

April 7, 2024  
2nd Sunday of Easter



BUT IN FACT  
*Christ has  
been raised*  
FROM THE DEAD, THE FIRST FRUITS OF  
THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #408

“Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory”

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**Confession of Our Sins**

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*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

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**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

**Absolution from Our God**

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*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*

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**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Response: TLH #199:4**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

**C** ♪ **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**

**Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!**

**Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

## The Introit

Ps. 81:1, 7, 10, 16; 1 Pet. 2:2

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** Like newborn infants, Alleluia, long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alleluia.
- C** **Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!**
- P** "In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder."
- C** **"I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."**
- P** "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it; and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you

shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

## **John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have

seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## Reception into Membership

*Cindy Fletcher*



### Confession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

#### I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn: TLH #208:4-8**

*"Ye Sons and Daughters of the King"*

## 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

### “Living with the Resurrection Perspective”

*Preaching today is Pastor Frank Gantt  
of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Loganville, GA.*

#### **The Offertory**

*In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.*

- ☩** *♩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

**Sermon Hymn: TLH #198** *“He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus”*

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

## ✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

**The Preface** *To the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

- P**     ♪ *The Lord is with His people;  
Now may He be with you.*
- C**     ♪ ***The Lord is with His servants;  
May He be with you, too.***
- P**     ♪ *Now lift your hearts to praise Him.*
- C**     ♪ ***To God we lift them high.  
'Tis right to praise and thank Him  
Who to His world draws nigh.***

**P** Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment, for sending your Son, the very Paschal Lamb, Who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**The Sanctus** *To the tune of "Ye Sons and Daughters"*

- C**     ♪ ***Holy are You, the heav'nly King!  
With angel hosts we join to sing,  
"Your majesty fills ev'rything!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
- Holy are You, our Lord most high!  
Blessed is He who now draws night  
In God's own name! With joy we cry:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***
- Holy are You, through endless days!  
Our glad hosannas now we raise  
To greet You with exalted praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **The Words of Institution**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

## **The Agnus Dei** *To the tune of "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"*

**C**    ♪ **Lamb of God, You take away  
All the sinful world's transgression;  
Let Your mercy now, we pray,  
And Your peace be our possession.  
Grant us from our sins release;  
Lord, have mercy, grant us peace!**

## **Communion Today is for Members Only Please**

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

## **✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠**

## **Thanksgiving**      *To the tune of "I Know that My Redeemer"*

**C**    ♪ **Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!  
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
And we have tasted of His word.**




**As His own servants we depart  
With His salvation in our heart.  
His saving power He has made known;  
His love through all the earth is shown.**


**Lord, let us show the world Your light;  
Let us declare Your glory bright,  
Proclaim Your death until You come  
To take Your ransomed servants home.**

**Glory to God, the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!**

### **The Benediction**

*To the tune of "The Church's One..."*

**P**  *The good Lord bless and keep you,  
Lift up His smiling face,  
With favor look upon you  
And grant eternal peace.*

**G**  ***To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
Most gracious One-in-Three,  
The Church sings alleluia!  
Now and eternally. Amen.***

### **Hymn: WS #759**

*"These Are the Facts"*

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**Thank you!** Thank you to Pastor Gantt for sharing with us the Word of God this morning. Pastor Gantt is on his way to Eau Claire for CLC Coordinating Council meetings. Missionary Ohlmann will be in Eau Claire for the same. Ask that the Lord would grant them safe travel and would bless both their meetings and our church through their work.

**Welcome!** – Please give your warmest welcome to Cindy Fletcher. We praise the Lord for leading her back to our fellowship. The love and encouragement of Christian fellowship is such a dear treasure, and I thank God that we have the opportunity to enjoy this unity together with Cindy.

**Wednesday Bible Class** resumes this Wednesday. We are picking back up with the book of Acts, beginning with chapter 24. If you plan on attending, be sure to read back a few chapters to catch back up to where we are with the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul! And if you haven't joined us before, please consider starting this week!

