

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

# Alleluia! Christ is risen!



*Our Savior Lutheran Church*

*Westminster, Massachusetts*

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road  
(Junction 140, 2, and 2A)  
Westminster, MA 01473

# Our Savior Lutheran Church

March 31, AD 2024

office@oursaviorlcms.com  
church: 978-874-2479  
www.oursaviorlcms.com

## Visitor, you are very welcome here.

Please contact us with questions or prayer requests, and come worship with us again. Our pastor would be very glad to meet with you. May our Lord's Word be a blessing to all who gather in His name.

For those caring for young children or who have difficulty standing for the prayers, hymns, or other parts of the service, please know that you may sit as you find need or comfort.

Don't be embarrassed if your children make noise during worship—all children do. We encourage families to worship together. If needed, there is a nursery available in the basement during service and Bible class.

Out of courtesy to your brothers and sisters, please silence your cell phone and refrain from leaving or entering the sanctuary during the readings and the prayers.

## Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Gregory would be very glad to instruct you so that you can confess Jesus Christ with us and receive His holy body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

## Spiritual Care

Individual confession and absolution, spiritual care, and pastoral counsel are available by appointment. Please contact the church office to schedule a time.

## Christian Education

*No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study today.*

## Cover Illustration

*Resurrection of Christ and Women at the Tomb*  
by Fra Angelico (ca. 1395–1455)  
from the Convento di San Marco, Florence.

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant	Rev. Peter Gregory
Liturgist	Jeremy Henrikson
Assistants	Doug Newman, Ray Arseanault
Crucifer	Ed Shaffer
Organist	Anne Bennet
Trombone	Chip Schopp
Children's Choir	Kelley Newman, director
Acolytes	Lazarus Gregory, Landon Vega Jack Gould, Riley Albert

## Prayer for Worship

*Thanksgiving for the resurrection:* O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

*Before communing:* Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

*Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament:* Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may be faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

*Pascha*, The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord.....March 31, AD 2024

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!*  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

> *Please stand and face the processional crucifix at the entrance to the nave.* <

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN—TUNE: TLH 199 & TEXT: LSB 469, ALT. WITH ALLELUIAS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today! Alleluia!</b><br>Sons of men and angels say, "Alleluia!"<br>Raise your joys and triumphs high! Alleluia!<br>Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, "Alleluia!" | <b>3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Alleluia!</b><br>Christ has burst the gates of hell. Alleluia!<br>Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!<br>Christ has opened paradise! Alleluia! |
| <b>2 Love's redeeming work is done! Alleluia!</b><br>Fought the fight, the battle won! Alleluia!<br>Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er! Alleluia!<br>Lo, He sets in blood no more! Alleluia!          | <b>4 Lives again our glorious King! Alleluia!</b><br>Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!<br>Dying once, He all doth save! Alleluia!<br>Where thy victory, O Grave? Alleluia!           |
| <b>5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!</b><br>Praise to Thee by both be given! Alleluia!<br>Thee we greet triumphant now: Alleluia!<br>Hail, the Resurrection, Thou! Alleluia!        |  |

THE INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

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

**Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

*Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with sincere hearts to confess our sins to God, our Father, and to plead in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for His forgiveness.*

*Our help is in the name of the Lord,*  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

*I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,*  
**and You forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*Psalm 32:5*

**All-Powerful God, merciful Father, I, a poor, pitiful sinner, confess to You all my sins and unrighteousness. By them I have continually offended You and fairly deserved Your punishment, both now and eternally. But from my heart I am sorry for them, and I sincerely repent of them, and I pray You, in Your limitless mercy for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

# The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

**Amen.**

THE INTROIT

Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: v. 1b

*I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;*  
**the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.**

*The LORD is my strength and my song,*  
**and He has become my salvation.**

*Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,*  
**Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.**

*You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed;*  
**You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode.**

*You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain,*  
**the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your abode,**  
*the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established.*  
**The LORD will reign forever and ever.**

THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

*Glory to God on high:*

**and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,**

**We glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high**  
**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## THE SALUTATION

*The Lord be with you.*  
**And with your spirit.**

## THE COLLECT

*Let us pray. Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## The Reading of God's Word

*from the Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6–9*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN – TUNE: ST. KEVIN & TEXT: TLH 204, ALT. RMH*

