April 4th, 2021 **The Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter**



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

At Abiding Word We gather around the Word (worship) We grow in the Word (education) And we share the Word with the world (outreach).



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church Wisconsin Synod 513.677.9357 abidingword.com

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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) As a safety precaution there will be no after service coffee or refreshments. If you would like to socialize responsibly before and after the service, please use the fellowship hall. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

Lutheran Worship

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. Through the sermon, Lord's Supper, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.

As we adjust to live worship

We are taking many precautions to make our regular Sunday service as safe as possible. In keeping with our Governor's mandate, please wear a facemask while inside the building. Masks are available on the table by the bulletin announcements, if you forget your mask. If you socialize before or after the service please do so outside or in the fellowship hall. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding worship or ministry please inform Pastor or our elder, Ken Leib.



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
Turne: FETUMAL CONTECT L (tranuler with Befrain) Pichard W. Hillert b. 1923. © 1975, 1988 Pichard Hill

Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE (Irregular with Refrain) Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923. © 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert. All rights reserved. Used by permssion.

The Call to Worship

- M: Why do you seek the living among the dead? The Lord is not here. He has risen! Hallelujah!
- C: He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!
- M: The Lord is risen!
- C: Remember what he told us: "The Son of Man must be crucified and rise again the third day."
- M: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!
- C: Worthy is Christ, the lamb who was slain, Whose blood set us free to be the people of God.
- M: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!
- C: Power, riches, wisdom and strength, And honor, blessing and glory are His.
- M: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!
- C: Sing with all the people of God And join in the hymn of all creation.
- M: Blessing, honor, glory and might Be to God and the Lamb forever!
- C: For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

The First Lesson: At the Empty Tomb

After the Sabbath, early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

At dawn there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightening, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mary Madgalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

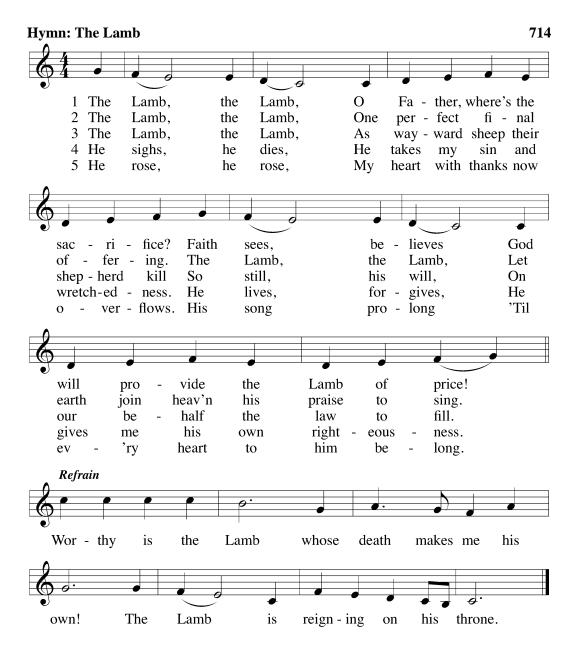
The women took the spices they had prepared. Very early, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

When the women entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. They saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. But go quickly, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Then they remembered his words.

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead).

Then the disciples went back to their homes.



As the Lord provided for Abraham a sacrifice in place of his son Isaac, so also he lovingly provides for us his own Son, Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world.

Tune: WINTER (48 48 and Refrain)

Text, Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953 © 1987 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP),

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The Second Lesson: In the Garden

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Madalene, out of whom he had driven seven devils.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher.)

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary went to the disciples with the news that she had seen the Lord and that he had told her this.

Afraid yet filled with joy, the women ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders, they devised a plan. They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble. So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

When the women came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. But when they heard that Jesus was alive they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others with them who told this to the apostles.

Hymn: He's Risen, He's Risen



Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt. Tune: WALTHER (11 11 11 11) C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87.

