

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY
APRIL 4, 2021

Sunday, April 4, 2021
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *(verses 1 & 4)*

The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from Isaiah.

More than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah proclaims the good news of God's salvation and calls all people to rejoice! God will make a rich feast for all people. God will wipe the tears from their eyes. And most importantly, God will destroy death itself.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;
God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let Israel | now declare,**
"God's mercy en- | dures forever."

¹⁴The 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!"

¹⁶The 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.

¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver 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 righ- | teous may enter."

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

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

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

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

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in

Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR BILL

SOLO

“Christ Will Be Lifted Up”

JARED MUMMERT

Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

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

**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.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

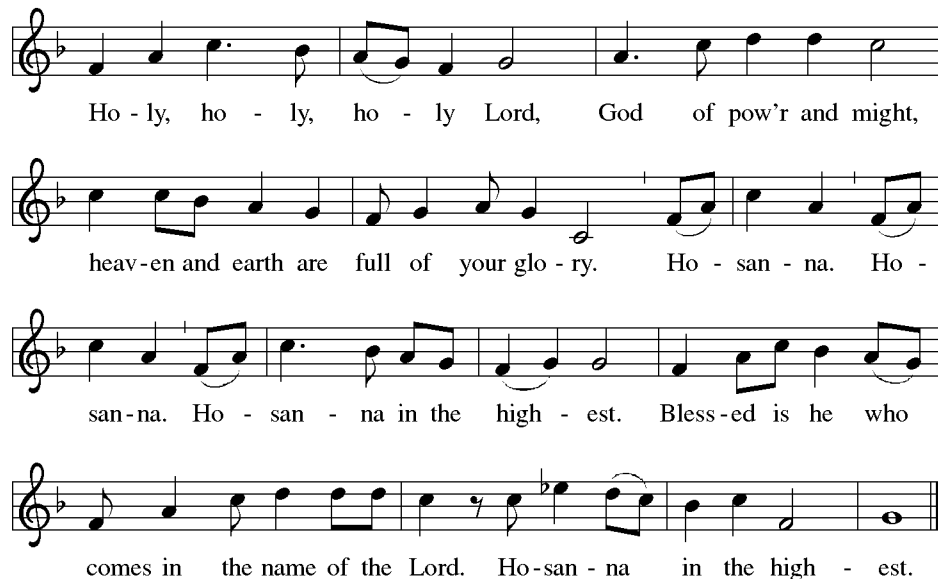
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

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.

LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance and keeping your mask on. Move your mask to eat the bread and drink the wine. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat with your mask on.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *(verses 1 & 5)*

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



- 1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
- 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
- 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;
- 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.
- 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,
joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless - ings on his church be - low.
with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

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Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Bonney Coldsmith
Acolyte	Katy Nienstedt & Aaron Shreiner
Lector.....	Alan Johnson
Securing Offering	Edna Harris & Doug Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Sam & Becky Mull
Communion Clean-Up	Sam & Becky Mull
Bread Cubes	Margie Dale
Communion Assist	Margie Dale
Attendance last Sunday	45

Stewardship Thought - Resurrection of the Lord, **April 4, 2021**

So [the women] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid. –Mark 16:8

How often has fear silenced you? Too often Christians are afraid to speak up about creation care. Let us take a deep breath and put aside our fear, trusting the God of resurrection hope to guide our words and deeds as we work for a cleaner, sustainable world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hess given by The Hess Family.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

2021 Altar Flowers Chart—Kimberly will not be posting the new altar flowers chart as usual. INSTEAD, please call her to reserve your special Sunday! **Flowers will now be purchased from Royer's Florist in Chambersburg. Please note the price will change to \$35.** For the price of two flower arrangements, you can give glory to God with the beauty of His creation on the altar; commemorate a loved one; and if you choose, have your flowers given to someone who is homebound or recovering from surgery or illness.

Prayer requests for the following persons: *Family and Friends of Sylvia Wenger who died last week, Darrell Veilleux, Catherine Plummer, Tom Black, Phyllis Foreman, Mary Ellen Bower, April Hughes, Larry Lehman, Lee Locke, Jennifer Haughie, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Joyce Wildeson, Manny Negron, Jerry and Peggy Tyson, Sue Ressler, Dee Dee Fox, Jody Swartz, Quentin, Linda Small Naus, Barbara Socks, Denise Bowen, Sylvia Wenger, Patsy Wagner, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky, Jackson, Bonnie Hudson.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Relay for Life - Help support our team by purchasing a duck for the Annual Duck Derby! One duck is \$5.00 or you can purchase a Quack Pack (6 ducks) for \$25.00. Please see Becky Mull for questions and to purchase your ticket.

Thank you for your support!

If you would like to join our Relay for Life team and do not have a computer to register with our team you may call 1-800-227-2345 and ACS will help you sign up!

The April 2021 **LivingLutheran** copies are available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex.

2021 Summer Camp information is available in the pamphlet rack in the narthex for those who are interested.

Worship Time Change: Solomon's Sunday worship time now **begins at 10:15 a.m.** to accommodate children's Sunday school classes.

Maranatha Food Pantry: Our special Lenten offering has been earmarked for the Chambersburg Maranatha Food Pantry, which provides food and paper products to those in need in our community. Please place your offerings in the "Lent Offering" baskets located in the sanctuary, in the offering plate or send to the office. Please mark your donation "Lent Offering." Thank you for your generosity.

