



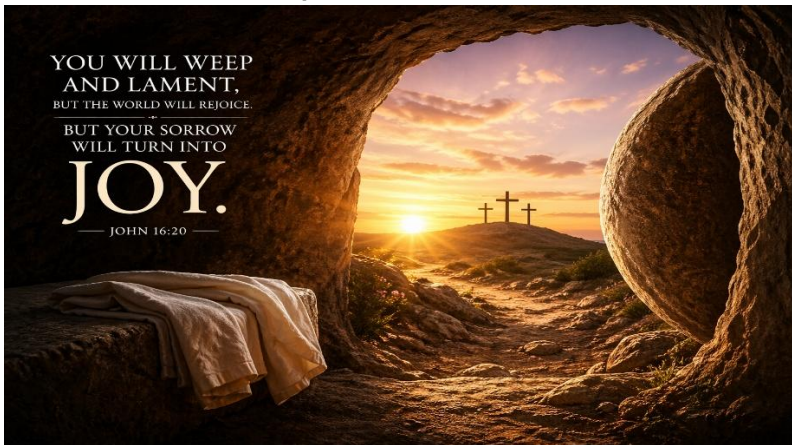
<https://manchester.clclutheran.org/>



<https://www.zelcloganville.com/>

Pastor Frank Gantt  
(470-214-3401)

April 26, 2026



**Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession**  
<https://clclutheran.org/>

**WELCOME:** *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

*Though the people of God pass through seasons of grief, discipline, and tears, His steadfast love never ceases, His mercies are new every morning, and therefore hope in Him is never misplaced. In this world believers often endure sorrow, misunderstanding, and hardship, yet Christ assures His Church that such pain is only for a little while and will be turned into joy through His death and resurrection. Therefore Christians live as pilgrims in patience and faith, confident that the Lord who wounds also heals, who hides Himself for a moment will reveal Himself again, and whose saving mercy has the final word.*

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER:** *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

**HYMN: #192** (1,2, 3, 6)      *Awake, My Heart, With Gladness*

**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**

**This is a sight that gladdens;  
What peace it doth impart!  
Now nothing ever saddens  
The joy within my heart.  
No gloom shall ever shake,  
No foe shall ever take  
The hope which God's own Son  
In love for me hath won.**

**Now I will cling forever  
To Christ, my Savior true;**

**My Lord will leave me never,  
Whate'er He passeth through.  
He rends Death's iron chain,  
He breaks through sin and pain,  
He shatters hell's dark thrall,--  
I follow Him through all.  
Amen.**

## **INVOCATION**

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Cong: (spoken) Amen.**

## **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

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

**Cong: 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.**

*Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and His truth is not in us.*

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

*Pastor: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer and seek His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.*

**Cong: 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, of Your bountiful mercy, be merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

*Pastor: 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.*

**Cong: 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.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: Merciful Father in heaven, the Strength of them that trust in You, we praise You for Your compassion toward us who are weak because of the corruption that is in us. Hear the prayer of Your people and continually supply us all that we need for this life and for that which is to come. Shower upon us Your grace so that in the midst of our frailties we might always take refuge in Him who is the Rock of our Salvation, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.*

**Cong: Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Lamentations 3:22-32**

(EHV) By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. (23) They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. (24) My soul says, "The LORD is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him." (25) The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. (26) It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (27) It is good for a man that he bears a yoke early in his life. (28) Let him sit alone and be silent, because the LORD has laid this upon him. (29) Let him stick his face in the dust. Perhaps there still is hope. (30) Let him turn his cheek toward the one who strikes him. Let him be filled with disgrace. (31) For the Lord will not push us away forever. (32) Even though he brings grief, he will show compassion on the basis of his great mercy.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 John 3:1-7**

(EHV) See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. (2) Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. (3) Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure. (4) Everyone who commits sin also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that he appeared in order to take away our sins and in him there is no sin. (6) Anyone who remains in him does not sin. The person who keeps on sinning has not seen him or known him. (7) Dear children, do not let anyone deceive you. Whoever does what is right is righteous just as Jesus is righteous.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

*The Apostolic Creed*

**I believe God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church – the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**In You is gladness  
Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By You are given  
The gifts of heaven,  
You the true Redeemer are.  
Our souls are waking;  
Our bonds are breaking.  
Who trusts You surely  
Has built securely  
And stands forever. Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining  
To see Your shining,  
Dying or living  
To You are cleaving  
Now and forever. Alleluia!**

**If He is ours,  
We fear no powers,  
Not of earth or sin or death.  
He sees and blesses  
In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story  
Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever. Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness,  
Win over sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him  
And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever. Alleluia!**

## **THE SERMON: John 16:16-22**

(EHV) “In a little while you are not going to see me anymore, and again in a little while you will see me, because I am going away to the Father.” (17) Therefore some of his disciples asked one another, “What does he mean when he tells us, ‘In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going away to the Father?’” (18) So they kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand what he’s saying.” (19) Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you trying to determine with one another what I meant by saying, ‘In a little while you are not going to see me, and again in a little while you will see me’? (20) Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. (21) A woman giving birth has pain, because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, because of her joy that a person has been born into the world. (22) “So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

# **“Labor Pains”**

## **OFFERTORY**

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

## **GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN:#523** (1, 3, 4, 5, 8) *Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me*

