

Compelled by the love of Christ, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School seek to reach out to our families, community and world, using Law and Gospel to make disciples, growing and nurturing them in their Christian faith and life.

Easter Festival Service

April 4, 2010

8:00 & 10:30am

The Prayer before Worship: *Almighty God, You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Bless us as we worship You. Renew our faith in Jesus, Your son, our Savior, as we hear the Gospel. Receive our praise and prayers in His Name. Give us also the joys of life in Your service and bring us to the full joy of eternal life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

We Welcome You! — To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome. To first time visitors, we extend our sincere greeting and to those who seek a church home, we offer fellowship with the living Savior. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Schultz, Pastor Schmidt and to others. We ask that everyone here today would sign our attendance record found in each pew during the offering. Please take a moment to greet one another and worship with us again soon.



We celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today. In his Word, God makes it clear that Holy Communion is to be shared by people of a common proclamation of faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). So without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. See the front of the Hymnal, page 156, for a guide for preparation.

Guests, we would love to have you attend. Please speak with one of the pastors about instruction in our Christian faith and this Sacrament so you will be ready to partake of this wonderful meal in full unity with us after that instruction. Thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.

Distribution: Choir loft goes to the back of church and up the left side of the center aisle. Balcony communicants go up the left of the center aisle. South pews go to the back of church and up the right side of the center aisle. Communicants proceed to the front down the center aisle, receive the host, then turn towards the side aisle, taking a cup from the tray or receiving the common cup from the pastor. Non-alcoholic wine, light in color, is in the center of the tray. Please reserve it for those who will be using it for health reasons.

Our Festival Order of Service This Easter Morning

P: This is the day which the Lord has made!

C: **We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

P: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you,

C: **"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."**

P: Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "This Is the Feast of Victory" #265 in CW

P: We were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we used to live when we followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

C: **All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the desires of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.**

P: Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath.

C: **Against you, you only, O LORD, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Our sins are always before us.**

P: O LORD, hear our prayer, listen to our cry for mercy;

C: **Do not bring your servants into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.**

P: "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

C: **Therefore, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace we have been saved.**

P: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

C: **Jesus Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**

P: Rejoice! I will say it again, Rejoice!

C: **We who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death.**

P: Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death,

C: **In order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

P: Since, then we have been raised with Christ, let us set our hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Let us set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.

C: **For we died, and our life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, appears, then we also will appear with him in glory.**

Song of Praise "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!"
(Church Choir and Congregation)

C: **Christ lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same!
Alleluia, alleluia!
What joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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Prayer of the Day

C: (sung) Amen.



The Scripture Readings for Easter Sunday

The First Lesson

Exodus 15:1 – 11

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. "Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble. By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. "The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.' But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters. "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? NIV

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 118 (front of Hymnal, page 108)

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:1 – 11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed. NIV

Anthem: "Resurrection Morning" (Church Choir)

The Gospel

Luke 24:1 – 12

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. NIV

Hymn of the Day: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #149 in CW

(ALL) "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.

(PULPIT SIDE) Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo, he sets in blood no more.

(ORGAN SIDE AND BALCONY) Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

(WOMEN) Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where your victory, O grave?

(MEN) Soar we now where Christ has led,
Foll'wing our exalted head.
Made like him, like him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

please stand to sing the final verse

(ALL) Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to you by both be giv'n!
God has now fulfilled his Word;
Praise the resurrected Lord!

Sermon Text: Luke 24:1 – 6

Sermon Theme: "Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?"

The Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed (front of Hymnal, page 19)

The Offering & Friendship Registers

Responsive Prayer of the Church for Easter Sunday

- P: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.
- C: **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- P: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.
- C: **Drive out all doubt and gloom from our hearts and minds, that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**
- P: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:
- C: **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

P: Lamb of God, make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying.

C: Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

P: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution and The Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Closing Prayer

C: (sung) Amen.

The Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace, live in harmony with one another, serve our Risen LORD with gladness.

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 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #157 in CW

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WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR EASTER WORSHIP!

We thank all who served our Lord Jesus and us in our worship today: ushers, organist, musicians and our church choir.

The Altar Flowers were provided by Chuck Hynek. The Easter decorations were from the Nancy Peregrine Church Beautification Fund in conjunction with church member donations. Thank you to everyone for the beautiful Easter decorations.