

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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————— *WORSHIP, LOVE, AND SERVE — God, neighbor, and creation* —————





**Sunday, April 05, 2026**

*Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter 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.*

## VOLUNTARY

**ELW 377** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (EARTH AND ALL STARS), **ELW 385** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (GELOBT SEI GOTT), **ELW 389** *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* (TRURO),  *Because He Lives*, **ELW 386** *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* (O FILII ET FILIAE), **ELW 392** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (HYFRYDOL), **ELW 384** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (PUER NOBIS),  *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise The Strain*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Rejoice!*

Choir

Joseph M. Martin's jubilant Easter anthem proclaims the resurrection: "Christ is risen, sing alleluia; love has triumphed over the grave." On this Easter morning, the Choir leads us into worship with the joy proclaimed in Psalm 118: rejoice and be glad!

## THE GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

(\*) Please rise as you are able and face the cross at the rear of the sanctuary.

### \*EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Presiding minister lights the Paschal Candle; candle is raised in the air.*

P May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

P The light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Paschal Candle moves to the middle of the Nave and is raised in the air.*

P The light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Paschal Candle moves to the front of the Nave and is raised in the air.*

P The light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Acolyte lights candles from the Paschal Candle as the ministers read:*

- P Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!
- A Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.
- P Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.
- A Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the people.
- P Let us praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to sin. For this is indeed the Paschal feast of the Lamb of God, by whose blood we are made holy.
- C Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

**ELW 365**

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

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

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

**\*GREETING**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**P** The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

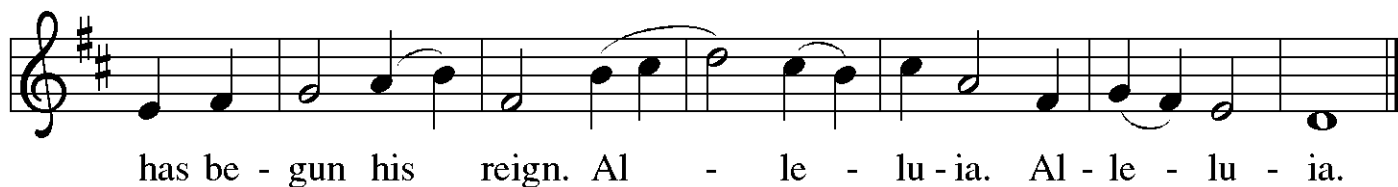


might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

Please be seated.

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### 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."*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and

allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L Word of God, word of life.

**C 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*)

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

**“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **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.*

<sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(\* Please rise as you are able.

## \*GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

**ELW 172** (sung twice)

The musical notation consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is written on the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The melody is: Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
Hal - le - lu - jah.  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## \*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:1-10

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C 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!*

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

came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> 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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

**ELW 172** (sung twice)

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
Hal - le - lu - jah.  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for voice and handbells. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a handbell line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.' The handbell line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

Please be seated.

**PUPPET SHOW**

**ANTHEM**

*Early Easter Morning*

Youth Choir & Handbells

The youth bring the Easter story to life in this joyful canon by Jennifer Kerr Breedlove. Two-part voices and handbells retell the women's visit to the tomb—from weeping at dawn to the angel's proclamation: "He is risen!"

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## SERMON

*Pastor Mike Seifried*

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(\*) Please rise as you are able.

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

**ELW 366**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## \*NICENE CREED

**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 Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**



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*). 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.**

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.

**C Amen**

**\*PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING**

*Redeemer*

Choir

*Redeemer* celebrates the redemptive work of Christ. Acts 10 proclaims that God raised Jesus on the third day, and this gospel-infused anthem responds with exuberant praise: "I know my Redeemer lives!"

*(\*) Please rise as you are able.*

**\*OFFERING SONG**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

**ELW 367** (v. 1)

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

A 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,

C Amen.

