

The Power of the Resurrection

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For as in Adam all die, so in
Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22



EASTER SUNDAY

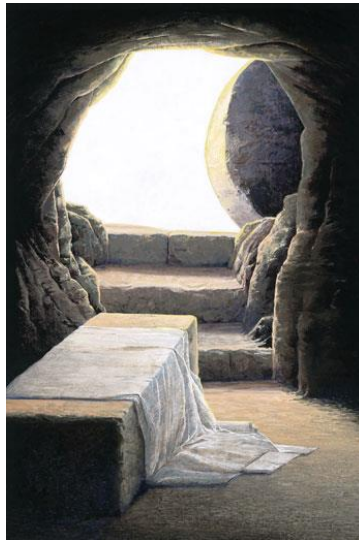
Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

This morning's focus: *Without the Resurrection, Faith is Futile*

It would not be productive to look for help in a cemetery. A corpse can do only one thing—rot. This is the source of the crushing sorrow Jesus' followers felt. He was the one in whom they had placed all their hope for a better reality. Now he was dead, so they thought. They were overwhelmed with sorrow, not just because they missed their friend. It now all seemed so pointless: the years and miles following Jesus, witnessing his miracles, listening to him. He was dead! And a corpse can only do one thing.

The resurrection changed everything. The disciples saw clearly that Jesus is who he said he was and did what he said he'd do. They realized their faith rested on a rock-solid foundation. Here is the resurrection reality. If Christ had not been raised, our faith in him would be futile. He could do nothing to help us. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Series Theme: *Resurrection Reality*

St. Paul writes, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (*1 Corinthians 15:20*). Big word: Indeed! Paul is stressing that we must not think of the Jesus’ resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. Easter is not just a holiday. Easter is history. On time’s infinite line, Jesus’ resurrection is the moment that defines reality for us all. If Christ remained dead, he is a fraud and failure. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. If Christ remained dead, then the grave is the final, ugly, rotten end of us all. But Christ has indeed been raised. So, the reality is Jesus’ resurrection proves that “all will be made alive” (*1 Corinthians 15:22*). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future, but the way we look at life now.

The greatest theologian of the early church, Augustine, called the season of Easter “a joyful week of weeks”—seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. In this glorious season, let us meditate upon the breath-taking implications of the resurrection reality.

Our worship follows this pattern.

March 31	Without the Resurrection Faith is Futile	Easter Sunday
April 6/7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace	Easter 2
April 13/14	We Have a Meaningful Message to Share	Easter 3
April 20/21	The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding	Easter 4
April 27/28	The Living Lord Produces Active Faith	Easter 5
May 4/5	Jesus’ Business Is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours	Easter 6
May 11/12	Christ’s Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever	Ascension
May 18/19	Christ Has Not Left Us Alone	Pentecost

