



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

10:30 Service of the Word

We read the ending of Matthew's gospel today with Matthew 28:16-20. It's just five short verses, but in these five verses Matthew summarizes the whole of his gospel. Through them we are also commissioned to carry out the work of the disciples.

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

Gathering Hymn The Stife Is O'er, the Battle Done
(For music turn to Hymn 366 in the Red Hymnal)

Introduction:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 1. The strive is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!**
- 2. The pow'rs of death have done their worst;
Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!**
- 3. The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!**
- 4. Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!**
- 5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded you,
from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!**

Conclusion

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Koln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909. Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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 is poured into the baptismal font 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.

Hymn of Praise I Am the Resurrection and the Life

(For music turn to Hymn 16 in the Songbook binder)

Chorus

**I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
all who believe in Me will live a new life.**

**1. I have come to bring the truth
I have come to bring you life
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

**2. In My word all men will come to know
it is love which makes the spirit grow
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

**3. Keep in mind the things that I have said
remember Me in the breaking of the bread
if you believe then you shall live.**

Chorus

Text and music: Ray Repp, CCLI #9189, Copyright 1967 K & R Music Publishing

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time, you are God. Guide us all to your truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

‡ WORD ‡

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

B: ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 144:9-15 (*read responsively*)

D: I sing you a new song, Lord,
I play my ten-stringed harp,

**C: for you give victory to kings,
you rescue your servant, David.**

D: Save me from the bitter sword,
deliver me from strangers,
who speak lies
and then swear to them.

**C: God, you shape our sons
like tall, sturdy plants,
you sculpt our daughters
like pillars for a palace.**

D: You fill our barns
with all kinds of food,

**C: you bless our fields
with sheep by the thousands
and fatten our cattle.**

D: There is no breach in the walls,
no outcry in the streets, no exile.

**C: We are a people blest with these gifts,
blest with the Lord as our God!**

Second Reading Romans 10:9-17

E: [Paul writes] If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ¹⁶But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 28:19)

C: Alleluia. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:16-20

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
(For music turn to Hymn 392 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Alleluia, Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."**
2. **Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.**

Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.
5. Alleluia, Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Rowland H. Pritchard, 1811-1887

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again,
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

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

Offertory and 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 lifted in prayer later in the service.

† MEAL †

Hymn of Thanksgiving 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

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Merciful God,

**C: 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 word
you love. In the name of Jesus, 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 are prayed for.

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.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has embodied the promise of 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 all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

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

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses.

As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

379 *Now the Green Blade Rises (Red Hymnal)*

373 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: 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,

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Christ Is Alive
(For music turn to Hymn 389 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound

to distant years in Palestine,

but saving, healing here and now,

and touching ev'ry place and time.

3. In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,

**where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

- 4. Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus freed for all.**
- 5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, copyright 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company. Music: T. Williams, *Psalmoodia Evangelica*, 1789

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, April 26

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Acolyte | Alyssa Young |
| Counters | John and Linda Thompson |
| Coffee Hour | The Stuarts |

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