### \*THE 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.

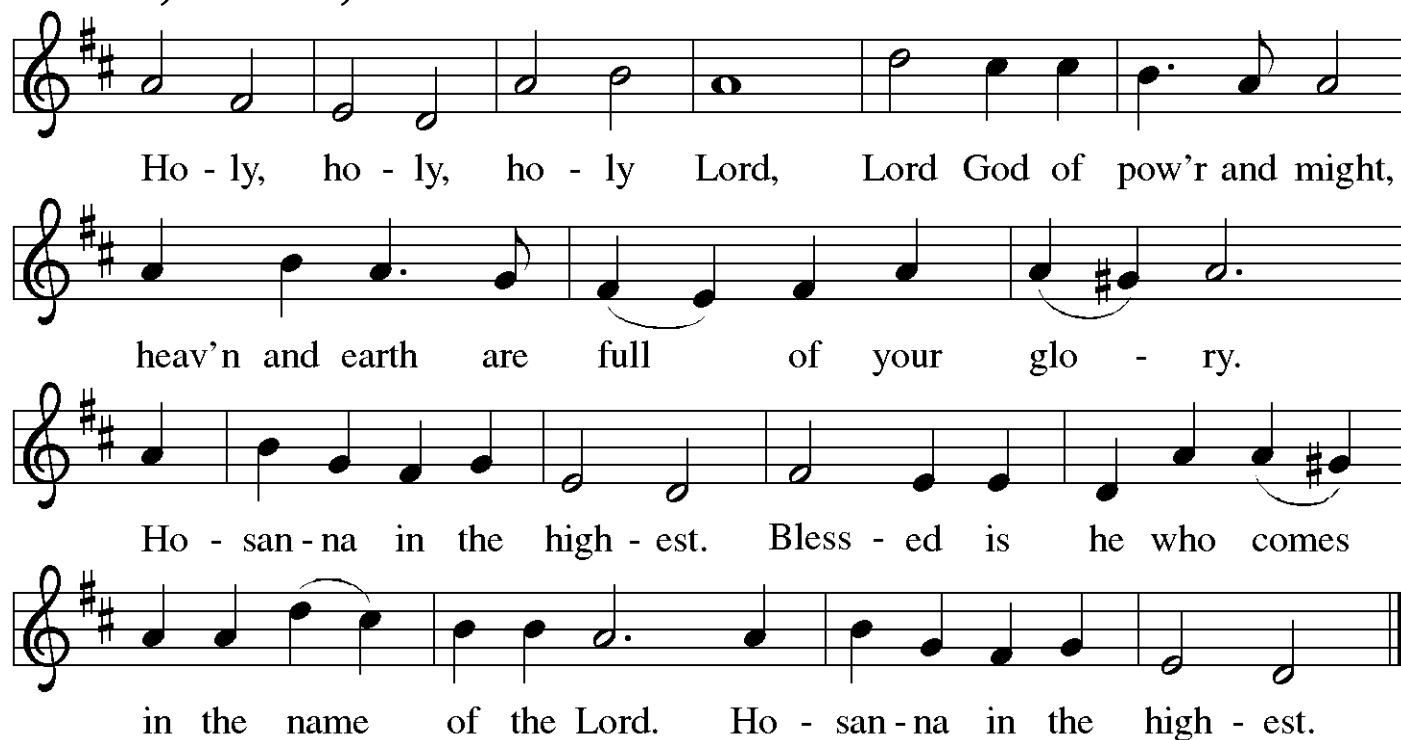
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### \*PREFACE

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 merci-

ful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### \***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

### \***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom 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**

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at God's table and invited to receive the Sacrament of Communion, the body and blood of Christ. To receive communion, please come to the altar, picking up a small plastic cup on the way. In addition to bread and wine, grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available. Those who do not wish to receive communion may come forward for a blessing. Those who are not able to come forward may have communion brought to them by the pastor and assisting minister.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