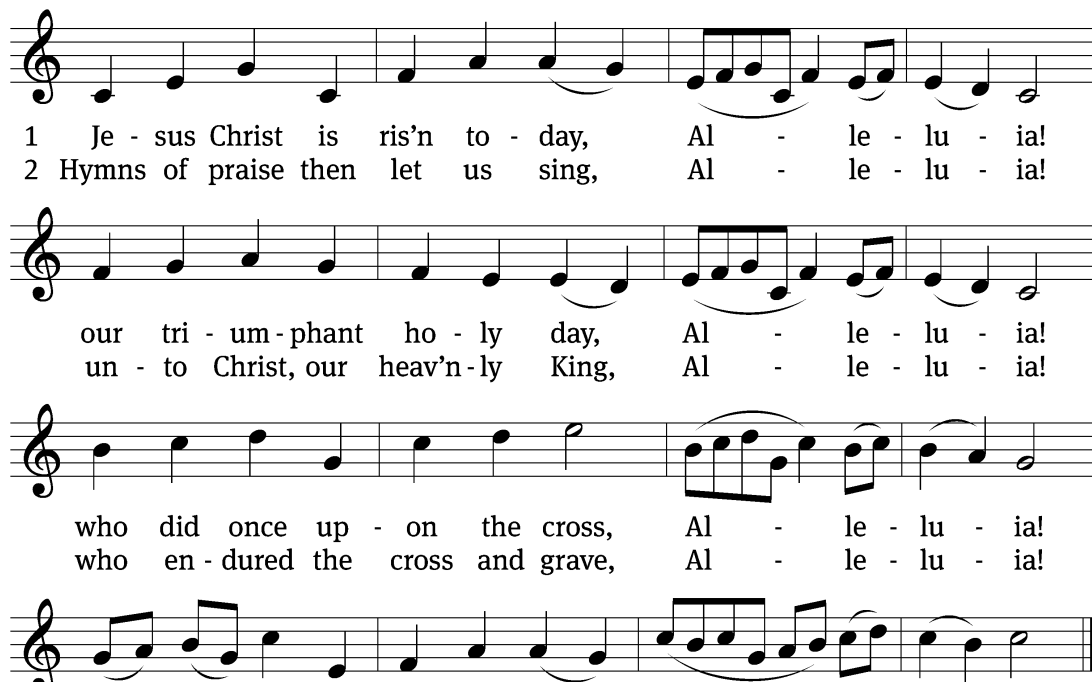
We Come into the Presence of God

Musical Introduction (*recorded and played by Jan Henriksen*)

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

Hymn: 438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

sts. 1–2



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Latin, 14th cent.

Tune: Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Text and tune: Public domain

A Litany of Confession and Praise

Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

By His resurrection Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power!
And He has given us a new birth into a living hope.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel, “for you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene.
“He is not here! He has risen!”

“Do not be afraid,” says the Son of God. “I am the First and the Last, the Living One! I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!”
“And I hold the keys of death and the afterlife.”

O Almighty Creator God, You are the Giver of life. You created life, You had the power to restore Jesus to life, You gave life to me. Yet though You have spoken to us clearly in Your Word as to what You would have us believe and how You would want us to act, we have stubbornly resisted Your will for our lives.

How great is our rebellion.
How heavy our guilt.
How much we deserve to be punished by you, now and forever.

Yet in your mercy, O Gracious Savior-God, You did not abandon us, but sent Your Son to live and die for us!
Jesus’ death is the sacrifice which paid for my sins.

We recognize, however, that if Christ was not raised, our faith would be futile, we would be trapped in the guilt of sin.
But Christ has been raised from the dead!

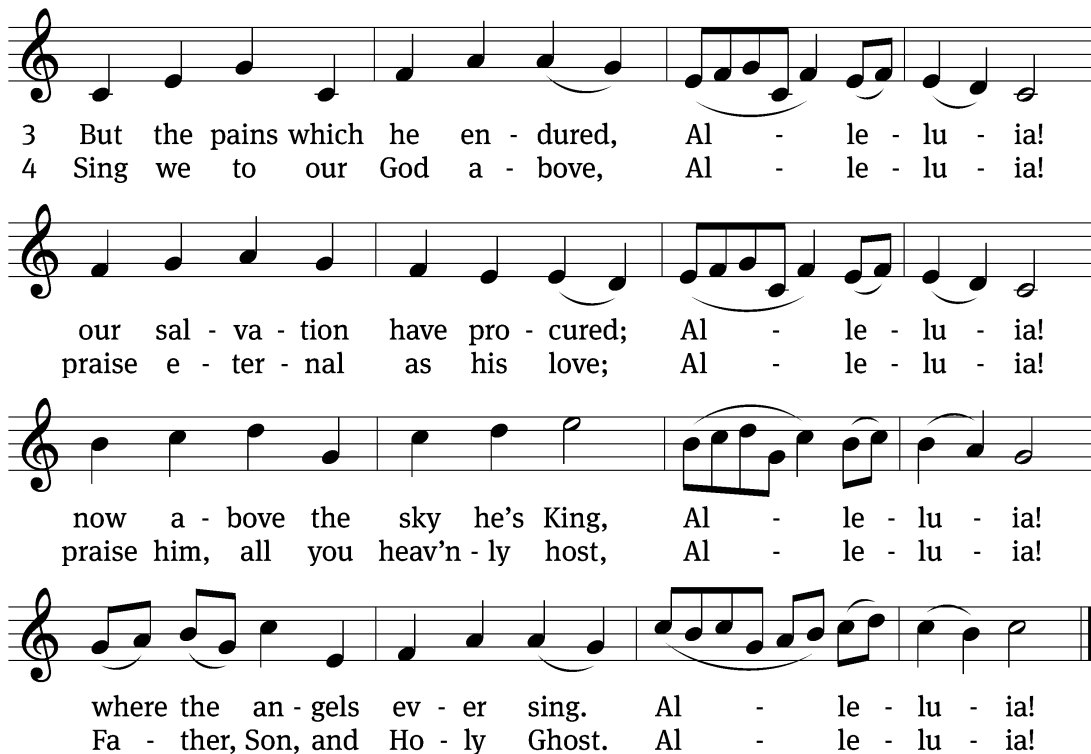
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, take heart! Jesus has removed your guilt forever! His death paid for your sins; His resurrection proves it. With confidence we can say, “I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end He will stand upon the earth!”
In my flesh – yes, with my own eyes – I will see Him!”

