



He Lives to Restore Our Hope

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19/20, 2026

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: *WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?*

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed that he “must suffer many things; ...be killed; and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. *But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives!* The season of Easter is a 50-day celebration of that fact.

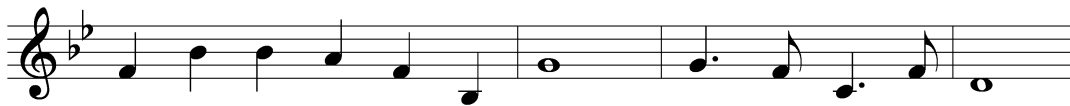


TODAY'S SERVICE: JESUS LIVES TO RESTORE OUR HOPE

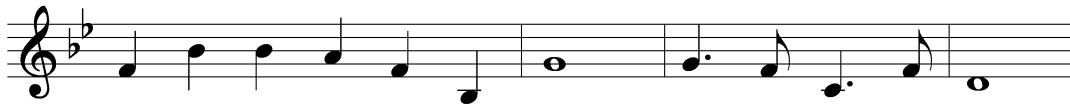
Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have little hope for the future. That's how the disciples felt after this death. "...we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21). Their hope for a better life had died along with Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Our hope for the future is restored. We have victory over the feeling of hopelessness, because the one who heals us and gives us a better life is himself alive. He lives to restore our hope.

OPENING HYMN

813 He Will Hold Me Fast sts. 1-2, Refrain



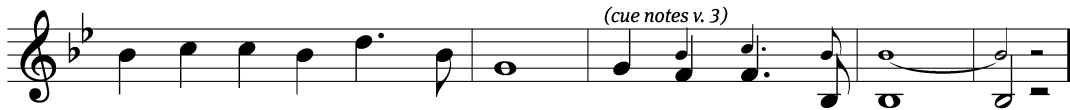
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;



when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
 pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.

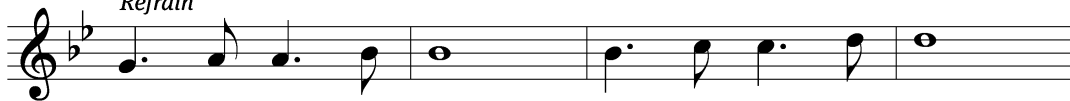


I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
 He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;

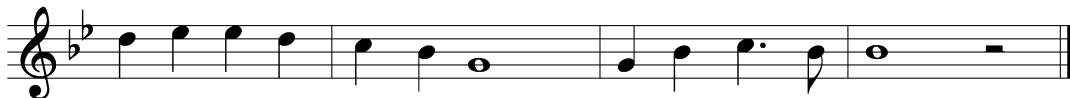


for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
 bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.

Refrain



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

STAND

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought and in word and in deed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

We confess that there have been times in which we have been loveless, thoughtless, and judgmental toward others, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

We confess that we have at times been slow to speak of the hope that is ours in Christ.

Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.

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.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN

512 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name sts. 1, 6



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
6 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throug we at his feet may fall!



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song and crown him Lord of all.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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

Acts 2:14a,32–41

The message of Christ crucified and risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

³²“This Jesus is the one God has raised up. We are all witnesses of that. ³³So, after he was exalted to the right hand of God and after he received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out what you are now seeing and hearing.

³⁴“For David did not ascend into heaven, and yet he says:

The Lord said to my Lord,

‘Sit at my right hand,

³⁵until I make your enemies

a footstool under your feet.’*^{*}

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

* Psalm 110:1

³⁸Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Escape from this crooked generation.”

⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17–21

Our hope as pilgrims heading home is to join our Savior in the glory of heaven.

¹⁷If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, ¹⁸because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 24:32

The minister sings the verse and the refrain phrases marked "cantor."

Refrain

Cantor Assembly Cantor

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

Assembly Cantor Assembly

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

*Were not our hearts burning within us
while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?* **Refrain**

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13–35

Jesus restored the hope of the two disciples as he explained the Scriptures.

Minister: Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. He said to them,

Reader: "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

Minister: Saddened, they stopped. One of them, named Cleopas, answered him,

Women: "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Reader: "What things?"

Minister: he asked them. They replied,

Cong.: "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. The chief priests

and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

Minister: He said to them,

Reader: “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?”

*Minister: Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.
As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. But they urged him strongly, saying,*

Cong: “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.”

Minister: So he went in to stay with them. When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. They said to each other,

Cong.: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?”

Minister: They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. They were saying,

Men: “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.”