Power Packs: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. Please consider donating individual serving size fruit and vegetable cups. See Pastor Bill if you would like to give a monetary donation.

Relief for Storm Victims: Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations. Please consider giving to Lutheran Disaster Response to aid in this effort. 100% of your donation will go to aid. Make your gift out to Solomon's Lutheran Church and note on your gift "US Severe Storms." Place your gift in the offering plate or send to the office. Thank you for your generosity.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

*The Easter Flowers in
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends
have been donated by*



Linda Berberich

In memory of Renee Kelly

The Nienstedt Family

In memory of Christian & Gerry Nienstedt

In honor of David & Joan Likeness

In honor of Katy & Sam Nienstedt

Bernie & Edna Harris

*In memory of parents George & Margaret Harris
and Forrest & Lucy Wyson*

*In memory of brothers Bud Wyson & Dick Harris
and sisters Carrell Saunier & Donna Feezer*

Mark & Sally Gayman

In memory of our parents

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Rich & Janice McEntire

In memory of our parents

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Sam & Becky Mull

In memory of our loved ones

In honor of our children & grandchildren

Ron, Bonney, Kevin & Brian

In memory of Bill & Louise Coldsmith

In memory of Jack & Bea White

Wayne & Marjorie Dale

*In memory of our parents John & Hazel McKenzie
and Harold & Dorothy Dale*

Aldrich Family

In honor of our family

I try to imagine what it must have been like on that first Easter morning when there wasn't the knowledge of the resurrection. When, instead, it was all about death and disappointment. And I imagine Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb in order to care for Jesus' body, to prepare it for burial. The story was over. The hope was gone. And then someone shows up in the garden, and Mary can't recognize him. Thinking that he's the gardener, she says, "Sir, tell me where you've taken the body so that I may bring it back here."

Imagine a woman, literally, thinking that she could carry the deadweight of a man. All of that grief, the heaviness of that physically as well as spiritually, and just then Jesus speaks her name. "Mary," he says, and her eyes are open. And she can see Jesus because she has been seen by Jesus. Her name has been called by the risen Lord, and now she is part of the resurrection story that happens for all of us in baptism. Jesus has called all of us by name and knows every one of us. And we too now are part of the resurrection story. Her mourning was turned into dancing.

I'm going to leave you with this hymn from our newest worship resource, *All Creation Sings*, about the transformation of Mary's grief into joy. Happy Easter, dear Church.

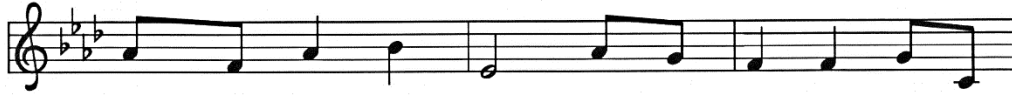
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Woman, Weeping in the Garden



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,
joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
"Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

Woman, Weeping in the Garden

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Happy Easter, dear Church.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

APRIL 4, 2021
EASTER SUNDAY

The resurrected Jesus is with us, alleluia!



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	John 21:1-18	Jesus is risen
Thursday	John 11:1-27	Jesus is the resurrection
Friday	Matthew 28:1-20	The resurrection of Jesus
Saturday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of resurrection hope, overcome our fears and gladden our hearts, for you are near with saving grace through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

Mealtime Prayer:

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Amen. Alleluia. (Psalm 118:1) (Traditional prayer for ending a meal)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ be your strength and your salvation. (Psalm 118:14)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What event have you experienced that left you speechless?
- What do you think it was like for Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James to stand before an angel at the empty tomb and receive awesome yet unbelievable news?
- The women left the tomb and said nothing to anyone. Why do you think they were afraid?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 16:1-8.

Which is harder to believe: that Jesus rose from the dead or that the Gospel of Mark ends with the words, “they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid”? In fact, later Scripture text copiers were so dismayed by the original ending that they added more verses. It just didn’t make sense that the original text seemed so bleak. Instead of saying to the world, “Christ is risen, alleluia,” they leave committed to say nothing for they were afraid. Perhaps part of the Gospel message is the realization that our human frailty will always get in the way. What is evident is that the message did get out. We are reflecting on that message now. In the midst of human frailty and failures what we celebrate on Easter Sunday is that God wins and continues to win by delivering on God’s promises no matter what. Alleluia, we as Jesus’ followers have a ministry to do for the world because Jesus rose from the dead. Yes, we may be imperfect workers, but the promise still holds true and we still have good news to tell the world. Alleluia, Jesus has been raised, is loose in the world, and is out ahead of us now. “[Jesus] is going ahead of you to [name your own destination]; there you will see him, just as he told you” (v. 7). How does knowing that Jesus goes ahead of you wherever you go impact your life as a follower?

***Pray:* God of glory and might, we give you thanks for the resurrected Christ who walks with us daily. Amen. Alleluia.**

SERVICE

There are many people who serve others and work on Easter Sunday in such places as in hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire stations, and restaurants. Is there a way you can share Easter resurrection cheer with those who are working?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Easter Day is full of church and family traditions to enrich our lives of faith. One tradition is to shout out and sing alleluias after its absence during the season of Lent. Alleluia means “praise the Lord.” Begin each day this week with the words, “Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia.” If others are present, say these words together with a high-five.