



**The Resurrection of our Lord – Easter Sunrise
April 5, 2026 • 7:00am
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**



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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm
Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

Christ is risen! At 7:00am we gather at the Grace Memorial Garden to begin our service. We will process from there to the front of the church. If you need to use the ramp and enter in the back, please do so. The Pascal Candle, symbolizing the Risen Christ, is carried into the midst of the church and the resurrection of our Lord is proclaimed with joy. As we come into the sanctuary, we will sing Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

EASTER SUNRISE LITANY OF LIGHT

Now when the Lord Jesus was crucified, there was darkness over the whole land from noon until three. And when Jesus had given up his spirit, he was pierced with a spear, and blood and water came flowing out. As the sun went down, he was taken from the cross and laid in a borrowed tomb. A stone was rolled in place, and it was sealed. After the Sabbath was over, the women rose while it was still dark.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and no darkness, sin or even death can overcome Him.

Two angels appeared in dazzling clothes and said to the terrified women, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and no darkness, sin or even death can overcome Him.

In her tears, Mary Magdelene first thought Jesus was the gardener. When Jesus called Mary’s name, she knew that it was Jesus, risen victoriously over death and sin. She went and told the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and no darkness, sin or even death can overcome Him.

The disciples locked themselves into a darkened room. Our risen Lord appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you!” He showed them his hands and side and He breathed upon them the Holy Spirit. Jesus brought light to their darkness and sent them saying, “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and no darkness, sin or even death can overcome Him.

Two disciples who had lost hope were walking back to their home in Emmaus. The risen Lord joined their journey and through opening the Word and sharing the Sacrament with them, their hearts burned within them as our risen Lord rekindled the fire of love, life, and hope.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world and no darkness, sin or even death can overcome Him.

On this resurrection morning, our risen Lord is present with us to bring us light in our darkness, resurrection life, peace, and hope amid despair, faith that overcomes fear, and forgiveness that dispels our failures. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ, on the first day of creation, you said “Let there be light”, and there was light. As we gather this morning, let the light of your love shine upon us. May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds, giving us victory over the darkness of sin and death. Kindle in us the fire of faith, that we who gather may walk in the light of the living Lord, through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We process with the Cross and Paschal Candle leading the way as we sing praise to God for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus! The assembly sings the hymn as the Easter Proclamation.

HYMN: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today “

- 1** *Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*
- 2** *Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
inners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*
- 3** *But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*
- 4** *Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

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.**

Let us pray. O God, you are the creator of the world,
the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth.

**By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears,
restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

¹Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures ⁴and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: *John 20: 1-8*

The holy gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and **saw** (B) that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to **look** (B) in, he **saw** (B) the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He **saw** (T) the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he **saw** (H) and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to **look** (P) into the tomb. ¹²And she **saw** (T) two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and **saw** (T) Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you **seeking** (Z)?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have **seen** (H) the Lord” — and that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

***(**Blepo, Theoreo, Horao, Parakypso, Zeteo**)

The assembly is seated.

SERMON: “EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING”

*“Have You Seen Jesus My Lord – He’s Here in Plain View
Take a Look Open Your Eyes – He’ll Show it to You”*

Pastor Doug Hefner

The assembly stands.

HYMN:

“He Lives”

TCH 368

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

The Peace of the risen Lord be with you always

And also with you.

Peace is shared as worshippers greet one another with “the Peace of the Lord” or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

The assembly stands as the offering is presented.

OFFERTORY: “LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER” (verses 1 & 2) TCH 460

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings.

**As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord our God.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of Grace where God opens our eyes to see and receive the presence of the Risen Christ! **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

“In the Garden”

TCH 635

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.

**Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
that we may show your glory to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you.. The Lord

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Christ Arose"

TCH 357

DISMISSAL

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Resurrection of Our Lord

7:00 am – Sunrise Service in Union Church – Easter Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall

9:15 am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration in Main Sanctuary

Wednesday:

There will be no Wednesday Service this week. We will resume Wednesday services on April 15th.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard

Lector – Todd Childers Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens & Nicky Jarrett

Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Nicky Jarrett

Ushers – Jack Parris & Allen Biggerstaff

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jeff Scronce