Minister: They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

980 Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow sts. 2-3, 5



2 Who is this who joins our jour - ney, walk - ing with us
 3 Who are you? Our hearts are o - pened in the break - ing
 5 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" is the Eas - ter



stride by stride? Un - known stran - ger, can you
 of the bread - Christ the vic - tim, now the
 hymn we sing! Take our life, our joy, our



fath - om depths of grief for one who died?
 vic - tor liv - ing, ris - en from the dead!
 wor - ship as the gift of love we bring.



Then the won - der! When we told you how our dreams to
 Great com - pan - ion on our jour - ney, still sur - prise us
 You have formed us all one peo - ple called from ev - 'ry



dust have turned, then you o - pened wide the
 with your grace! Make each day a new Em -
 land and race. Make the Church your ser - vant



Scrip - tures till our hearts with - in us burned.
 ma - us; on our hearts your im - age trace!
 bod - y, sent to share your heal - ing grace!

Come to Bible Class with Your Risen Lord

- 1. The students*
- 2. The course*
- 3. The results*

STAND

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.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Stay with us, Lord. Make our hearts burn within us as you open the Scriptures to us. We call on the name of the Lord:

Lord, save us!

Sometimes our tears keep us from recognizing you, and we are slow to believe what the Scriptures say about you. Open our eyes, that we may see you walking with us.

And open our mouths to confess your love.

Call those who do not know you with your holy gospel, that people near and far may repent and be baptized in your name for the forgiveness of their sins.

Lord, fill them with Easter hope!

We give our thanks to you for all of your blessings to us. For those who plow and plant and for all who are part of the supply chain through whom you give us our daily bread,

Guide and bless the work they do.

Protect and save those who are brought low by the burdens of life, [*especially...*]. Lead them to trust in you in their afflictions. Deliver them, wipe all tears from their eyes, and keep their feet from stumbling.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

Silent prayer.

Jesus, lead us always;
we place our hope in you. 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 office).



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

Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

THE SACRAMENT

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men." The word "Amen" is written with a long horizontal line underneath it, indicating a sustained note.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

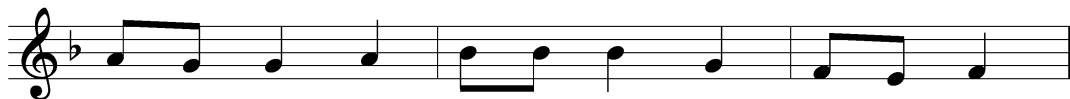
For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with our pastor.



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 port me in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

451 See, What a Morning sts. 1, 3



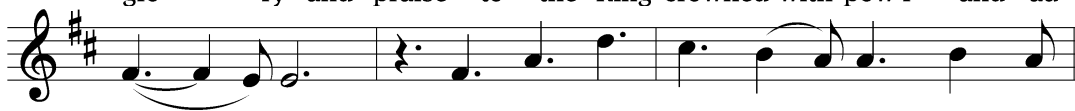
1 See, what a morn - ing, glo - rious-ly bright, with the dawn - ing of
3 One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, thro' the Spir - it who



hope in Je - ru - sa - lem; fold - ed the grave - clothes,
clothes faith with cer - tain - ty. Hon - or and bless - ing,



tomb filled with light, as the an - gels an - nounce, "Christ is
glo - ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au -



ris - en!" See God's sal - va - tion plan, wrought in
thor - i - ty! And we are raised with him; death is



love, borne in pain, paid in sac - ri - fice, ful - filled in
dead, love has won, Christ has con - quered. And we shall



Christ, the Man, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!
reign with him, for he lives: Christ is ris-en from the dead!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus. Lector: Pastor Dave Nottling (*Monday Preacher: Pastor Tim Wagner*)
Usher: Bill Neubauer (8:00am), Matt Clark (10:45am)
Lectors: Pete Neuberger (8:00am), Tim Kruse (10:45am)
Communion Assistant: Jeremy Fenske (8:00am), Michael LaBarge (10:45am)
Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

813 He Will Hold Me Fast sts. 1-2, Refrain

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512 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name sts. 1, 6

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION-Luke 24:32

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980 Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow sts. 2–3, 5

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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564 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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451 See, What a Morning sts. 1, 3

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Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

Keith & Kristyn Getty. Written by: Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty. Album: Hymns for the Christian Life. Released: 2012

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

Kathleen O'Neill, Office Manager
920.749.9744
Office.Manager@eternal-love.org

