

ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Easter Sunday

We left our service Thursday Evening in total darkness to remind ourselves of the darkness that filled the earth while our Savior suffered the full punishment of our sin on the cross. We left that night in sorrow, but knowing the joy of Easter's dawn. We begin our service this morning in "darkness", but quickly experience the great light of salvation that is ours from Jesus' Resurrection.

P: Why seek the living among the dead? He is risen, as He said!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn **TLH 189 He Is Arisen, Glorious Word!**

Invocation

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Responsive Reading (From 1 Corinthians 15 and Job 19)

P: If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

C: I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

P: And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

C: And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,

P: Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

C: In my flesh I shall see God,

P: If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

C: Whom I shall see for myself,

P: But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

G: And my eyes shall behold God, and not another.

P: For since by man came death,

G: By Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

P: For as in Adam all die,

G: Even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

P: But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits,

G: Afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

P: Hallelujah! Christ has risen, as He said!

G: He has risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

P: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Christ has destroyed death.

G: And has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

Hymn: 191:1-4 Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

Hymn: WS 728 Christ is Living

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35ff.

Hymn: 198:1-4 He's Risen, He's Risen!

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-25

Hymn: 200:1-3,5,7-8 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Sermon

Luke 24:1-9

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

The Tomb Echoes One Word: Peace!

Offertory: WS 732 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heaven resounds In praise of love that still abounds, “Christ has triumphed, He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear, Repeat their song of glory here, “Christ has triumphed, Christ has triumphed!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings, “Christ has triumphed, He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life, And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Hymn: **TLH 201 Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won**

Prayers

P: Crucified and risen Savior, the world offers us false hope and peace that is easily lost. In You alone we have a living hope and peace that can never be taken from us. In You alone we have victory over death and the hope and promise of resurrection. Risen Lord,

G: In You we have life and light and victory!

P: Crucified and risen Savior, empower us as Easter people, as Your servants to carry the good news of salvation to people who are without hope. Help us to bring Your comfort and care to those who are filled with despair and fear. Risen Lord,

G: In You we have life and light and victory!

P: Crucified and risen Savior, just as You rose bodily from the dead, on the Last Day, at Your command, we too will rise, transformed and glorified, to live in Your presence forever. With all the saints we will praise You, the Lamb who was slain for us, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Risen Lord,

G: In You we have life and light and victory!

P: Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Benediction:

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn **TLH 210 The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done**

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.

Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **Voters Meeting:** April 27th will be the date for our 2nd Quarter Voters' Meeting

Call News:

- Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, WA *is considering the call* to Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, WI
- Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church of Loganville, GA *is considering the call* to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
3/23/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 745.00
3/27&30/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 895.00
4/3&6/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1405.00
4/10&13/2025	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1260.00

Upcoming Schedule:

- Sunday, April 27th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30
- Sunday, May 4th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30
- Sunday, May 11th Ascension Communion Service at 11:30