



The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Dawn

April 20, 2025 – 6:00 a.m.

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

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Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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In the darkness before dawn, the women walked to the tomb with heavy hearts. Jesus was dead. His mission was over. In their minds, they were feeble followers of a failure. All that was left to do was finish embalming the corpse and then try to move on with their lives. But Jesus wasn't dead. And because he lived, they were not followers of a failure at all. They were disciples of the one who had conquered sin and defeated death.

It's as simple as this. Because he lives, we have a whole new identity: not sinners, but redeemed saints; not rebels, but God's chosen nation; not doomed, but saved; not only servants, but sons and daughters of God Almighty; not losers, but victorious, because Christ gives us the victory. The living Lord has given us a whole new identity. It is all because of him. It is all because he lives.

Call to Worship

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; the Lord has risen!

He has risen indeed!

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting!

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

He's Risen, He's Risen #445:1, 4, 5

He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
he opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
and earth, sea, and mountain, the praises prolong.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.

Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
with Father and Spirit he ever shall reign.

Remember how he told you that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

In the name of the Father, who created us, the Son, who died and rose again, and the Holy Spirit, who brought us to faith and gave us new life in Christ.

Amen.

Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this dawn in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE EASTER ACCOUNT

Adapted from The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ, a harmony of the Four Gospels, based on the text of the EHV

Resurrection Account

The Empty Tomb

Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like dead men.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and anoint Jesus. Very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, while it was still dark, they went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They were saying to each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away from the tomb. When they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Hymn

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness #443:1-2

Awake, my heart, with gladness—see what today is done!
Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid where our bed must be made
when to the realms of light our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted when Christ lay in the tomb;
but lo, he now is routed, his boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free; in glorious victory
he who is strong to save has triumphed o'er the grave.

Resurrection Account

Peter and John Find an Empty Tomb

So Mary Magdalene left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved.

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,” she told them, “and we don’t know where they put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw only the strips of linen cloths lying there. The cloth that had been on Jesus’ head was not lying with the linen cloths, but was folded up in a separate place by itself. Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. (They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.)

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today #465:1-4

“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.

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.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened paradise.

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

Resurrection Account

Jesus Appears to Mary

Then the disciples went back to their homes, amazed at what had happened. But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. The other women entered the tomb. Suddenly they saw two young men dressed in dazzling white clothing sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. The women were terrified and bowed down with their faces to the ground. The angels asked Mary, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him."

The angel sitting on the right side said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid the Lord. Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?" Then they remembered his words.

"But go quickly," the angel said, "and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' See, I have told you!"

After this, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?”

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned and replied in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means, “Teacher”).

Hymn

I Know that My Redeemer Lives #441:1-3, 5

all: I know that my Redeemer lives;
what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

women: He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save.
He lives all glorious in the sky;
he lives exalted there on high.

men: He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.

all: He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart.

Resurrection Account

Jesus Appears to the Women

The women went out and hurried away from the tomb, trembling and perplexed with fear and great joy. Because they were afraid, they said nothing to anyone and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.’”

As they were on their way, there were some members of the guard who went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. After the chief priests had assembled with the elders and had reached a decision, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came at night and stole him away while we were sleeping.’ If the governor hears about it, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” After the soldiers took the money, they did as they were instructed. And this story has been repeated among the Jews until this day.

When Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them returned from the tomb, they reported to the Eleven and to all the rest who had been with them, as they mourned and wept. Mary Magdalene announced, “I have seen the Lord!” She also told them all these things he said to her. Yet when they heard that he was alive and had been seen, these words seemed to them like nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Hymn

The Day of Resurrection #450

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light
and, list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin,
let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Resurrection Account

Jesus Appears to the Emmaus Disciples

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, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" Saddened, they stopped.

One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked them.

They replied, "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.”

He said to them, “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?” 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, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.”

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, “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?”

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, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread. But they did not believe them either.

