

resurrection  
**REALity**

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**The Living Lord Produces Active Faith**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

April 28/29, 2024

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

## **FOR OUR GUESTS**

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

*Restrooms:* are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

*Nursery:* We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

*For Kids:* Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

## **CURRENT SERIES: RESURRECTION REALITY**

St. Paul writes, "...in fact Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Two important words: "in fact." Paul is stressing that the resurrection really happened. Easter is history. Jesus' resurrection is the event that defines reality for us all. If Christ had remained dead, he would be a fraud and failure. But Christ has in fact been raised! So, the reality: Jesus is who he claimed to be—the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. Also his words and promises for us are sure, anchored to the reality of his resurrection. So the reality of the resurrection changes our future and the way we look at life now.

## **TODAY: THE LIVING LORD PRODUCES ACTIVE FAITH**

Generally, our actions are shaped by our beliefs. People who eat low-carb diets do so, probably not because they hate pasta, but because they believe it healthiest. If a man buys stock in a company, it probably is because he believes in their business plan. That our beliefs shape our behavior is true also of us in light of Jesus' resurrection! We believe that Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life is guaranteed. That inevitably shapes how we will act now.

Here is a resurrection reality: Our living Lord Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith, but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

OPENING HYMNS

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er  
3 Je - sus lives! For me he died; hence will I, to  
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well noth - ing me from



can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!  
Je - sus liv - ing, pure in heart and act a - bide,  
him shall sev - er. Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell



From the grave Christ will re - call me. Bright - er  
praise to him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I  
part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will



scenes will then com - mence; this shall be my con - fi - dence.  
need God will dis - pense; this shall be my con - fi - dence.  
be a sure de - fense; this shall be my con - fi - dence.

STAND

## Come, Christians Join to Sing

*As the cantor sings, the congregation joins in the "Alleluia! Amen!" where it occurs.*



1 Come, Chris-tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
2 Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;  
he is our guide and friend, to us he'll con - de - scend;



praise is his gra-cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

In the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Christ is risen! Let us worship him.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are connected to Jesus Christ, our living Lord.

**He is the vine; we are the branches.**

Jesus died on the cross. Jesus rose from death. He now lives forever. Because he lives, we too will live.

**As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are connected to Jesus Christ, our living Lord.

**He grafted us to himself through faith. The Vine gives eternal life to his branches.**

*BE SEATED*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

Rejoicing in our connection and closeness to Jesus, our vine, let us confess our sins to him, trusting in his gracious forgiveness.

**I have sinned against you, Lord, by what I have done and by what I have not done. I am sorry. I trust in your mercy. Forgive me, strengthen me, and assure me of your grace.**

## ABSOLUTION

*Announcement of forgiveness*

As a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit."

**Amen.**

## RESPONSE

### Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

*The cantor sings stanza three.*



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.  
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

# THE WORD

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.*

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## Psalm 63

*A psalm by David. When he was in the wilderness of Judah.*

<sup>1</sup>God, you are my God. Eagerly I seek you.  
My soul thirsts for you. My flesh longs for you,  
in a dry and dreary land without water.

**<sup>2</sup>Yes, in the sanctuary I have watched you  
to see your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Because your mercy is better than life,  
my lips will worship you.

**<sup>4</sup>Yes, I will bless you as long as I live.  
In your name I will lift up my hands.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul will be satisfied with rich food.  
My mouth will praise you with lips filled with songs.

**<sup>6</sup>Whenever I remember you on my bed,  
throughout the watches of the night I meditate on you.**

<sup>7</sup>Because you are a help for me,  
I sing for joy under the shade of your wings.

**<sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you.  
Your right hand upholds me.**

<sup>9</sup>But those who seek my life will go to destruction.  
They will go into the depths of the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**They will be given over to the power of the sword.  
They will become food for foxes.**

<sup>11</sup>But the king will rejoice in God.  
All who swear by him will praise him,  
but the mouths of those speaking lies will be shut.

*The first reading for today will be read as part of the sermon.*

## SECOND READING

**1 John 3:18–24**

*The Holy Spirit blesses us with active faith so that we love in action and truth.*

<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

<sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. <sup>22</sup>We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. <sup>23</sup>This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

The Gospel Acclamation is a short song of praise in anticipation of the Gospel. Before we hear the words and works of Jesus, we stand and sing, "Alleluia," the ancient word meaning "Praise the Lord!"