Where O death is your victory, where O grave, is your sting?
Our God has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

“In my Father’s house are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And I will come back to take you to be with me.”
Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Hymn: 438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

sts. 3–4



3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

We Listen

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

⁹In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Hymn: 451 See, What a Morning

The choir will sing verses 1-2, the congregation will join in verse 3. The choir will sing the final outro.



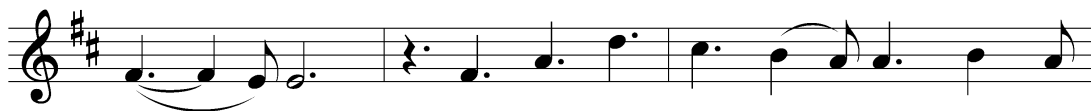
1 See, what a morn - ing, glo - rious-ly bright, with the dawn - ing of
2 See Mar - y weep - ing, "Where is he laid?" as in sor - row she
3 One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, thro' the Spir - it who



hope in Je - ru - sa - lem; fold - ed the grave-clothes,
turns from the emp - ty tomb. Hears a voice speak - ing,
clothes faith with cer - tain - ty. Hon - or and bless - ing,



tomb filled with light, as the an - gels an-nounce, "Christ is
call - ing her name; it's the Mas - ter, the Lord raised to
glo - ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au -



ris - en!" See God's sal - va - tion plan, wrought in
life a-gain! The voice that spans the years, speak - ing
thor - i - ty! And we are raised with him; death is



love, borne in pain, paid in sac - ri-fice, ful - filled in
life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing peace to us, will sound till
dead, love has won, Christ has con - quered. And we shall



Christ, the Man, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
he ap - pears, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
reign with him, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

¹²But 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? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵More 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. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Pastor will sing the verses, the congregation will join in the Refrains and Glory be to the Father.

Refrain



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joice and be glad!

Tone



The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
 he has become my sal- / vation.
 The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
 the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
 I will not / die but live,
 and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. *Refrain*

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
 you have become my sal- / vation.
 The stone the builders re- / jected
 has become the / cornerstone;
 the LORD has / done this,
 and it is marvelous / in our eyes.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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.**

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So 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!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They 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.”

¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵He asked her, “Woman, 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.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

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

¹⁷Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

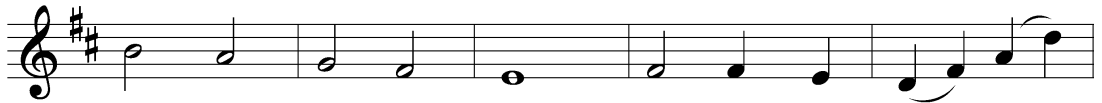
Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 441 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

sts. 1–5



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

Text: Samuel Medley, 1739–1799, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

We Respond

Offering

If you would like to give an offering, there is an offering plate by the back door of church.