Hymn

Abide with Me #783:1-2, 7-8

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Resurrection Account

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. As they were reclining at the table, talking about these things, Jesus himself appeared, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you." He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen. But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. He took it and ate in front of them.

He said to them, “These are my words, which I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

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

But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.”



Hymn

This Is the Threefold Truth 824:1, 4-5



1 This is the three-fold truth on which our faith de - pends;
4 By this we are up - held when doubt or grief as - sails
5 This is the three-fold truth which, if we hold it fast,



and with this joy - ful cry — wor - ship be - gins and ends:
our Chris - tian faith and love, and on - ly — grace a - vails:
chang - es the world and us and brings us — home at last:



Christ has died! Christ is ris - en! Christ will come a - gain!

Easter Devotion

Confession of Faith

HYFRYDOL

♪ I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav'ns and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God's own Son, of human birth.
Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive.
Suffered under Pontius Pilate; our salvation to achieve.

Crucified, was dead, and buried, down to hell in victory;
From the dead he rose the third day; up to heavn' triumphantly.
There at God's right hand he's ruling, by his will the world is led.
He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Spirit, in his Church, his chosen band.
They are joined in close communion, holy in his sight they stand.

I believe that sins are forgiven; that the dead will rise again;
I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!

Prayer of the Church for Easter

God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, we thank and praise you for the mercy you have shown us through his glorious resurrection. Grant that on this day believers throughout the world may see the fullness of your grace and peace. Give us a living hope to believe that the grave has no power over us and that we are heirs of eternal life.

Strengthen all your people that we may be faithful to death and may receive the crown of life.

Almighty God, as your Son on this day rose from the dead for us, victorious over sin and the grave, grant that sin may no longer live in our hearts. By the power of his resurrection set our minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Grant that in Christ's resurrection we may conquer sin and find strength to resist the devil's temptations.

Rule over the nations of the earth, O Lord, that they may join the hosts of heaven in songs of Christ's victorious triumph. Bless and preserve all those who govern and guide us in this country and community so that freedom, justice, righteousness, and peace may prevail. Watch over the members of our armed forces as they protect our nation from harm and evil. Give contentment to service personnel and their families as they spend these holy days apart from one other.

Comfort those who mourn the loss of those they love and sustain the innocent who are caught in the carnage and cruelty of war.

In every adversity and trial preserve us, O Lord. Heal the sick and give them

the sure hope of a glorious body in the resurrection of the dead. With the promises of this great day remove the fear of death from the hearts of the dying and the sadness of death from hearts that feel the loss of family and friends. Defend the weak and vulnerable, especially the unborn, the aged, those who are hungry, homeless, unemployed, and those who are struggling under the load of troubles and trials.

Give your gracious favor to our homes and families and bless us with Easter's joy and consolation.

We give thanks for all those who have died and now live with Christ in the triumph of Easter, especially our own loved ones.

Unite us with them in the hope of the resurrection of the dead.

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

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Rejoicing with the whole Church, now clothed in the brightness of Christ's resurrection light, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord

Amen.

Offering

Prayer

Lord God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Amen.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Closing Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns #511:1-3

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King thro' all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

This Week at Zion

Today:	9:00 a.m.	Easter Festival Service
Tue:	2:30 p.m.	KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
Wed:	6:00 p.m.	Catechism Instructions
Thu:	7:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sat:	8:00 a.m.	Spring Work Day at church
Sun:	7:30/9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Adult bible study
	4:00 p.m.	Lutheran Chorale Concert – St. Lucas, Milwaukee

Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors this morning. May the amazing news of our risen Savior renew you in joyful service to our gracious God.

In our Prayers Mike Pamperin & Rhea Schmidt, hospitalized at St. Agnes in Fond du Lac; Herbie Justman, hospitalized at Froedtert – West Bend, following a surgery to remove an infection in his hip.

You're invited to join us for our Easter breakfast following the worship service this morning. Members, visitors, family, and friends - please join us!