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:5

The cantor sings the verse. The congregation sings the parts marked "Assembly."

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*I am the vine; you are the branches.*

*If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.*

## GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

*Jesus is the vine who gives us, his branches, the ability to produce fruits of faith.*

<sup>5:1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

<sup>3</sup>“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Young children are invited to the front for a brief devotion.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Christ the Vine**

*Tune: ANTHES*

- 1 I long to serve my Savior,  
to seek what's good and right,  
to trust and never waver,  
to walk in truth and light.  
But conduct pure and holy  
requires a pow'r not mine;  
a branch is fruitful only  
when anchored in a vine.
  
- 2 There came, with grace unsparing,  
a vine from heav'n above,  
its branches meant for bearing  
the fruits of selfless love.  
This vine is Christ who offered  
his life upon a tree;  
for all my sin he suffered  
and made a branch of me.
  
- 3 And so I'll serve my Savior  
with pow'r that he provides,  
for he, my blest Redeemer,  
within my soul abides.  
The fruit of selfless giving  
will grow by God's design  
as I, the branch, keep living  
by faith in Christ the vine.

<sup>32</sup>The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. <sup>33</sup>The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

<sup>36</sup>Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup>sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

*STAND*

**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.**

## OFFERING

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).*



*During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!*

## OFFERING SONG

*What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine,  
I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need, His power is displayed  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won,  
and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

## Yet Not I

*No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven  
The future sure, the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released,  
I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete,  
still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus, you are the living Vine and you have called us your branches. Keep us connected to you through your Word and sacrament, that we bear much fruit to your glory.

As the apostles testified to your resurrection with great power, let your grace spread through us as we share your good news. Powerfully do the work of your kingdom among us.

Give guidance to the President of the United States, the governor of this state, and all local officials and authorities who govern, protect, and serve us. Give them wisdom and courage to govern and maintain order for the good of all.

We praise you for your protection from all danger, day and night. Give strength and courage to firefighters, first responders and others who help us in disasters and needs.

With your Word, make your presence known to those who are troubled, sick, or hurting, and set their hearts at rest, live in them, and strengthen them by your Spirit.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

In your name we pray,  
**Amen.**

HYMN

Christ Is with Me

*The cantor sings stanzas one and two.  
The congregation joins in singing the refrains and stanza three.*



1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death, that as he was raised  
2 I have now been graft - ed to the vine, draw - ing life from roots  
3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ, I no long - er live,



by God's glo - ry, we might walk in life made new by grace;  
rich in mer - cy, bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him,  
Christ lives in me; now I live by faith in God's own Son—



hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with him.  
fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing God.  
one who loved me so, gave him - self for me.



Christ is with me ev - 'ry - where I go;



nev - er to leave me, this I know.

STAND

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings. Go in peace.  
**Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me  
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your  
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est  
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*BE SEATED*

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Scripture Readers: Mike King (8:00 am); Dave Payne (10:45 am)

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

Cantors: Bethany Kempfert (8:00 am); Adam Schwede (10:45 am)

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### **Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won (CW 444)**

Text: tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–1897, alt.; Christian F. Gellert, 1715–1769, abr. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain.

### **Come, Christians, Join to Sing (CW 599)**

Text: Christian Henry Bateman, 1813–1889 Tune: arr. Benjamin Carr, 1768–1831; Spanish Text and tune: Public domain.

### **Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing (CW 595)**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932 © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### **Gospel Acclamation—John 15:15 (Set 2)**

Tune: © 1973 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### **Christ the Vine (CW 709)**

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Text: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: ANTHES, public domain.

### **Yet Not I**

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### **Prayer of the Church**

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### **Christ Is with Me (CW 681)**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953, alt. Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953, alt. Text and tune: © 1992 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### **Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening (CW 631)**

Text: tr. Christian Worship, 1993; Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667 Text and tune: Public domain.

### **Holy Bible**

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## CONTACT US

Dave Backus, Pastor

920.716.7987

Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher

920.858.3933

Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager

920.749.9744

Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



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