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The Third Lesson: On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country, going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one living in Jerusalem who doesn't know what things have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

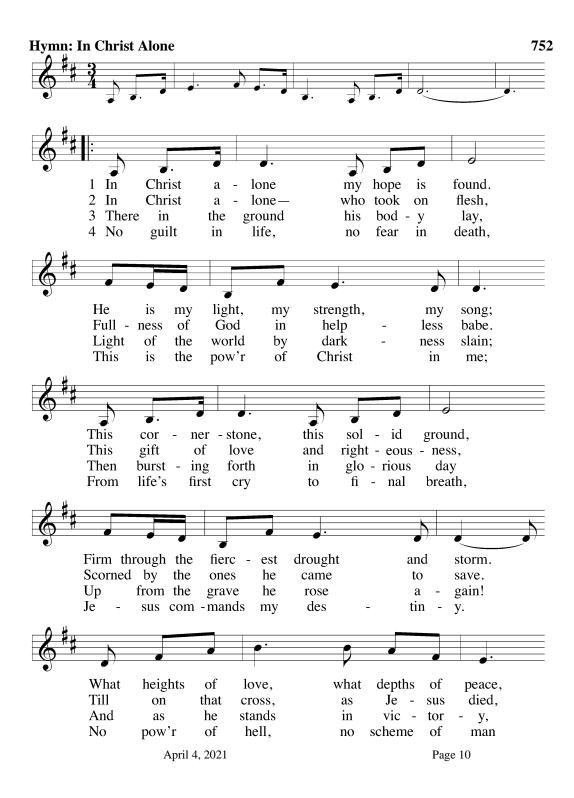
"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

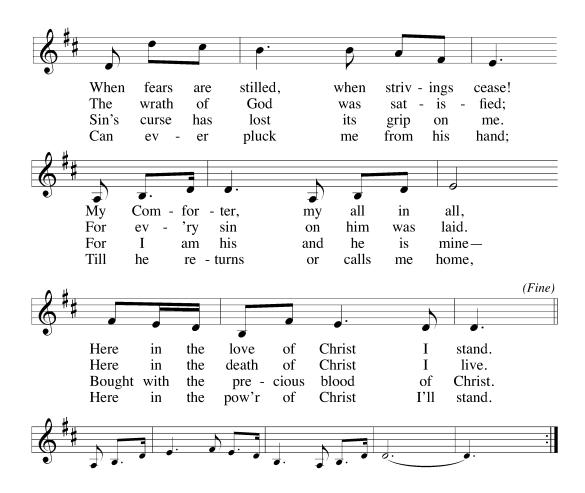
He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart that you do not believe all that the prophets have spoken!" Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Then they got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.





This christological hymn summarizes the sacrificial, earthly life of our Savior and the glory that is now his forever and ours through faith.

Tune: IN CHRIST ALONE (88 88 D)

Text, Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Fourth Lesson: Behind Closed Doors

While they were still talking about this, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus himself came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

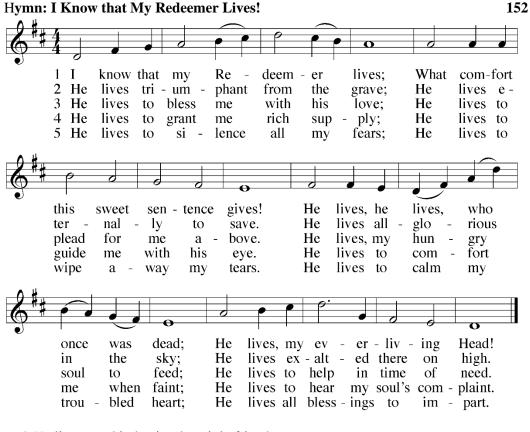
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. And while they still did not believe because of joy and amazement he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written....But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
7 He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death. He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: DUKE STREET (LM) attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793.

The Fifth Lesson: Death Has Been Swallowed Up in Victory

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am,

and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them -- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed -- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. HYMN: Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's won!



Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715–69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815–97, alt. Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

Sermon on John 20:19-23

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

OFFERING PRAYER

EASTER PRAYER

O God of peace, who has reconciled the world to himself in Christ and redeemed us from the empty way of life handed down to us from Adam, not with gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, we thank and praise you for displaying your power to forgive by the glorious resurrection of your Son.

Through your Holy Spirit give us the radiant joy of that first Easter. Fill our hearts with its sublime announcement and precious promise of life and forgiveness. Make us glad in these heavenly tidings: that he who was delivered over to death for our sins has been raised to life for our justification; that because he lives, we too shall live; that neither death nor life, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yet on this day of highest joy and comfort, we remember those who are in pain, O Lord. Heal those who are sick, console those who are mourning, and give strength to those who are in despair.

For your Church we pray, O Lord. Grant that everywhere it may have faithful shepherds who are not ashamed of the gospel which is the power of salvation. Grant that all believers through the world this day may find the fullness of your grace and peace in the Easter message. Help us all to be faithful unto death, that we may receive the crown of life.

Hear us Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

Now to you, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

> The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.



Text: Latin hymn, 14th century, st. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707–88, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, st. 1-3, alt. Tune: EASTER HYMN (77 77 with Alleluias) *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, alt.



