, beginning in Jerusalem and extending to Gaza, Lebanon, and all the Holy Land; to the Gulf States and Tehran; and to the ends of the earth.

Finally in this vein, we recall once more the words of St. Paul who, in the midst of his countless ordeals, wrote: “We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies” (2 Corinthians 4:8–10).

With this same deep faith in the transformative power of Christ’s Resurrection, in the midst of our own torments, let us exchange with each other that ancient Easter greeting that continues to echo across eternity: “Christ is Risen! (*Al Maseeh Qam! Christos Anesti! Christos haryav i merelotz! Pekhrestos aptonf! Christ est Ressuscite! Cristo è risorto! Christus resurrexit! Meshiha qam! Christos t’ensah em’ muhtan! Christus ist auferstanden!*) He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!”

—The Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem



### Easter Message 2026

*"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile..."* (1 Corinthians 15:17)

How can we celebrate Easter in a time in which shouts of joy are so often drowned out by cries of despair? So many victims of war, economic injustice, sexual violence, political oppression, climate disasters, and religious persecution are to be mourned. Can we authentically celebrate Easter without addressing these sufferings?

Easter is the cornerstone of our faith as Christians. It is the one big source of hope in these troubled times. Jesus tremendously inspired the people of his time when he spoke words of love and words of hope, when he touched people with his healing hands, when he led together people from very different backgrounds into one loving community. They could feel the presence of God himself.

In a time of occupation and political oppression, Jesus opened a window into a world, in which every human being, created by God equally, would live in dignity. Hope began to spread. Yet then, came the big disappointment. They arrested Jesus. They tortured him. He was put to death and he cried out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It was a situation of despair. Another inspiring moral and spiritual leader in the history of the world who, in the end, failed. One more disappointed hope as we have seen it so many times and are seeing it so clearly before our eyes in these days of wars, conflicts, violence, and a climate catastrophe.

Yet, then came the third day, the experience of the women at the tomb of Jesus, that changed everything. When they came with their tears to mourn, the tomb was empty. They encountered the living Jesus. They told the story to the disciples. They overcame their disbelief and spread the good news into the whole world, so that an innumerable number of people today, many of them also in desperate situations, celebrate Easter, the feast of Jesus' resurrection, and trust in his promise to be with us "always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Death will not have the last word. The last word is life.

Easter does not promote spiritual pacification in the face of suffering that is otherwise unbearable. Jesus' death and resurrection is inseparably connected with his life of love, reconciliation, and justice. Therefore, our Easter belief in resurrection is not only a big source of hope but also a protest against the denial of dignity and humanity, expressed in aggressive warfare, the spreading of hate and contempt against whole groups of people, and sins such as racism, antisemitism, nationalism, or xenophobia.

Christians are people who live from a message that leads into life – a life filled with hope in the Risen Christ who conquered sin, suffering, and death.

May we celebrate this Easter as a time of reassurance that in all the abysses we presently experience in the world, there is more to come. And that it is not a dark hole that we are walking into but a new heaven and a new earth in which all tears are wiped away. This outlook continues to unite us in our global church community. It connects us with all people on this earth, who are together with us created in God's image.

Blessed Easter!

Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm  
Moderator of the WCC Central Committee

H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian  
Vice-Moderator of the WCC Central Committee

Rev. Marilyn Hyde-Piley  
Vice-Moderator of the WCC Central Committee

Rev. Dr Prof. Jerry Pillay  
WCC General Secretary

## Worship Matters!

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!** With our worship this morning we enter into the central feast of the Church. As the liturgy of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil is one liturgy over three days, so the feast of the Resurrection is a feast that lasts 50 days! It is the Feast of Feasts but it is also the Week of Weeks! Seven Sundays span this festival that draws forth our most robust rejoicing, praise, thanksgiving, honor, might, blessing, glory, and everything we have to praise the Lamb who was slain.

