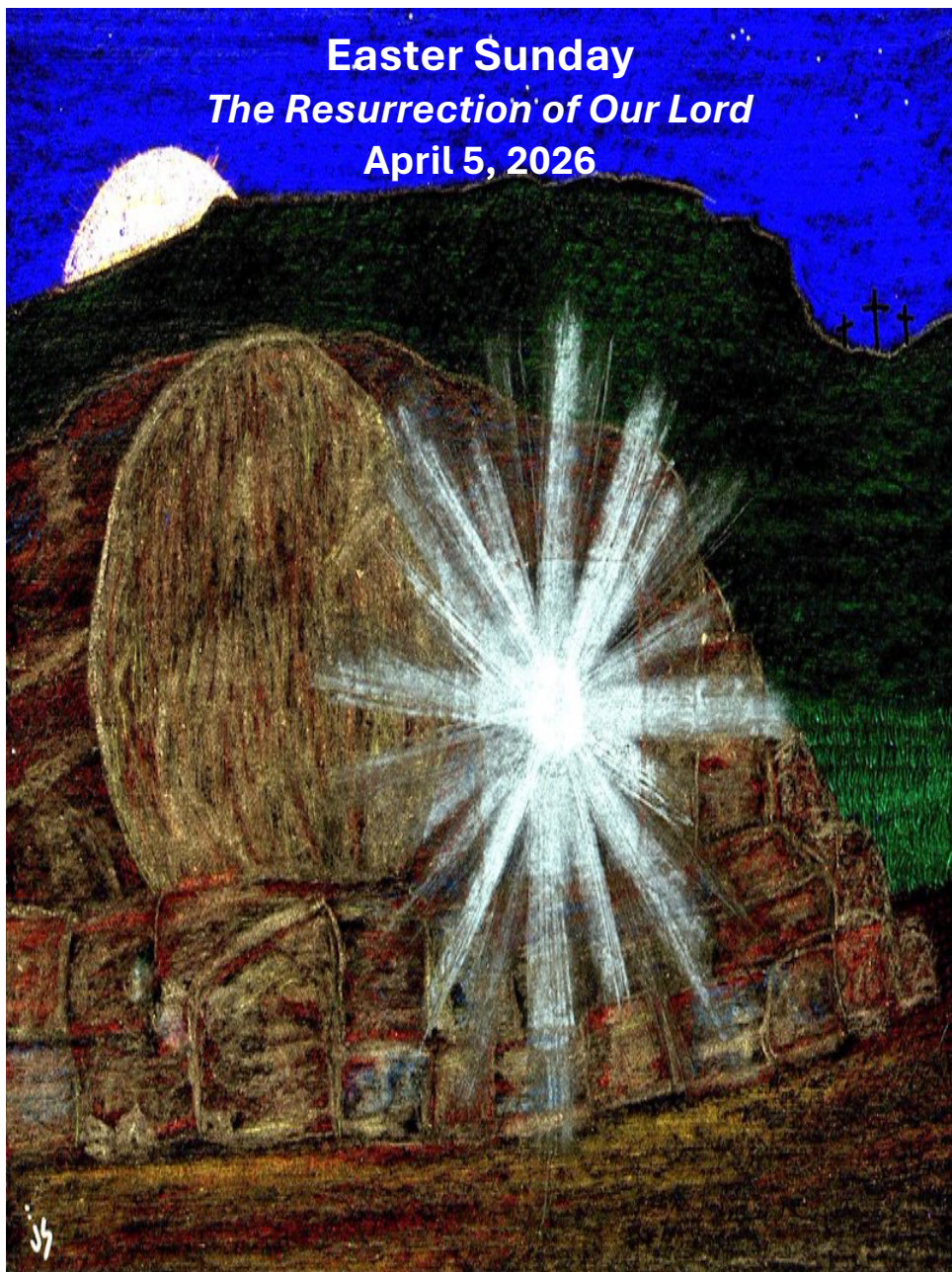


Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 5, 2026



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.”

(Matthew 28:5-6)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

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.

We Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

How joyful it is to celebrate the good news of God’s love!

We are called to be Easter people!

The tomb is empty!

Hope is alive!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ has conquered the grave!

New life has begun!

This good news cannot be contained!

Let us lift our hearts in praise and our voices in song!