**High School Visitor's Day** - Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI will host their annual High School Visitors Day on Friday, April 26, 2024 for students grades 7 and up. A schedule of events and online registration can be found at [www.ilc.edu](http://www.ilc.edu). Please register students and chaperones by Friday, April 19. A theater performance of The Crazy Cowgirls of Pemberley Ranch (an adaptation of Pride and Prejudice) will take place on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm. Friday night's play performance will be livestreamed (but not recorded) at [youtube.com/@ilcvideos](https://youtube.com/@ilcvideos). The Immanuel Band will perform before the play on Friday at 7:00 pm, and student talent performances will take place Saturday at 7:00 pm. Performances are free and open to the public. For more information please contact Prof. Joel Gullerud ([joel.gullerud@ilc.edu](mailto:joel.gullerud@ilc.edu) 715-544-8446).

**CLC Call News:** Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Grace Ev. Lutheran in Sleepy Eye, MN. **has accepted the call** from Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Mankato, MN. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ **is still considering the call** to Berea Lutheran Church and School, Inver Grove Heights, MN. <> Mrs. Karen Swyter, a member of Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, **is still considering the call** to be the 1st & 2nd grade teacher of Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Ms. Ann Sprengeler **is still considering the limited call** from Grace Lutheran in Valentine, Ne to teach the Grace lower grades from August through December 2024. <> Ms. Katie Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran School in Winter Haven, FL **has received the call** to teach at Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI.

## Things Will Look Better in the Morning

*Written by CLC Pastor Michael Eichstadt*

At the end of an especially rough, discouraging day, someone may tell you, "Don't worry. Things will look better in the morning." Often they do. A good night's rest can put troubles into proper perspective. They may not be the disaster you had envisioned at the time.

It would be a huge understatement to say that Good Friday was a "rough day." God's Son was nailed to a cross. Jesus suffered the shame and indignity of a public execution. For hours He endured the pain and mocking. Even the heavenly Father turned His back on Him, and the entire world went dark. Finally, Jesus died, and with His death, hope died in the hearts of His disciples. They couldn't imagine anything more devastating and permanent.

Yet things would look better on Sunday morning. Jesus had told them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life" (Matt. 17:22-23). What appeared to be a terrible disaster was the means by which God would bring about the greatest blessing for humankind. Before He died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" and it was. Sin was paid for in full, and the world was reconciled to God. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Things truly do look better in the light of Easter morning. No matter what troubles make a day discouraging, Jesus' resurrection is the assurance that God is not angry with us. We are His forgiven children in Christ. No matter how hard life may be, remember, Jesus lives to hear your prayers and will answer each one in love. When this life is wearisome and wears you down, look to the Easter dawn which is a preview of the resurrection and eternal life to come in the glory of heaven.

Even in the face of the most overwhelming enemies, the light of Easter shines through. Jesus lives! Therefore nothing can separate us from His love. Things really will look better in the morning!

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

-Psalm 119:105

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**Mon John 21:15-17** The risen Lord brings restoration to Simon Peter. Peter, who so recently denied knowing Jesus, now finds comfort in the fact that Jesus knows (and forgives) him.

**Tues John 21:18-24** Jesus indicates the kind of death by which Peter will glorify God. He can face such a death by following his risen Lord. The same Lord will also take care of John and the others in His own way.

**Wed John 6:65-71** After Jesus' resurrection, how the disciples must have remembered all the times that He had prepared them for the suffering and triumph that lay ahead! He not only **has** the words of eternal life (v68), but He **is** the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

**Thurs 1 John 4:1-6** The faith that the Spirit of God works in us is one that confesses that the human Jesus is the divine Messiah. This is what makes the difference between those from God and those from the world.

**Fri 1 Peter 1:22-25** It is through the living and enduring word of God that we have been born again, purified through His forgiveness in Christ. His great love for us is reflected in our love for one another.

**Sat Genesis 32:22-31** At a time of uncertainty in his life, Jacob seeks a blessing from God (v30) rather than from his own cleverness. His wrestling partner can dislocate with a mere touch, but blesses Jacob and gives him a new name: Israel.