## **\*LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



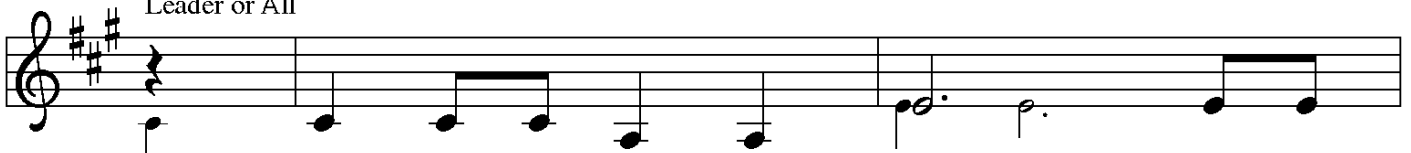
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

*I Am the Bread of Life*

**ELW 485**

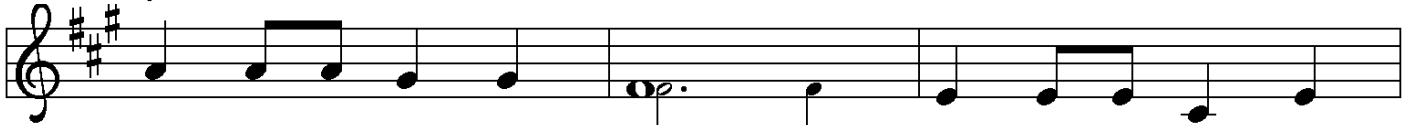
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . . . and . . . .  
 I . . . . . am the life. . . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . . are the Christ, . . . . . the . . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
 lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
 Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

*Refrain*

All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day.”

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

**ELW 379**

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

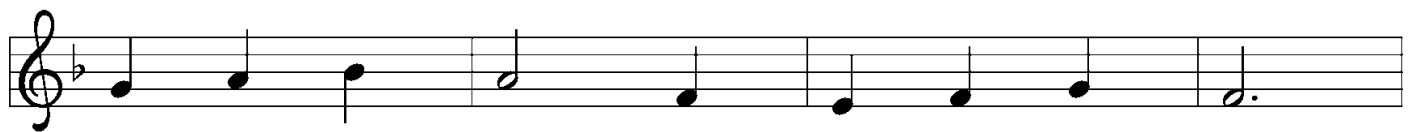
love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

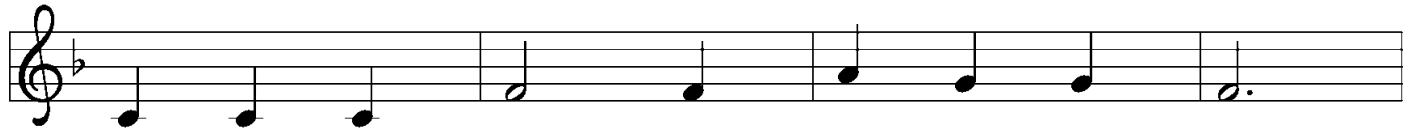
**ELW 364**

*M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,*  
 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
 3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear.



*m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.*

Re - jice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.



*A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,*

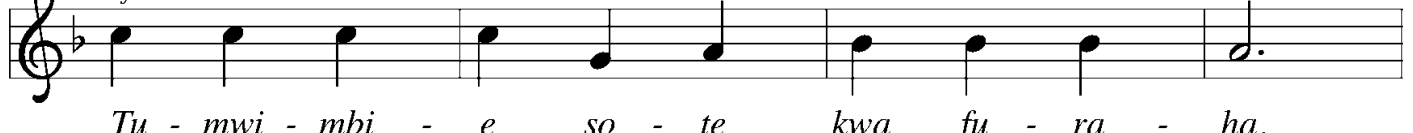
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



*m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.*

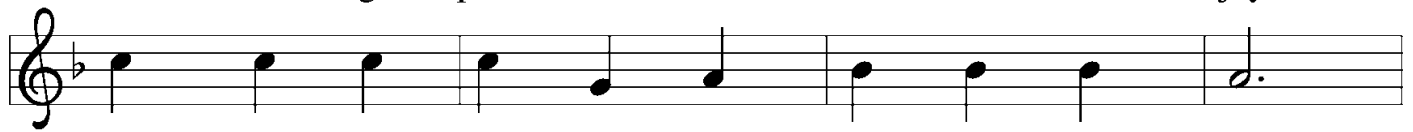
e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
and in its con - quest his might did show.  
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there.”