- 1 **Come, believers, sing the song of triumphant gladness!**  
**God has brought His Israel into joy from sadness,**  
**Freed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;**  
**On dry ground He leads us out through the Red Sea waters!**
- 2 **Spring has come for souls today: Christ has burst His prison,**  
**And from three days' sleep in death, like the sun has risen!**  
**All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying**  
**From His light, to whom we give love and praise undying!**

*from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11*

*After the reading:*

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### *The Resurrection of Our Lord from the Four Gospels*

*The congregation sings the hymn verses and reads the words of Scripture that are in bold.*

*RESPONSIVE HYMN – TUNE: TLH 208 & TEXT: LSB 471, ALT. RMH*

**O sons and daughters of the King,**  
**Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,**  
**Today the grave has lost its sting!**  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**That Easter morn, at break of day,**  
**The faithful women went their way**  
**To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.**  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*Easter Sunday Dawn: Matthew 28:1–8; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–12; John 20:1–16*

*Very early on Sunday morning, just at dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other women went to the grave, with spices to embalm Jesus' corpse. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" The stone was very large. But suddenly there was a powerful earthquake! An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat down on it. His face was like lightning and his clothes, white as snow. The guards were so terrified they shook and fell like dead men.*

*The women arrived at the grave just as the sun was rising, and they looked and saw that the stone was rolled away. Mary Magdalene ran to tell Peter and John. The other women went into the tomb, but they did not find the body. As they stood there confused, suddenly two men in shining white clothes were standing beside them, saying, "Why are you looking among the dead for Someone who is alive? He's not here. He has risen. Remember how He told you, He must be crucified and on the third day rise again?" They were terrified. Then a young man, sitting to the right in long, white robes, told them, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Come, look at the place where He lay. Now, quickly, go tell His disciples that He is going on to Galilee. They will see Him there." The women hurried out of the tomb and ran from the grave, filled with fear and joy.*

*When Mary came to Peter and John she told them, "They've taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put Him!" They left for the grave, and John outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Peter, who went straight into the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there, and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head, not with the others, but folded up by itself. Then John went in, too, and saw and believed it. (They still did not understand the Scripture—that He had to rise from death.)*

*The disciples went back, but Mary stood crying outside the grave. Sobbing, she bent down and looked in and saw two angels in white, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet, who asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"*

*"They've taken away my Lord and I don't know where they've put Him!" she answered. Then she turned and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't realize who it was. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you're looking for?" She took Him for the gardener and said, "Please, sir, if you've taken Him away, tell me where you've put Him, and I'll go and get Him!"*

*"Mary!"*

*"Master!"*

**An angel asked, "What are these tears?**

**He is alive! He is not here!**

**How can you weep with Joy so near?"**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*Easter Sunday Morning: Matthew 28:9–10; Luke 24:10–13; John 20:17–18*

Jesus told Mary Magdalene, “Stop clinging to Me—I haven’t ascended to My Father yet. But go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I will ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” She went and announced to the disciples, **“I have seen the Lord”**—and what He had told her.

The other women, who had fled from the tomb, said nothing to anyone on the way because they were afraid, when suddenly, Jesus met them and said, “Rejoice!” They came to Him and grasped His feet and worshiped Him. And Jesus told them, “Don’t be afraid; go, take word to My brothers to leave for Galilee. They’ll see Me there.” So they went and reported all this to the Eleven and all the others.

But, though Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary, James’ mother, and the women with them told them all these things, their words seemed to the Apostles to be nonsense and they would not believe them. And two disciples left that very day for Emmaus, a village about seven miles from Jerusalem.

**Though two disciples, doubting, fled,  
He found and fetched them, breaking bread,  
Firing their hearts with all He said:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*Easter Sunday Afternoon: Luke 24:14–35*

The two of them were talking with each other about everything that had happened, when Jesus Himself approached and started walking with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. He asked them, “What’s this you’re discussing as you walk?” They stopped, downcast, and one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, **“Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened there these past few days?”**

*“What things?”*

**“The things about Jesus of Nazareth! He was a prophet, with powerful words and signs in the sight of God and all the people. And the chief priests and the rulers of our people delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one who would redeem Israel. Besides that, it’s three days now since it happened, and some of our women have astonished us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they didn’t find His body, they came back telling us they’d seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it as the women said, but they didn’t see Him.”**

