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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.*

The risen Christ comes to fearful and doubting sinners not with condemnation, but with the concrete peace of sins forgiven, grounded in His crucified and risen body. What is not seen with the eyes is made certain by His Word, which creates faith where fear once ruled and replaces doubt with confession: "My Lord and my God." Therefore, the life of the Church is lived not by sight or circumstance, but by the sure promise that Christ's victory over sin and death is now given to us through His Word.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

HYMN: #188

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

**Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy halls of death
Christ the Conqueror has gone,
Bright Forerunner to the skies
Of His people, yet to rise.**

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice!
Praise Him, ransomed ones of earth.
Praise Him in a nobler song,
Cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway
Sin and death and hell obey.**

**Jesus lives! Why weepest thou?
Why that sad and frequent sigh?
He who died our Brother here
Lives our Brother still on high.
Lives forever to bestow
Blessings on His Church below.**

**Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
Life eternal waits for thee;
Joined to Him, thy living Head,
Where He is, thou, too shalt be;
With Himself, at His right hand,
Victor over death shalt stand.**

Jesus lives! To Him my heart
Draws with ever new delight.
Earthly vanities, depart,
Hinder not my heavenward flight.
Let this spirit ever rise
To its Magnet in the skies.

Hallelujah, angels, sing!
Join us in our hymn of praise;
Let your chorus swell the strain
Which our feebler voices raise;
Glory to our God above
And on earth His peace and love!
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 use. 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: Almighty God, we pray that we who have once again celebrated the victory of our Lord's resurrection may, by the power of Your grace, bring forth the fruits of that victory in our life and conduct. That we might do so, give to us the peace of Christ so that we fear neither any evil in this life nor eternal condemnation in that which is to come; through 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

(ESV) 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. (2) 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. (3) And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." (4) Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. (5) Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold,

I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. (6) 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.” (7) 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. (8) 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. (9) Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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.” (10) 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. (11) 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.’ (12) Therefore prophecy, 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. (13) And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. (14) 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.”

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 John 5:1-12

(ESV) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (4) For everyone who has been born of God

overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (6) This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (7) For there are three that testify: (8) the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. (9) If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. (10) Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. (11) And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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.

**Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah!
Hallelujah!**

**It was a strange and dreadful strife
When Life and Death contended;
The victory remained with Life,
The reign of Death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That Death is swallowed up by Death,
His sting is lost forever.
Hallelujah!**

**Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree--
So strong His love!--to save us.
See, His blood doth mark our door;
Faith points to it, Death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Hallelujah!**

**So let us keep the festival
Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the Joy of all,
The Sun that warms and lights us.
By His grace He doth impart**

**Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended.
Hallelujah!**

**Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the Bread of heaven;
The Word of Grace hath purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed,
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other.
Hallelujah!
Amen.**

Amen.

THE SERMON: John 20:19-29

(ESV) 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." (20) When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (23) If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (24) Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) 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." (26) 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." (27) 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.” (28) Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” (29) Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Unlocking the Doors of Fear

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: #201

Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appal me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High o'er heav'n and earth is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful. Doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Naught from me His love shall sever;
Life nor death nor powers of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure Defense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! and now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense,
Jesus is my confidence!
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

BOARD OF DOCTRINE: Pastor Gantt will be heading to Eau Claire following the service today to attend the Spring meetings of the Board of Doctrine. God willing he will return home on Wednesday.

NORTH CAROLINA TRIP: Due to the BoD meetings this week, the monthly trip to Tennessee will not be made. However, the Pittsboro, NC trip will be made with Bible Class at 9:00 AM this Saturday and worship at 10:00 AM. God willing Pastor Gantt will be home Saturday evening.

NO BIBLE CLASS THIS WEEK: Due to Pastor Gantt's absence this week, there will be no Wednesday Bible Class. We will resume our Wednesday Bible Class next week.

CALL NEWS CALL NEWS Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY, is requesting a graduate from the ILC Education Program. <> Pastor Rob Sauers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI, has returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ, has received the call to teach grades 3-4 and serve as associate principal at Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Lane Fischer of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.

RETIREMENT Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his retirement from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026.<> Pastor Del Maas of Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN, has retired due to non life-threatening health concerns. His last service was March 29, 2026.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 13 – April 18, 2026

Mon John 20:19-31 Jesus showed Himself alive to His own, but also sent them to tell others who had not seen, and blessed them with faith also (v29). John's gospel bears witness to those who have not seen (v31).news:

Tues 1 John 5:4-10 Faith in Jesus, the Son of God, overcomes the world. He is God and man from His birth to His Baptism to His shed blood on the cross and brings us victory through faith in God's testimony.

Wed Job 19:25-27 Although he has not yet seen it, Job believes and therefore knows that his Redeemer lives and will stand at the last day upon the earth. We join Job to rejoice: "My own eyes will see Him" (v27).

Thurs Psalm 57 With David we look to God's mercy in every trouble. He is our help even in the midst of ferocious lions. We can sing thanks to God at all times, for His mercy reaches above the heavens (v10).

Fri Psalm 118:1-18 The LORD is good and His mercy is enduring! Even surrounded by troubles, we are answered and delivered by the LORD. I will not die, but live, and proclaim the works of the LORD (v17).

Sat Psalm 118:19-29 Messiah's victory opens for us the gate to the LORD. This is the LORD's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. We give thanks because He has answered us and become salvation for us (v21).