



***Festival Easter Worship
St. John's Lutheran Church
April 20, 2025***

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

We warmly welcome all members and guests to St. John's on this Easter Sunday.

This is the day the Lord has made!

Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new!

*Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings
life to everyone.*

*We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's
faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women
at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful.*

We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on
camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are
part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and
stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

**Prelude:..... "Sicilienne-Maria Theresia von Parados", arr. Peterson
"Easter Fantasy on Ancient Hymns", Sondra K. Tucker
South Hills Brass Quintet**

Welcome:

***Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you,
O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you,
O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you,
O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

***Processional Hymn:.....“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” ELW #365**



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

***Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day:**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, 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 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm:.....Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

(Congregation sings the printed refrain, the choir will sing the gospel verse, then the refrain is repeated.)



***Gospel:.....Luke 24:1-12**

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

The Gospel of Luke, beginning with the twenty fourth chapter and the first verse.

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed 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, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Children's Sermon:..... Rev. Keith Weatherford

Sermon:.....Rev. Keith Weatherford

Silence for reflection.

***Hymn of the Day:** “The Head That Once Was Crowned”

South Hills Brass
St. John’s Sanctuary Choir
Combined Bell Choirs

Thomas Kelly, 1769-1845

TRIUMPHANT
Tune and Setting by JOHN A. BEHNKE



- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|------------|-------|--------|--------|------------|-----------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|----------|------|--------|
| 1. All | The | head | that | once | was | crowned | with | thorns | Is | crowned | with | glo - ry | now; | A |
| 2. All | The | high - est | place | that | heav'n | af - fords | Is | his | by | sov' reign | right, | The | | |
| 3. Choir | The | joy | of | all | who | dwell | a - bove, | The | joy | of | all | be - low | To | |
| 4. Choir | To | them | the | cross, | with | all | its | shame, | With | all | its | grace, | is | giv'n; |
| 5. Choir | They | suf - fer | with | their | Lord | be - low; | They | reign | with | him | a - bove; | Their | | |
| 6. All | The | cross | he | bore | is | life | and | health, | Though | shame | and | death | to | him; |



roy - al	di - a - dem	a - dorns	The	might - y	vic - tor's	brow.
King	of	kings	and	Lord	of	lords,
And	heav'n's	e - ter - nal	light,			
whom	he	man - i - fests	his	love,	And	grants
his	name,	an	ev - er - last - ing	name,	Their	joy,
the	joy	of	heav'n.			
pro - fit	and	their	joy	to	know	The
mys - t'ry	of	his	love.			
peo - ple's	hope,	his	peo - ple's	wealth,	Their	ev - er - last - ing
them!						

Service of Holy Baptism:ELW page 227
Ashley Marie Russell
Stormy Gisela Russell
Regan Elaine Russell
Calliope Elaine Russell

***Prayers of Intercession:**

Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):

God of Grace

hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace:**

...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering:

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Music:....."Easter Carol" by Shafferman and Drennan
St. John's Sanctuary Choir
Kirsten Weatherford, Hand Drum
Rose McDonald, Tambourine
Abby Nyhof, Flute

***Offering Prayer:**

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life, and so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus:(“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” ELW #413, Verse 1)**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**



***Words of Institution:**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, 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.” Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again. Amen!



***Lords 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***Invitation to Communion:**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Lamb of God:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Special Communion Music:..... ..“Let Joyful Alleluias Ring!” by Michael Ryan
Celebration Ringers**

**“Joy and Celebration” by Lee J. Afdahl
Bells of St. John’s**

***Prayer after Communion:**

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

***Benediction:**

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

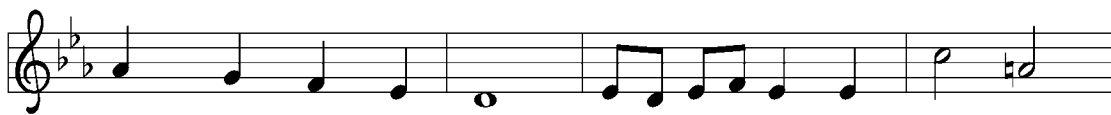
***Sending Hymn:..... “Thine is the Glory” ELW #376**