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #365

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

“This is the Feast of Victory for Our God”

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together... **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.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Minister Kurt R. Schmidt

HYMN OF THE DAY

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #362

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Verses 1, 2, 4, and 6

Let us pray together...**Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord’s Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

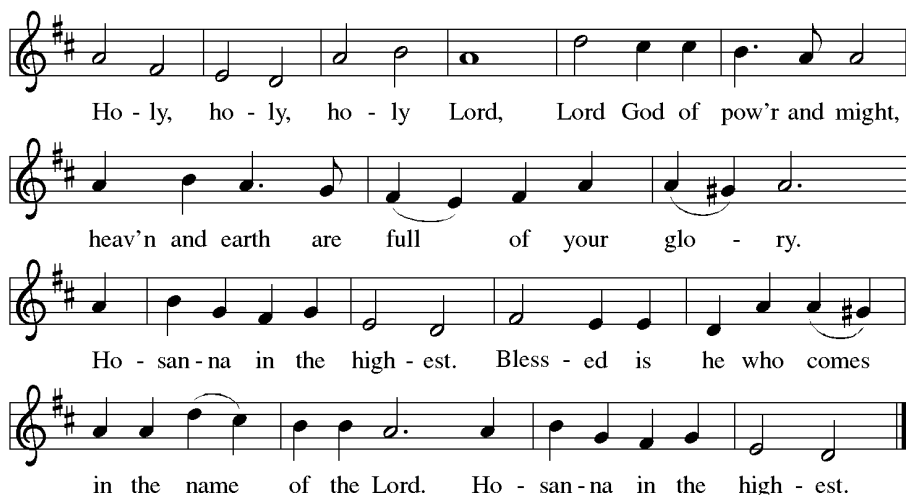
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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 and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb 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 earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from
e - vil, de - liv - er us from e - vil. For yours is the
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

SHARING THE MEAL

“The Strife is O’er”

ELW Hymn #366

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

ELW Hymn #367

Christ’s table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

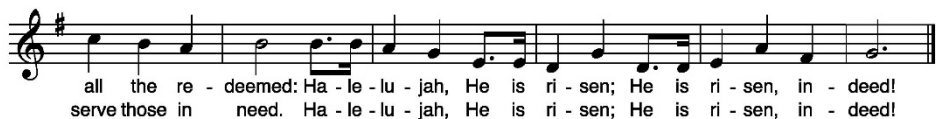
BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Hallelujah, He is Risen!”



DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.
Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia! Alleluia!

License & Copyright Information

Bulletin cover art by John Stuart (www.stushieart.com). **Portions of the liturgy** are from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014917. **Hymns & songs** reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731250 & CCLI License #1376892. **Scriptures** taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

For Whom & For What Shall We Pray?

If you would like to submit a name(s) to include in our **Prayers of the People**, please use an index card from the Welcome Table and place it in the prayer basket at the altar **before the Hymn of the Day**.

Announcing "Let Our Light Shine" A Short-Term Capital Campaign for Easter



Beginning today, we are launching a simple and achievable project for our congregation: **raising \$2,500 during the seven weeks of Easter to improve the lighting in front of the church.** The project includes replacing the two large globe fixtures in front of the church and installing a new LED unit to illuminate our SE 10th Street marquee sign, helping Zion be

more visible, welcoming, and safe in the evenings. We already have working power to these structures, but need to replace the parts.

We know many of you generously contributed to the AC fund, and that money remains set aside for that important need. However, if you previously gave to the AC project and would prefer to redirect your contribution to this lighting project, you are welcome to do so. Please let Kurt or Robin know.

We will begin collecting donations on Easter Sunday and continue through the end of the Easter season in mid-May. With a clear goal and a short timeline, this is a project we can accomplish together. If you would like to contribute, simply note "Lights" with your gift or choose the "Let Our Light Shine" fund online. **Thank you for helping us shine a little more light in our community.**

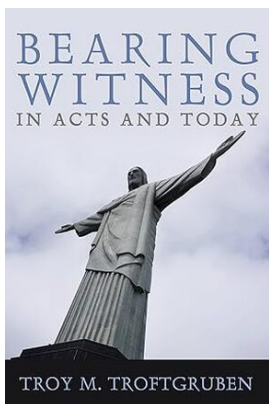
Looking Ahead: Outdoor Worship & Hymn Sing

Next Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter (April 12th), we will celebrate the Resurrection with an **Outdoor Hymn Sing & Holy Communion** under the Portico. Since it is also the second Sunday in April, we will offer anointing for healing.