*“How foolish you are! How slow your hearts are to believe everything the prophets have said! Wasn’t it necessary for the Messiah, the Christ, to suffer these things and then enter into His glory?” And starting with Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them everything about Himself in all the Scriptures.*

When they reached Emmaus, He acted as though He were going farther, but they urged Him strongly, saying, **“Stay with us; it’s getting toward evening. The day’s almost over.”**

When He was at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him—and He vanished from their sight! And they said to each other, **“Weren’t our hearts burning inside us, while He walked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”**

They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the others gathered together at the table and saying, **“The Lord has risen indeed! He’s appeared to Simon!”** Then the two started to tell what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had revealed Himself to them in the breaking of the bread.

**That night th’apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, “My peace be with you here.”  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*The Easter Gospel in the Evening: Mark 16:14–16; Luke 24:36–48; John 20:20–23*

While they were still talking, though the doors were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus Himself came and stood in the midst of them and said, “Peace be with you!” They were startled and frightened and thought they were seeing a spirit! So Jesus said, “Why are you upset? Why do doubts arise in your minds? See My hands and feet—it’s I Myself! Touch Me, and see—a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bones. But as you see, I do.” And He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him. And when they still couldn’t believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He ate it in front of them, and said, “This is just what I told you while I was still with you: Everything about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” And the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord!

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and told them, “This is what is written: That the Messiah should suffer and rise from death on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, starting at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses to it.” Then once more He told them, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent Me, I am sending you!” And with that, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whoever’s sins you forgive are forgiven! Whoever’s sins you retain are retained. Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News: Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved!”

**Blessed are those who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been:  
In life eternal they will reign!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**



*Having heard the Word, what do you believe?*

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 210 &– TEXT: LSB 464

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;<br/>Now is the victor's triumph won;<br/>Now be the songs of praise begun.<br/>Alleluia!</b>            | <b>3 The three sad days have quickly sped,<br/>He rises glorious from the dead.<br/>All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!</b>                        |
| <b>2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,<br/>But Christ their legions hath dispersed.<br/>Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!</b>   | <b>4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;<br/>The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.<br/>Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.<br/>Alleluia!</b> |
| <b>5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,<br/>From death's dread sting Thy servants free<br/>That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!</b> |   |

Text: Public Domain

## The Sermon

THE CHORAL OFFERTORY HYMN – LSB 458, STANZAS 1, 3, 7

*Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given;  
But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from heaven.  
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down, His people to deliver;  
Destroying sin, He took the crown from death's pale brow forever:  
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns; an empty form alone remains;  
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!*

*Then let us feast this Easter Day on Christ, the bread of heaven;  
The Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed;  
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!*

Text: Public domain

### ***The Presentation of the Offering***

*I will offer the thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.*

**O LORD, my strength, I love You.**

### ***The Prayer of the Church***

*after each petition:*

*Lord, in Your mercy,  
hear our prayer.*

THE PREFACE

*The Lord be with you.*

2 Timothy 4:22

**And with your spirit.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

[Colossians 3:1]

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

[Psalm 136]

**It is good and right that we do.**

THE PROPER PREFACE

*It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:*

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**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.**

## The Words of Institution

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

*The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us!**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us!**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,**

**grant us Your peace! Amen.**

## Holy Communion

*Note on Holy Communion: In the Lord's Supper, the Risen Christ is at once the Giver and the Gift! By His promise His very body and blood are really present, so that we come into direct communion with the exalted Christ and His forgiveness. As we do so, we also bear witness to the oneness in doctrine of those who receive the Sacrament together. For this reason, we kindly ask guests to speak with pastor before communing so that all who receive Holy Communion with us might first be properly instructed. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

*Psalm 16 (antiphon: verse 10)*

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives! He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 He lives to grant me rich supply;  
He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint;  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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!"

