



**We Have a Meaningful Mission**

*Second Sunday of Easter*

*April 27/28, 2025*

# 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.

## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP SERIES: BECAUSE HE LIVES

In this season of Easter, it is good we review the details: who, when, where. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of Easter without thinking long and hard about Easter's significance. Jesus won! That means something! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to discuss this fact: because he lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

## TODAY'S THEME: WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL MISSION

But because Jesus lives, his followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true: Christ has risen, and is our Savior! Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life.

Sharing that good news—that's our mission. The Sunday after Easter can seem like a bit of a letdown. Chances are the church isn't quite as full. There might not be as grand of musical instrumentation. Even the lilies have begun to wilt! It might feel like the fun is all over. But the adventure has just begun, because he lives! Therefore, we have a meaningful mission. Let us open our eyes to the privilege and the opportunity.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### 453 The Tomb Is Empty sts. 1, 3–4

*The cantor sings the song. The congregation may join in on the last two refrains.*

- 1 The tomb is empty, is empty!  
Come and see where once the body lay.  
Can it be true, be true,  
that Jesus Christ is raised to life today? (Refrain)*

- 3    *The tomb is empty, is empty!*  
       *Come and touch the stone and folded shroud.*  
*Christ lives indeed, indeed. Alleluia!*  
       *Believers, shout aloud. (Refrain)*



- 4    *The tomb is empty, is empty!*  
       *Come and meet the risen Christ our Lord*  
       *in whom we have, we have our victory,*  
       *in whom is life restored. (Refrain)*

*STAND*

## HYMN

## 465 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today sts. 1-4



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" saints on  
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the  
 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has  
 4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O



earth and an - gels say. Raise your joys and  
 fight, the bat - tle won. Lo, our sun's e -  
 burst the gates of hell. Death in vain for -  
 death, is now your sting? Once he died our



tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.  
 clipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.  
 bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
 souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise.

**I will celebrate Your abundant goodness, and joyfully sing of your righteousness.**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in love.

**Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.**

The apostle Paul wrote: "What I received I passed on to you as of first importance, that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

**The Lord is risen indeed!**

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

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, “If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” This special privilege and duty Jesus has given Christians is called the Ministry of the Keys. A Christian congregation, with its called ministers, uses these keys in accordance with Christ’s command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend. Let us confess our sins to the Lord:  
**Lord of Life, I am sinful by nature. In spite of my Easter joy, I continue to fall into sinful desires, words, and deeds. I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am sorry, Lord. Have mercy on me.**

## ABSOLUTION

Behold his hands and side. Receive his Spirit and believe! Believe that he was pierced for our transgressions, and that by his wounds we are healed. You have life in his name. In the name of the risen Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins. Peace be with you.

**Amen.**

## PSALM

### Psalm 150C – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

*The cantor sings the psalm. The congregation may join in on the refrains when comfortable.*

**Refrain: Halle, halle, halle - lujah. Halle, halle, halle - lujah.**

**Halle, halle, halle - lujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah. (x2)**

*1 Praise God in this holy place,  
ev’ry nation, ev’ry race.  
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
Sound the trumpet, sound it clear;  
sound it for the world to hear.  
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
(Refrain)*

*2 Ev’rything that breathes now praise;  
sing your songs, let voices raise.  
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
Play the cymbals, play the lute;  
play the timbrel, play the flute.  
Come, make joyful music to the LORD.  
(Refrain)*

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.* O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

### FIRST READING

**Acts 5:12,17–32**

*Opposition and imprisonment would not stop the apostles from their work of witnessing.*

<sup>12</sup>Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the hands of the apostles. With one mind, they all continued meeting in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>17</sup>The high priest rose up, along with his associates (that is, the party of the Sadducees), because they were filled with envy. <sup>18</sup>They arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go, stand in the temple and keep on telling the people the whole message about this life.” <sup>21</sup>After they heard this, they entered the temple courts at daybreak and began to teach.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin (that is, the whole council of elders of the people of Israel). Then they sent orders to the jail to have the apostles brought in. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers arrived, they did not find them in the prison. They returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” <sup>24</sup>When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were puzzled about them, wondering what could have happened.