The feasting and celebration of Easter Day, the Day of Resurrection, is why we still gather for our primary worship on Sunday mornings. From the earliest days of the Church, the community gathered early in the morning on the first day of the week. Sundays do not take the place of the day of Sabbath. Rather, we meet on the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection. Justin Martyr writing about the worship of the early church in 165 CE will recognize this as "the day named after the Sun." We recognize that the Day of Resurrection is the morning after the Sabbath when the women first encountered the empty tomb. Therefore, every time we gather around the Table to share in the Lord's Supper it is the feast of Resurrection, it is the meal on the road to Emmaus, it is breakfast on the beach with Jesus. Every Sunday—not just the 7 Sundays of Eastertide—is a little Easter, then. Come, let our rejoicing have no end! The Lamb who was slain has begun to reign and welcomes us to the Feast! Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**About the cover art:** *Resurrection* is an icon by Ukrainian contemporary icon writer Ivanka Demchuk. She has a broad portfolio reimagining classic icons for a modern audience. Notably, in many of her icons, while they are written to include key figures and classic positions, they are largely devoid of environment. The "clutter" of the original icons is removed to focus on the central figures, actions, events, theological statements. All icons include layers upon layers of meaning and Ivanka draws out just one or two to focus those who hold conversation with her icons. Here, in *Resurrection*, she takes the classic icon of *The Harrowing of Hell*, and focuses simply on the Risen Christ (center), Adam and Eve (left), and the fallen gates of hell (lower right). While there are usually many others depicted all around these central figures in the original icon, and lots of other parts of the Passion and resurrection accounts, these are the central three. The chief story Ivanka would draw out, it seems, is the account (in the Christian Apocrypha) that during the days Jesus' body lay dead in the tomb, he actually contends with the forces of Hell, breaking the gates (notice the broken lock on one of the gates) so that—because of his resurrection—no one is bound by hell forever. It is said—and Matthew alludes to this in his account of the Passion we heard last Sunday—that as Jesus returns to the land of the living, he brings the righteous souls (those patriarchs, matriarchs, and forerunners in the faith who had died before the Incarnation and therefore implied hell is the only place for them to reside after death) to eternal life in heaven. The breaking of hell's gates is paired with the removal of all locks to heaven's. Much of this language, though not always pointed out in biblical texts, can be heard in our prayers, liturgy, and hymnody this day.

## Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

**Astralis Chamber Ensemble** will offer a program on Friday, April 17 at 7:00pm at Luther Memorial. Please join us as these award-winning musicians; flute, viola and harp; present "Meditations" featuring works by Debussy, Dubois and Genzemer. These musicians represent decades of experience performing at many of the world's major venues and notable concert series.

**Presque Isle Ringers**, Erie's only community handbell ensemble, will be showcasing their amazing and unique instrument at Luther Memorial on Sunday, April 26 at 7:00pm. You will see them pluck, mallet, thumb damp, echo and toll as they share their passion for handbells. Please join us for this wonderful concert with reception following.

## Faith Formation

**First Holy Communion** will be offered on Sunday, April 19, 2026. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 11 and 18 from 9:00am– 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

**Sunday school** for grades 1-5 will be held Sunday, April 12 at 9:30am.

**Youth** in grades 6-12 will meet Sunday, April 19 at 9:30am. Discussion will be held regarding the National Youth Gathering scheduled for 2027.

**Four workshops** for confirmation students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 2025 and March 8, May 10, 2026**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. B<sup>3</sup> resumes on Thursday, April 30 with a study on the book of Revelation.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. YOU are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7 for our discussion on The Workers in the Vineyard.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**Second Sunday Socials** will be held April 12 at 9:15am in the parlor. Join us for conversation and some sweets. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship.

**L.I.A.**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30-7:00pm for planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Our next gathering will be April 28 from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**All are invited** to join with the OWLS on Wednesday, April 22 for a walking tour of Organ Supply Industries, 2320 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Bryan Timm, vice-president of Organ Supply, will take us on a 30-40 minute tour of the one floor facility beginning at 11:00am. Following the tour we will enjoy a stop at a restaurant for lunch. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or Norma in the church office if you plan to attend.