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 633

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from His pierced side.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine  
Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast—  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
Alleluia!
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Alleluia!
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!
- 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!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
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!
- △ 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: Public domain

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;<br/>Likewise I to life shall waken.<br/>He will bring me where He is;<br/>Shall my courage then be shaken?<br/>Shall I fear, or could the Head<br/>Rise and leave His members dead?</p> <p>2 No, too closely I am bound<br/>By my hope to Christ forever;<br/>Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,<br/>Grasped it, and will leave it never;<br/>Even death now cannot part<br/>From its Lord the trusting heart.</p> | <p>3 Then take comfort and rejoice,<br/>For His members Christ will cherish.<br/>Fear not, they will hear His voice;<br/>Dying, they will never perish;<br/>For the very grave is stirred<br/>When the trumpet's blast is heard.</p> <p>4 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave<br/>And at death no longer tremble;<br/>He, the Lord, who came to save<br/>Will at last His own assemble.<br/>They will go their Lord to meet,<br/>Treading death beneath their feet.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Public domain

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32

Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised,  
for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people,  
a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!*  
**And His mercy endures forever!**

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*We thank You, O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have given us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Dearest Lord Jesus, Master and Savior, Alpha and Omega, Firstborn from the dead, thanks and praise and glory to You. O risen Brother, Living God, lead us and we will follow You to the cross, to the grave, and to the skies. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

*The Lord be with you.*  
**And with your spirit.**

THE BENEDICAMUS  
*Bless we the Lord.*

[Psalm 103:1]

**Thanks be to God!**

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

*The LORD bless you and keep you.*

*The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.*

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN—TUNE: TLH 199 & TEXT: LSB 463 & 469, ALT. WITH ALLELUIAS

- 6 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!**
- 7 Christ, the Victim Undefined, Alleluia!**  
**God and man hath reconciled, Alleluia!**  
**When in strange and awful strife, Alleluia!**  
**Met together Death and Life. Alleluia!**
- 8 For the sheep the Lamb hath bled. Alleluia!**  
**Now the Firstborn from the dead, Alleluia!**  
**Throned in endless might and pow'r, Alleluia!**  
**Lives and reigns for evermore. Alleluia!**

9

Alleluja  
Alleluja  
Alleluja

**Awake, My Heart, with Gladness**

**Stanzas 6 & 7**

*by Paul Gerhardt*

Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;  
My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er He passes through.  
He rends death's iron chain;  
He breaks through sin and pain;  
He shatters hell's grim thrall;  
I follow Him through all.

He brings me to the portal  
That leads to bliss untold,  
Whereon this rhyme immortal  
Is found in script of gold:  
"Who there My cross has shared  
Finds here a crown prepared;  
Who there with Me has died  
Shall here be glorified."

# God's People at Prayer

## For Home Devotions

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

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

### Readings from Holy Scripture

*These may be read in the morning and evening, as suggested here, or in any way that best works with your schedule.*

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Su	Exodus 14:10–31	Hebrews 7:23–8:13
M	Exodus 15:1–18	Hebrews 9:1–28
Tu	Exodus 15:19–16:12	Hebrews 10:1–18
W	Exodus 16:13–35	Hebrews 10:19–39
Th	Exodus 17:1–16	Hebrews 11:1–29
F	Exodus 18:5–27	Hebrews 12:1–24
Sa	Exodus 19:1–25	Hebrews 13:1–21

### On the Resurrection of Our Lord

*As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord,  
we focus on the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ  
in His state of exaltation, as it is briefly expressed  
in the Augsburg Confession.*

[Our churches teach that Jesus Christ] also descended into hell, and on the third day truly rose again. Afterward He ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of the Father. There He reigns forever and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in Him by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin. The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead.

The Augsburg Confession, Article III, 4–6

### Hymn

*The hymn stanza may be sung or spoken.*

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives! He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head.      *LSB 461:1*

### Verse for Meditation

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia!  
*1 Corinthians 15:20a*

### Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Prayers for Others and Ourselves

*The following topics may guide your prayer each day.*

- Su For the joy of the resurrection among us
- M For one's calling and daily work, coworkers, and the unemployed
- Tu For deliverance against temptation and evil; for all who suffer and are afflicted
- W For immediate, extended, and church family; for our schools, communities, and neighborhoods
- Th For the Church and her pastors, all who serve in the congregation, and missionaries
- F For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the sick and dying
- Sa For faithfulness to the end; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Collect of the Week

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Readings for Descent into Hell Sunday, April 7

Genesis 3:8–15; Psalms 124 (v. 8) & 33 (v. 6)  
Colossians 2:14–15 & 1 Peter 3:19; Mark 3:20–35