*If you are a guest in our church, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering.
You enrich us simply by being here.*

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

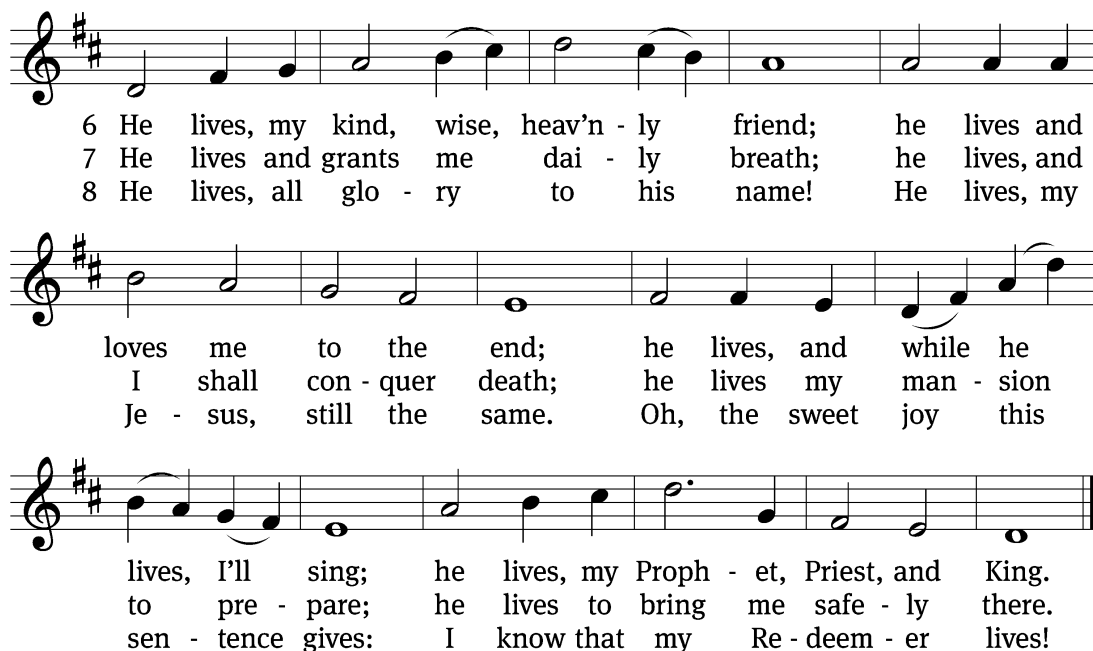
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: 441 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

sts. 6-8



6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; he lives and
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; he lives, and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my

loves me to the end; he lives, and while he
I shall con - quer death; he lives my man - sion
Je - sus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this

lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.
to pre - pare; he lives to bring me safe - ly there.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Closing Musical Interlude

This is an opportunity to sign the red Friendship Register at the end of your pew.

It is the mission of



to

Grow in the Word

and to

Go with the Word



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is part of a group of 1250 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 45 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 34 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.

Serving in Worship

Pastor: Jon Bergemann
Organist: Joan Richmond
Choir Director: Casey Kippes
Accompanist: Paula Danekas
Ushers: Steve Danekas, John Roland,
AV Team: Bob Reichert, Joe Garetto,
Kristen Reynolds,
Zach Dankert

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*He
is
Risen*



All children aged PreK-6th grade are welcome to join us to learn about God's word through stories, music and activities. We will meet in the school library, at the end of the school hallway, on Sundays from 9:10-10:20a.

Email BLAST@gsdg.org

Join us for Bible Class

Sundays 9:15 am - 10:15 am Sanctuary and online



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