- 1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
- 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

***Dismissal:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude: “Hallelujah Chorus” by G. F. Handel, arr. Peterson
South Hills Brass Quintet



Musicians

South Hills Brass Quintet:

Trumpet– Shaun Deola, Carl Anderberg; Horn-Laura McDonald
Trombone-Lily Olson; Tuba– Tom Mazanec

Bells of St. Johns:

Cliff Roessner; Christina Tielking-Director; Ian Gutierrez
Angel Tetrault; Jessica Gutierrez; Renee Slocum-Director
Izabella Twoteeth; Johanna Tielking

Celebration Ringers:

Art Butler; Angela Conley; Kari Leonard; John Munding
Lilly Olson; Lynn Steinmetz; Angel Tetrault; Kirsten Weatherford

Ringers for “The Head That Once Was Crowned”:

Art Butler; Kari Leonard; Abby Nyhof; Lynn Steinmetz
Angel Tetrault; Christina Tielking; Kirsten Weatherford

St John’s Sanctuary Choir:

Soprano: Teresa Kinley; Laura McDonald; Rose McDonald
Gretchen Munding
Alto: Angela Conley; Mary Ruedisili; Jennifer Wintersteen
Tenor: John Munding; Craig Steenberg; Cliff Roessner
Sharon Stockstad
Bass: Neal Ruedisili, Gordon Stockstad, Greg Zeihen

In our prayers:

Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Ann Hadley, Mary Lou Hadley, Dan Jacobson, Craig Steenberg

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy:

Evan Ceaicovschi

For St Johns Lutheran Flock:

The Branscum Family, The Hanson Family, The Johnson Family

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:

All the Saints in Heaven

For Missionaries: Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

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Connie Conley 406-431-6835
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Youth and Family Ministry & Organist:

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Church Office:

Bonnie Stevens 406-442-6270

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Presiding: Pastor Keith Weatherford

Cantor: Frederick Frey

Head Usher: Gail Vennes

Communion: Tami Rhodes, Lee Rhodes, Paul Gronbeck, Laura Nachtsheim

Lector: Jennifer Wintersteen

Streaming/Power Point: K'lynn Sloan Harris

Pianist/Organist: Gretchen Munding

Choir Director: Connie Conley

Prayer Station: Mary Crosby

Altar Guild: Darcie Dunlap, Linda Wollitz, Judy Kembel

Sacristan: Darcie Dunlap

Acolytes:

Greeter/Coffee Servers:

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Jenny Taylor: 406-459-4376 — jennytaylorlea@gmail.com

Flower and Altar Decoration Dedications for Easter, 2025

Esther Fuehrer in memory of Dale Fuehrer

Jonathan Schoof in memory of Rev. Armond and Arlette Schoof, Brian Schoof, Robert Erskine

Keith and Kirsten Weatherford in memory of Bob Weatherford, Don Fox

Gary and Karen Johnson in memory of John and Hilda Carlson

Angela and Connie Conley in memory of Edwin and Hilde Flegel, Don and Barb Conley, Charles Conley

Annette Jacobson in memory of James and Ann Jacobson

John and Gwynn Mundinger in memory of Robert and Gertrude Ehlers, Gerhard and Jean Mundinger

Tanner and Denice Harris in memory of Bill and Bernice Dennis

Karen Tobel in memory of Frank Tobel, parents and grandparents

Cliff and Linda Roessner in memory of Elmer and Mabel Roessner and Arthur and Olivia Gunderson

Frederick and Susan Frey in memory of Edwin and Margaret Frey and Edmond and Bessie Schwarting

Tiffaney Lyden, and Moser family in memory of Astrid and Rom Moser

Bill Puknat in memory of Edith Puknat and Tom Geary and in Thanksgiving for Jean Pukna

Linda Wollitz in memory of Lowell Wollitz