It is appropriate to consider this an ongoing celebration of the greatest miracle in human history, giving each of us an opportunity to celebrate, and give thanks for, our own smaller resurrections in this world and this life. From time to time in our earthly lives, many of us have been dead — from illness, depression, physical injuries, emotional wounds, the loss of loved ones, financial losses — and yet have come alive and endured while looking forward to the Great Resurrection.

Since we will be outdoors, this worship will not be livestreamed. You are invited to join us in person and come as you are. There is a place for you!

Synod-Wide Bible Study Begins April 14th



The Florida-Bahamas Synod is inviting all congregations to a **7-Week Bible Study**, beginning April 14th and wrapping up the week prior to the Synod Assembly. The study will be based in Acts, using *Bearing Witness in Acts and Today* as a resource, written by Dr. Troy Troftgruben, an ELCA Pastor and Professor at Wartburg Seminary in Iowa.

Troftgruben's book uses the stories in Acts to wrestle with practices of evangelism and provides a grounding for the ways we are called to bear witness in the world. Each chapter includes discussion questions, resources for further exploration, and action steps for further consideration.

The weekly Zoom meetings will be held on Tuesdays, beginning on April 14th, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate! Information on how to connect will be in our weekly newsletter.



Easter Bulletin and Flower Dedications

We are humbled by the generosity of our congregation to support the printing of our Holy Week bulletins and the adorning of our sanctuary with lilies and other beautiful flowers.

In loving memory of Krystle Rose Anderson & Billy Anderson
by Debbie Anderson

In loving memory of my husband, Tom
by Maureen Anderson

In loving memory of my sister, Susan Eckenrode
by Debbie & Todd Burns

In loving memory of Agnes, Kay, and Bill
by Michele, Cullen, Shayne, and Morgan Clancy

In loving memory of our parents, Willard and Freda Davis
by Karen & Joseph Knapp, Eric & Pege Davis, and Kristin Davis

In loving memory of Victor H. Ellison
by Silda Ellison

In loving memory of sister, Debbie Smith & her daughter, Dawn Kelch
by George & Jackie Maxwell

To the glory of God
by the Merkle Family

In loving memory of Rick Schmidt, Gladys Schmidt, Freya Auger,
and Robert V. and Patricia C. Courant
by Gail & Kurt Schmidt

In loving memory of Tim Swanson
by the Swanson Family

In loving memory of Yvonne Tahal, Linda Seneca,
Maureen Chung, and to the glory of God
by the Tahal Family



Today's Readings

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

April 5, 2026

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

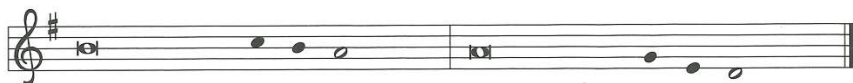
Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 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."

or Jeremiah 31:1-6 [not printed]

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; tone 2



Give thanks to the LORD,
for the LORD is good;

God's mercy en-¹dures forever.

²Let Israel ¹now declare,

"God's mercy en-¹dures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength

¹and my song,

and has become ¹my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation
echo in the tents ¹of the righteous:

**"The right hand of the LORD
acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD

¹is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD
acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not ¹die, but live,
and declare the works ¹of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed

pun-¹ished me sorely,

but did not hand me o-¹ver to death.

continued

¹⁹**Open for me
the ¹ gates of righteousness;
I will enter them
and give thanks ¹ to the LORD.**
²⁰**"This is the gate ¹ of the LORD;
here the righ- ¹ teous may enter."**
²¹**I give thanks to you,
for you have ¹ answered me
and you have become ¹ my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- ¹ ers rejected
has become the chief ¹ cornerstone.
²³**By the LORD has ¹ this been done;
it is marvelous ¹ in our eyes.**
²⁴This is the day
that the ¹ LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be ¹ glad in it.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for

you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

or Acts 10:34-43 [see p. 1]

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised,

as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

or John 20:1-18 [not printed]