**Why should cross and trial grieve me?**

**Christ is near With His cheer;**

**Never will He leave me.**

**Who can rob me of the heaven**

**That God's Son For my own**

**To my faith hath given?**

**God oft gives me days of gladness;**

**Shall I grieve If He give**

**Seasons, too, of sadness?**

**God is good and tempers ever**

**All my ill, And He will**

**Wholly leave me never.**

**Hopeful, cheerful, and undaunted**

**Ev'rywhere They appear**

**Who in Christ are planted.**

**Death itself cannot appal them,**

**They rejoice When the voice**

**Of their Lord doth call them.**

**Death cannot destroy forever;**

**From our fears, Cares, and tears**

**It will us deliver.**

**It will close life's mournful story,**

**Make a way That we may**

**Enter heavenly glory.**

**Thou art mine; I love and own Thee.**

**Light of Joy, Ne'er shall I**

**From my heart dethrone Thee.**

**Savior, let me soon behold Thee  
Face to face - May Thy grace  
Evermore enfold me!  
Amen.**

**THE BENEDICTION**

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*

**Cong: Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VIDEO STREAMING:** Pastor Gantt has been in touch with technical support regarding our video streaming issues. As of yet, there is no resolution to the issue. Hopefully by next week we will be back up and streaming to our normal YouTube channel.

**CALL NEWS** Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received and accepted the vacancy call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> The Call Committee for Graduates has extended the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY, to ILC Education Program Graduate Mr. Orrin Hanel <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI.

## SINGING UNTO THE LORD--IN TIME THROUGH ETERNITY



Scripture makes frequent references to believers singing the praises of the Lord. The Psalmist exhorts the waiting children of God. "Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). Believers in Christ sing praises to the God of their salvation as they wait for the call Home, where they will join the angels and the saints in the heavenly choir.

The apostle John records, "Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. *And they sang a new song*, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.' *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'* And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" (Revelation 5:8-13).

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth” (Revelation 14:1-3).

Returning from an inspiring Easter worship, homeward conversation turned to singing. The comment was made that, while we will sing in heaven, we will not sing the hymns in heaven that we sang in church because the songs of faith we sing here sing of future hope which will have been fulfilled when we are in heaven with the Lord. Among the many hymns we sing in our days of anticipation, one is “Jerusalem, My Happy Home.”

The *Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal* (1942- W.G. Polack) indicates the origin of the hymn is unsure. Polack wrote, “In the British Museum there is a manuscript of the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, containing a poem of the 26 stanzas.”

In the twenty-first century it seems the world could hardly be more evil than before the flood when, “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). Three things we do know. First, God is the judge. Secondly, the gracious Lord does not desire the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn in repentance to Him; thirdly, He will decide when to close the curtain on this world.

Believers in Christ live and sing with eager anticipation of the Lord’s return when, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these

things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:10-13), In the heavenly Jerusalem there will be no remembrance of sin or labor.

The faithful who recognize they are strangers and foreigners in this world sing,

I'm but a stranger here,  
Heav'n is my home;  
Earth is a desert drear,  
Heav'n is my home.  
Danger and sorrow stand  
Round me on every hand;  
Heav'n is my fatherland,  
Heav'n is my home. (TLHI-660-CPH 1941)

The apostle Peter concluded the second epistle, “Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand,



which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved,

since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:14-18).

The last stanza of the following aforementioned 26 stanza hymn reads:

Jerusalem, my happy home,  
Would God I were in thee!  
Would God my woes were at an end  
The joys that I might see!

In the milieu of this present world, it is the heartfelt hope of every Christ-believer to be in the heavenly home which our Father has graciously prepared for His children through the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ Who, before His ascension, said He was going to prepare a place for us when He returns. (John 14:3) Of that hope we sing in the abbreviated version of “Jerusalem, My Happy Home.”

1. Jerusalem, my happy home,  
Name ever dear to me,  
When shall my labors have an end?  
Thy joys when shall I see?

2. When shall these eyes thy heav'n-built walls  
And pearly gates behold,  
Thy bulwarks with salvation strong,  
And streets of shining gold?

3. Oh, when, thou city of my God,  
Shall I thy courts ascend  
Where evermore the angels sing,  
Where Sabbaths have no end?

4. Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there  
Around my Savior stand;

And soon my friends in Christ below  
Will join the glorious band.

5. Jerusalem, my happy home,  
When shall I come to thee?  
When shall my labors have an end?  
Thy joys when shall I see?

6. O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare  
For that bright home of love  
That I may see Thee and adore  
With all Thy saints above. (TLH--618 )

Pastor Daniel Fleischer, Em.

# Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

## April 27 - May 02, 2026

**Mon John 16:16-23** After Easter Jesus' disciples must have remembered these words, spoken by Him on the night of His betrayal. Now that He had returned to them, their sorrow was certainly turned to joy (v20).

**Tues 1 Peter 2:11-12** The resurrection of Jesus makes such a difference in our lives! Now we have a future ahead of us that makes our stay here, with all it's temptations to sin, merely temporary, until He comes.

**Wed 1 Peter 2:13-20** As people freed by the resurrection, may we not use our freedom to indulge ourselves, but rather to glorify God by doing good. If we suffer for doing good, and endure it, God is glorified.

**Thurs Lamentations 3:18-26** In spite of affliction and suffering, the prophet remembers the mercies of the Lord, and he has hope. Wait for the Lord. It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord (v26).

**Fri Psalm 146** Hallelujah! (Praise the Lord!) Assured of life through Jesus' resurrection, I will praise the Lord forever (v2)! Human helpers are so limited, but the Maker of heaven and earth reigns forever (v10).

**Sat Psalm 75** Thanks be to God that He rules and upholds the earth. The wicked, who wag their horns at Him, will surely be brought down, even as the righteous will be lifted up (v10). Oh, give thanks!