<sup>25</sup>Then someone came and reported to them, “Look! The men you put in prison are standing in the temple courts and teaching the people.”

<sup>26</sup>Then the captain went with the officers and brought the apostles in without force, because they were afraid that the people might stone them. <sup>27</sup>After they brought them in, they had them stand before the Sanhedrin. The high priest asked them, <sup>28</sup>“Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this name? Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood down on us!”

<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you arrested and killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his right hand as Ruler and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and the forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 2:6, 7 (NIV)**

*The basis for today's sermon.*

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

## 456 O Sons and Daughters of the King st. 1

1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly  
 hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL

## John 20:19–31

*Jesus helps with doubts and delivers peace to those called to share in his meaningful mission.*

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you.” <sup>22</sup>After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them  
 came their Lord most dear and said, “My peace be with you here.”  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



<sup>24</sup>But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe.”



5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard that Je - sus  
6 “Thom - as, be - hold my side,” said he, “my hands, my



had ful - filled his word, he doubt - ed that it was the Lord.  
feet, my bod - y see; and doubt not, but be - lieve in me.”



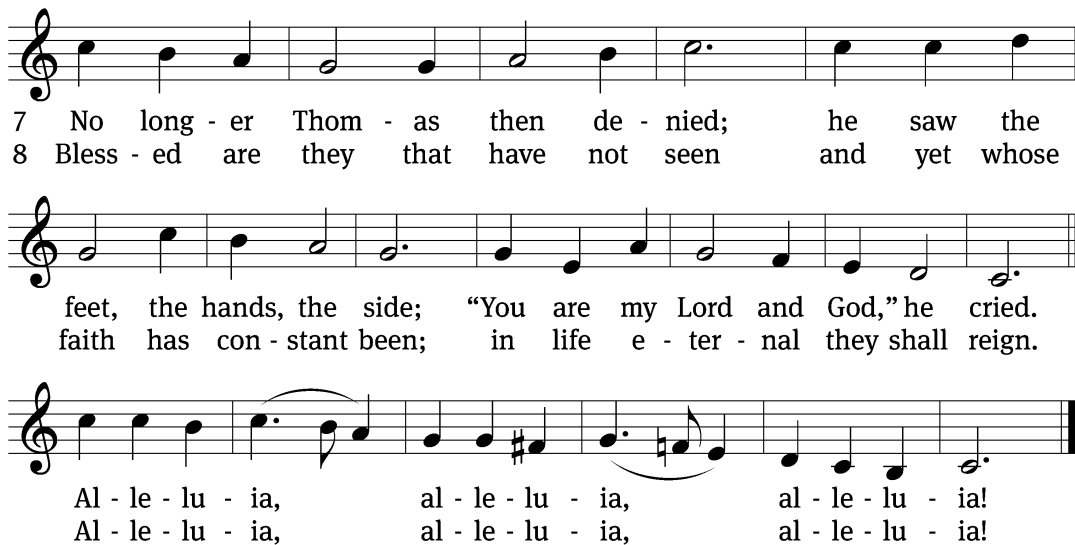
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*STAND*

<sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; he saw the  
8 Bless - ed are they that have not seen and yet whose

feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God," he cried.  
faith has con - stant been; in life e - ter - nal they shall reign.

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

*BE SEATED*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## SERMON

**Colossians 2: 6, 7**

*Living the Good Life*

*STAND*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

**Large Catechism, On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Art. of the Apostles' Creed**

**...the little word *Lord* means simply the same as *redeemer*. It means the One who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same. ...**

Yes, the entire Gospel that we preach is based on this point, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rests. It is so rich and complete that we can never learn it fully.