Special Thanks Bea Pamperin, our organist this morning. We also thank Sue Brueggeman, Gerald & Elaine Schulz, their breakfast prep crew and all who helped set up, organize, cook and donate all the items for our Easter breakfast; those who sponsored all the Easter lilies in the church, the Sunday School children for the placemats at breakfast, and all who helped decorate for our Easter celebration.

Work Day God willing, the weather ***this Saturday*** will allow us to have our Spring workday in the morning. If that is the case, we could use your help to spruce up our buildings and grounds, both outside and inside. Bring your landscaping tools, edgers, sweepers, wheelbarrows, and whatever else would make the job easier. For insider cleaners, we have everything needed. We'll begin at 8 a.m. or whenever you can get here in the morning.

Please pick up a church calendar, newsletter, *Forward in Christ*, or anything you may have missed from your church mailboxes.

2025 Memorial Lilies

In Loving Memory of:

James & Diane Bartelt	Kevin & Tera Bartelt
Harold & Maidy Boettcher	James & Kimberly Hartmann
Mike & Irene Briski	Steve & Patti Rohde
Elroy & Carol Bublitz	Kenn & Gail Kurtz
Wayne & Nancy Bublitz	Mathew & DeAnna Kedinger
Kenneth & Sylvia Cole	Dan & Tracey Ehlke
John & Verna Diels	Joyce Diels, Carol Fuchs
Sam Ernisse	Lyle & Karen Ernisse
Ethan Etta	Judy Etta Family
Virginia Feucht	Matt & Mindy Feucht
Joe Fuller	Tom & Laurie Hicken
Carol Galleske	Galleske Family
Clarence & Elvera Giese, Rudy & Vinelda Schulz	Henry & Barbara Kluever
Gary Gehl	Lucas & Marissa Gehl
Jill Gudex	Gene Gudex
Vernon & Evelyn Guhl	Mathew & DeAnna Kedinger
Grandparents	Stensaas Family
Wilmer & Alice Herman	Tim & Tracy Herman Family
Mary Hicken	Tom & Laurie Hicken
Denise Karch	Jeff & Kim Karch
Gordon & LouAnn Kluever	Matthew, Emily Kluever, Elizabeth Hesprich
Larry Krajcik	Steve & Chris Bode
Larry Krajcik	Carol Krajcik
Larry Krajcik, Lee Krajcik	Becky Baumeister
Lee Krajcik	Carol Krajcik
Clarence & Genevieve Kurtz	Kenn & Gail Kurtz
Edward Krebs	Darlene Krebs Family

Gordie & RoseAnn Leavens
Peggy LeClair
Cherl Maney, Dennis Jacoby
Norman Martin
Donald & Marian Musack
Roland & Shirley Nickel
Harry & Lillian Oelhafen
Tom Oelhafen
Howard & Violet Pfennig,
Eugene & Leona Salzman
Verna Resch
Carol Retzlaff
Ken & Margret Rohde
Shirley Ruhnke
Debbie Schairer
Debbie Schairer (2)
Allen & Patsy Schulz
Jenny Schulz
Rudy & Vinelda Schulz
Martin & Ruth Steinbach
Arthur & Pearl Terlinden
Arthur & Pearl Terlinden
Merlin Volm
Duane Wipperfurth
Joanne J. Zautner

Dawn Marie Traindl
Kevin & Tera Bartelt
Tim & Tracy Herman Family
Darlene Krebs Family
Lois Kohlwey
Crystal Ruhnke
Judy Etta Family
Darleen Oelhafen
Gene & Janet Salzman

David & Jane Resch
Britany Wade
Steve & Patti Rohde
Matt & Mindy Feucht
Crystal Ruhnke
Jacob Schairer
Matthew, Emily Kluever, Elizabeth Hesprich
Gerald & Elaine Schulz
Marv & Sue Brueggeman
Marv & Sue Brueggeman
Darlene Krebs Family
Dennis & Debby Terlinden
Dennis & Debby Terlinden
Lyle & Karen Ernisse
James I. Zautner

To the Glory of God:
Cheri Falk