*Refrain*



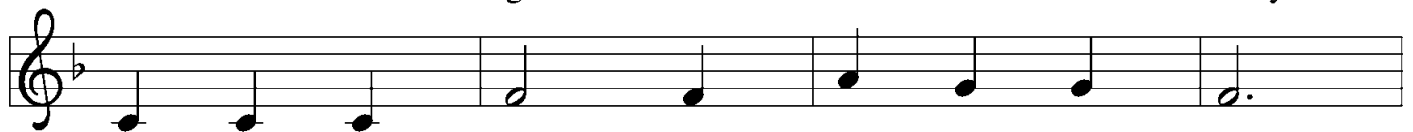
*Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.*

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



*Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.*

Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



*Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;*

Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



*ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu ha - i.*

Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won.”

*Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.

*Refrain*

(\*) Please rise as you are able.

## \***BLESSING**

P The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

## \***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A 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.**

## **THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \***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.**

## \***LITANY OF FAREWELL**

L A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we say farewell to Pastor Mike, whose time as our interim pastor has come to an end.

P I thank Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last eighteen months. I thank you for accepting my leadership. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together and with sadness the things we were not able to do. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for the mistakes I made and for the times I let you down.

C **We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgive-**

**ness for any failures. We accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. Your influence on us will not leave us, even though you depart from us. We express gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith.**

P I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the Christ we are called to serve.

L Do you, the members and friends of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, now release Pastor Mike from the duties of interim pastor?

**C We do, with the help of God.**

L Do you, Pastor Mike, release Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you?

P I do, with the help of God.

L Let us pray.

**C God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. During our time together, we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until the time when we are completely one with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

L Go, now Pastor Mike, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SENDING SONG**

*Thine Is the Glory*

**ELW 376**

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

## \*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*This is The Day*

All are invited to sing!

*This Is the Day* captures the heart of Easter's joy in Psalm 118:24: "This is the day that the Lord has made." This sending piece carries the congregation out with the psalm's triumphant declaration, a fitting close to the most celebratory day in the church year.

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**"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"** (ELW 364): Text, Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938, tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922, © 1977 Howard S. Olson; tune MFURANINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian traditional.

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## 📖 Sermon Study 📖

MATTHEW 28:1–10; ACTS 10:34–43; COLOSSIANS 3:1–4

Three of our readings for Easter 2026 are MATTHEW 28:1–10, ACTS 10:34–43, and COLOSSIANS 3:1–4. These readings all proclaim Christ's Resurrection and give us an indication of what this means for us as Christians.

In MATTHEW 28:1–10, the early witnesses arrive at Jesus' tomb two days after Jesus' Crucifixion (on what is also known as the Third Day). They find the tomb is empty. God has triumphed as indicated by the power of the earthquake which occurs. Christ is risen, now

other events will occur.

One such event involves the sending (or the return) to Galilee to meet Jesus and to be commissioned for the universal Christian mission to the world. Yes, God can use flawed people for this mission as we are now Jesus' brothers and sisters. Nothing can stop God.

In ACTS 10:34–43, we see the universal mission at work. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commands his followers "to go to all the nations." In our Acts reading, we read about "the first Gentile conversion" and so the mission to all the nations has come. The Gospel Story is about the loving acts of Christ for all the world. God will not play favorites. The inclusion of all the world becomes possible because of the resurrection of Jesus.

COLOSSIANS 3:1–4 is an account of how Jesus' resurrection becomes real for his followers. We are joined to Jesus, raised with Christ, together with our Lord. We need to set our minds on what this all means. There will now be a different way for us to make decisions as all our actions are to involve God's love and grace.