*BE SEATED*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness and the firstborn from the dead. To you be glory and power forever. Give us a bold and confident faith, built on the testimony of our risen Savior.

Many in our world live in doubt and fear because they do not know you. Raise them up. Lead them to repentance and give them forgiveness of sins that they may know your peace.

Ruler of the kings of the earth, govern and guide the leaders of the nations, especially the President of the United States, the governor of this state, and all federal and state legislatures, that they may maintain civil peace and security, and we may continue to worship you in peace.

Bless those who proclaim your Word and lead your churches in worship. Open their lips to declare your praise for the joy and edification of your holy people.

You have loved us and have freed us from our sins by your blood. By your love, calm the doubts and fears of those who suffer with pains of mind or body. Give them patient endurance and confidence in your power.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

In the silent prayers of our hearts we cast all our cares on you.

*Silent prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, true God and truly human, you do not change, and you are holy in all your works. Remove all our unbelief and doubt and fill our hearts with the gifts of your grace that we may believe and know you as our Lord and our God; you live and reign, now and forever.

**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

## See, What a Morning

*See, what a morning, gloriously bright  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem  
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light  
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"  
See God's salvation plan  
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

*See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us  
Will sound till He appears  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

*One with the Father, Ancient of Days  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority  
And we are raised with Him  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered  
And we shall reign with Him  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!*

## HYMN

## 905 Good News of God Above sts. 1, 3



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -  
 3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in  
 grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and  
 those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the  
 peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.  
 sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.

## STAND

Lord, give us grace to hear and obey your voice which says to every one of us "This is the way, walk in it." Do not let us hear it behind us, saying, "This is the way," but rather before us, saying, "Follow me." When you lead us, go before us. When the way is too difficult for us, carry us. In the shadow of death, comfort us. In the day of resurrection, satisfy us.

**Amen.**

## **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.

## **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.**

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN

## 746 I Love to Tell the Story sts. 1- 2



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 O won - der - ful re - demp - tion! The price for sin is paid,



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 sal - va - tion is ac - com - plished, my heart is un - a - fraid,



I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;  
 for God has raised Christ Je - sus to show the work was done;



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 his glo - rious res - ur - rec - tion de - clared the vic - t'ry won!



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presiding Minister: Pastor Dave Backus Preacher: Rev. Tom Mielke (Fox Valley Luth. High School)  
Ushers: Jeremy Fenske (8:00), Chris Zimmerman (10:45)  
Lectors: Jason Kempfert (8:00), Chris Zimmerman (10:45)  
Accompanist: Linda Nottling (Riverview, Appleton) Cantor: Emma Bodway

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### 453 The Tomb Is Empty

Text (sts. 1–4): Sylvia Dunstan, 1955–1993, alt. Tune: David Haas, b. 1957 Text: © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### 465 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. Tune: Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221; adapt. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain.

### Psalm 150C Halle, Halle, Halleluiah

Text (sts. 1–2): Hal H. Hopson; (Ref): Caribbean Text (sts. 1–2): © 1998 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Text (Ref): Public domain

### 456 O Sons and Daughters of the King

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615; Text and tune: Public domain.

### Confession of Faith

Excerpts from the Large Catechism based on the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed (paragraphs 31a & 33)..

### Prayer of the Church

Text: Adapted and reprinted from Praying with the Readings: ... Year C, copyright © 2021, 2023 Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission..

### See, What a Morning

Words and music: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend © 2003 Thankyou Music Ltd (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). Used by permission: CCLI no. 1180837.

### 905 Good News of God Above

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949 Text: © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### Closing Prayer

Prayer attributed to Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894). Reprinted from Prayers Ancient Made Modern (Annotated), copyright © 2024 Paul C. Stratman.

### 746 I Love to Tell the Story

Text (sts. 1–2): Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835–1912, refrain Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912 Text and tune: Public domain.

### Holy Bible

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