

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
of Stillwater, Minnesota  
April 5, 2026



Easter Sunday - Resurrection of Our Lord

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Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, yet we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a simple meal of shared bread and cup. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work on Easter.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book, and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*



Prelude

8:00 AM

"Easter Waltz"

Sue Benson, flute;  
John Ostrem, guitar

10:00 AM

"I'll Fly Away"

Bobby J Marks, trumpet

Easter Gospel: John 20:1-18

*Traditionally known as "the apostle to the apostles", Mary Magdalene is the first to see and share the "gospel", the good news of the risen Lord.*

*The gospel is introduced:*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gathering Song

ELW hymn 365

*"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

*All stand and face the entrance to the church.  
Turn and face the cross as it is carried.*



Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! 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.**

# Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.







*After each prayer:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*At the conclusion:*

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

Announcements

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering      *"You Are My King (Amazing Love)"*

*Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.*



Offering Prayer

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.**

# 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 . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

○ God most mighty, ○ God most merciful . . .

When the earth was a formless void . . .

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

Again, after supper, he took the cup . . .

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen!

**Amen!**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen!

**Amen!**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**Amen.**

O God, you are Breath . . .

O God most majestic, O God most motherly . . .

. . . life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** (Continued on the next page.)

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**



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.

## Communion

*We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
and each person may respond:*

**Amen.**



*"The Day of Resurrection!"*

8:00 AM "Jesus Messiah" Sue Benson, flute;

10:00 AM "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" Bobby J Marks, trumpet

### Prayer After Communion

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Charge and Blessing

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**



*"Thine Is the Glory"*

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*"Lasst Uns Erfreuen"*



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## **DAILY PRAYER For Our Nation**



Lord, keep this nation under your care. As we celebrate 250 years, re-dedicate our lives to self-evident truths that all are created equal, that all have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of one's own well-being, and that power resides with the people. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and so serve you faithfully in our generation. May we be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Amen.

## **CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY Seeing the Lord Together**



Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Mary Magdalene, the "apostle to the apostles", sets the pattern in the Gospel of John's story of Easter. We may not touch the hands and side of Jesus, but we experience him whenever one of our own speaks the Word, or when we gather with others around the Meal to eat and drink together. To see Jesus again, Mary runs to be with the other faithful already gathered where they share peace with one another, pray for one another, and encourage and send each other out: "Go in peace. Serve the Lord."

## **LIFE ON EARTH**

### **Earth Awakens**



In the New Testament, the cross of Christ is called a tree, and in his description of the resurrection, Matthew includes the detail of an earthquake. Here then are two small indications that the death and the resurrection of Christ take place on and affect this very earth. The death of Christ alters the way we look at trees, and Easter Day shakes the earth itself.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Albrecht Dürer, died 1528;**  
**Matthias Grünewald, died 1529;**  
**Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists**  
**Monday, April 6, 2026**

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

**Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557**  
**Friday, April 10, 2026**

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Strongly Sung Alleluias**

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God's love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of "fear and great joy" (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they "took hold of his feet, and worshiped him" (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter "alleluia" was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation" (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God's liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!