



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A **LIE** THAT TELLS THE
TRUTH

MATTHEW 28:11-15


NEW TESTAMENT
PROJECT

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Matthew 28:11-15

April 12, 2026

10:30 Service of the Word

The resurrection is hard to believe! Even proof and eyewitness reports aren't enough to convince people. In today's gospel reading we'll meet some people who refuse to believe all the proof, and they even devise a plan to suppress the facts!

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Chris is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the baptismal font or a bowl as we continue.

P: 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 Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and the Erie Canal; all
of whose waters made our region flourish.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of new life to share the gospel.

Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to the springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
(For music turn to Hymn 364 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

**For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

**2. For three long days the grave did its worst
until its strength by God was dispersed.**

**He who gives life did death undergo,
and in its conquest his might did show. *Refrain***

3. The angel said to them, "Do not fear.

You look for Jesus who is not here.

See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.

Only the grave-clothes are lying there." *Refrain*

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: Tanzanian traditional

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.

Gathering Dialog (Romans 10)

A: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

A: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

A: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Jeremiah 2:4-8

B: ⁴Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? ⁶They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" ⁷I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. ⁸The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 16 (*read responsively*)

D: Protect me, God,

I turn to you for help.

I profess, "You are my Lord,
my greatest good."

**C: I once put faith in false gods,
the idols of the land.**

D: Now I make no offering to them,
nor invoke their names.

Those who chase after them
add grief upon grief.

**C: Lord, you measure out my portion,
the shape of my future;**

D: you mark off the best place for me
to enjoy my inheritance.

**C: I bless God who teaches me,
who schools my heart even at night.**

D: I am sure God is here,
right beside me.
I cannot be shaken.

**C: So my heart rejoices,
my body thrills with life,
my whole being rests secure.**

D: You will not abandon me to Sheol,
nor sent your faithful on to death.

**C: You show me the road to life:
boundless joy at your side forever!**

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

E:³Blessed 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,⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 20:29)

C: Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:11-15

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 28th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

While [the women] were going [from the tomb] , some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened.

¹²After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³telling them, “You must say, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’

¹⁴If this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

(For music turn to Hymn 675 in the Blue Hymnal)

1. **We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e’re spoke:
“My peace be with you here.”**
2. **We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, “My Lord and God!”**
3. **Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:**
4. **And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.**

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Offertory

Offertory Hymn Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him, above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

✠ PRAYER ✠

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today
(For music, please see Hymn 365 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
2. **Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**
3. **But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
4. **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

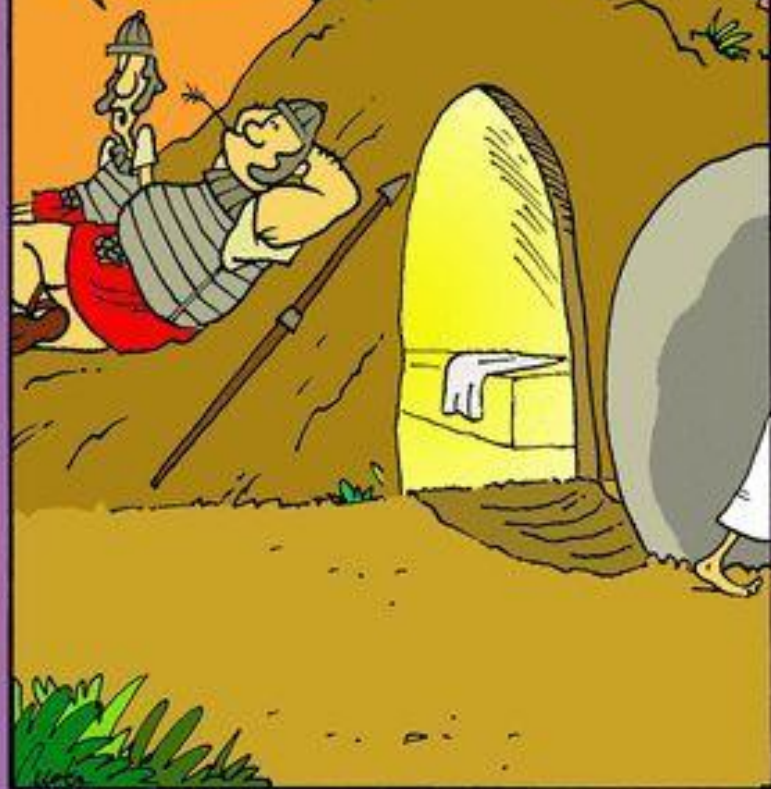
Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts 1-3, Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4 tr. Lyra Davidica sts. 1-3; Music: Lyra Davidica
Text: John S.B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **God's Work. Our Hands.**

Waddya mean?
That wasn't **you**
who just said
"Good morning"?



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Linda Flood
Acolyte Elijah Young
Counters Burdie Gillern and Janice Lockwood
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 19

Greeters and Ushers Janice Lockwood
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Allyn Itterly
Communion Assistant Allyn Itterly
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

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