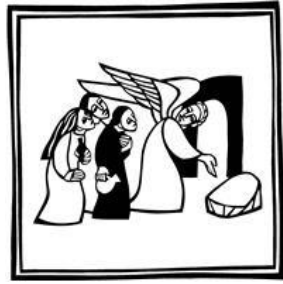


Sunday, April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion
SUNDAYS AND SEASONS 2026 – ELW SETTING # 10



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

EASTER PRELUDE – “Christus Resurrexit” by Gordon Young – Adoration Instrument Ensemble
– Rebecca Posig, Rich Regent, – clarinet, Lori Wargolet – flute, Barbara Regent – keyboards.

EASTER PROCESSION AND PROCLAMATION

As the lit Paschal Candle and the Processional Cross is brought in, the "Glory to God" is sung responsively between two cantors, then, follows the Proclamation.

Special Music: “Glory to God” Pastor Steve Kuhl and Barbara Regent

Easter Proclamation

Christ is Risen. **He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!**
Christ is Risen. **He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!**
Christ is Risen. **He is Risen, Indeed. Alleluia!**

GATHERING

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW # 365 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

APOSTOLIC GREETING & WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated while the children come forward.

Children’s Time

THE WORD – READINGS



First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ 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 as you are able in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation – Special Music “Alleluia! Christ is Risen” – Chancel Choir

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th Chapter, beginning at the 1st verse. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steven Kuhl

Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW # 382 “Christ is Risen! Alleluia”

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessing of the Water

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.



We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Renunciation of Evil and Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**



Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation of Commitment

Sisters and brothers who are affirming baptism today:

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain *especially those we name aloud or in our hearts.* (*A brief silence*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING – Collection of our offerings.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "An Easter Hallelujah" - Ted Lazaris



Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

OFFERING 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 MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ: The true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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: Holy, Holy, Holy – ELW Setting # 10 – S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus, who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

THE WORD'S OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

REMEMBERING AND INVOCATION

Together, awaiting your promised life for all this dying world, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Remember us, dear Jesus, and teach us to pray:

**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

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

Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.

Lamb of God – ELW Setting # 10 – S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn During Communion: ELW # 619 “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, together.

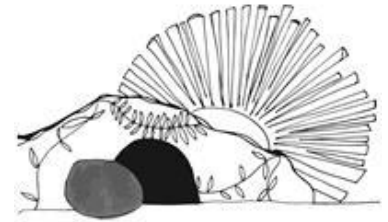
Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SENDING BLESSING

God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
the beginning and the end,
the firstborn of the dead,
our advocate and guide,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG: ELW # 376 “Thine is the Glory”



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Adoration Instrument Ensemble

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Today’s Lay Leaders

Lector: Bill Wakefield

Ushers: Bill & Kathy Wakefield

Communion Assistant: Jeanette Nowakowski

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Altar Guilds on Wednesday Evenings: Joann Voegeli and Joyce Weinert

Music & Worship Coordinator: Barb Regent

Adoration Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
3840 West Edgerton Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53221
Phone: 414.281.0414
www.adorationlc.com

adorationlutheran@gmail.com

Pastor Steve Kuhl, Interim Pastor
Crystal A. Roeder, Office Manager