**CampBlast** will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 9 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

### Luther Memorial Academy

**Pasta Dinner** will be served Sunday, April 19 from 4:00-6:00pm in our fellowship hall. Take an evening away from the kitchen and enjoy a delicious Italian meal. Your meal will include Valerio's penne pasta, meatballs, Metz tossed salad, bread and butter, and brownie dessert. Tickets are \$12/adults; \$8/children 10 and under purchased prior to April 19 and \$15/adults; \$10/children 10 and under purchased at the door. Dinners may also be pre-ordered "to-go". Tickets are available in the school office. Proceeds will benefit LMA's PTL. Thank you!

**Come celebrate!** The Luther Memorial Academy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, May 2 from 5:00-7:30pm. YOU are invited to the celebration! If you are interested in joining in this historic moment in our parish, admission is \$20 per person. You may fill out a RSVP form as found on the welcome table out the doors next to the pulpit and return to the office (church or school). You may also reach out to the school office (814.454.0106 x222). The celebration won't be the same without you! Hope to see you there!

## Bethany Outreach Center

**Bethany BINGO Fundraiser at Polish Falcons, on Saturday, April 18:** Join us for an evening of fun at this event to benefit the Bethany Outreach Center. **Doors will open at 5:00pm** and the **games begin at 6:00pm**. Admission is \$30 per person. Take part in the ALL-CASH BINGO Games, and optional Basket raffle, Tips, and Instant. To purchase admission tickets in advance, please see Pat Bellingham, Eric Hedlund, or Casey Hedlund after church on Sundays, or Norma in the church office on weekdays. On the day of this event the kitchen will be open, so food and drink will available for purchase. We encourage you to RSVP to Mabel at **814-456-6254** so you can reserve a table for your family and friends. Polish Falcons Club is located at 431 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. **Hope to see you there!**

### Pastoral Care

**In case of a pastoral emergency,** please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

### — PRAYER LIST —

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Karen Zamperini	Loretta Deeds
Donna Sedelmyer	Kate Martin	Sutton Rowland	David Leemhuis
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Gail Lesuer	Linda F.	Kris
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Brooks Davis	Sharon Swick	Peggy S.
Henderson family	Carl Larese	Shirley	Diane Come
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol McFalls	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	
<b>Grief:</b>			
Shirley Messenger family	Paul Thom family	Roberta Come family	
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	Justin Gajewski

### Readings for the Octave of the Resurrection

**April 21 – Easter Monday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 2:14,22b-32; Matthew 28:9-15

**April 22 – Easter Tuesday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

**April 23 – Easter Wednesday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35

**April 24 – Easter Thursday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 25 – Easter Friday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

**April 26 – Easter Saturday** – Psalm 118:19-24; Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15,20

**CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, APRIL 6**

Church Offices Closed  
LMA Closed All Week—Happy Easter!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7**

12:00pm	Deborah Circle
3:00pm	W/ELCA
6:30pm	Bible After Day (B.A.D.) @ Cali's (1401 State St.)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

6:30pm      Worship & Music

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

1:00pm	Grief Group
5:30pm	Handbells
6:45pm	Choir

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11**      9:00am      First Holy Communion Workshop

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

**Sunday School (Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)** at 9:30am.

**LYO (Grades 6 and up);** National Youth Gathering meeting at 9:30am.

**Second Sunday Social** from 9:15 until 10:15 in the Parlor. (Formerly Second Sunday Soirée) This is a time of fellowship and nibbles to share between the services.

<b>SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistants ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Pastor Jay
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Patrick Cimino
Counters	10:30am	Ken Kraut
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Linda Graffius



WHY DO YOU LOOK  
FOR THE LIVING  
AMONG THE DEAD?

HE IS NOT  
HERE! HE IS  
RISEN!

