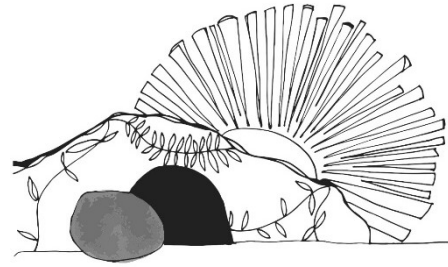


**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Leaders Laura Pride and Alan Pride**  
**Communion Pastor Matthy**  
**April 5, 2026**  
**9:30am**



**"Thriving Together in Faith and Love"**

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

*stand as able*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**



Let us pray. Eternal God, in the risen Jesus you have given the light of life to all the world. As we light this candle to remind us of his risen life among us, inflame us with a desire to shine forth with the brightness of his rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light. We pray in the name of the Risen One, Jesus our Lord.

**Amen**

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Today we light the fire

**Aware that the power of the resurrection has changed us forever.**

By his cross and suffering

**Jesus has redeemed the world and washed away our sin.**

On the third day he rose from the dead

**And gave us the victory over sin and death!**

Today we celebrate life over death;

**Today we celebrate the flame that lives again.**

Today we celebrate new life, new joy, new possibilities;

**Today we celebrate the Spirit of Life, visible in Jesus, visible in us.**

He has turned our sorrow into joy

**and our mourning into dancing!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

SS Easter

Let us pray together. Loving God,

**You gave your only Son to suffer death on a cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we might live forever with him in the joy of the resurrection. We pray in the power of Jesus' name. Amen.**

*be seated*

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING - ACTS 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how 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. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not 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. <sup>42</sup> He 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM - PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> "This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **SECOND READING - COLLOSSIANS 3:1-4**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

*stand as able*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW S205a

*tune: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*



## **GOSPEL - MATTHEW 28:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And 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. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then 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." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**St. Paul's Choir**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

arr. by Mark Patterson / Alisa Nixon - flute

Great is thy faithfulness, O God of the ages;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
As thou has been, thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!  
Great is thy faithfulness, O God!

**SERMON: Laura Pride**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Listen, Sisters! Listen, Brothers!

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. Lis - ten, sis - ters! Lis - ten, broth - ers! to the news that we pro -  
2. What could be our pro - clam - a - tion if our Lord had not been  
3. What is sown shall sure - ly per - ish; what is raised will still en -



claim. Spread the word and tell your neigh - bors we have life in Je - sus'  
raised? For with - out his res - ur - rec - tion, what could give hope to our  
dure. What is sown is sown in weak - ness, what is raised will die no



name. All be - cause God loves us dear - ly, Je - sus died for all our  
days? But, in fact, our Christ is liv - ing; first to live of those who've  
more. Flesh and blood can - not in - her - it that great king - dom God will



sin. On the third day, God showed clear - ly, Love has con - quered, death can't win.  
died. For as all are lost through A - dam, so in Christ, we're made a - live.  
bring. God will change us; nev - er fear it! Death, de - feat - ed, has no sting.

We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SS Easter

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world,  
 let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life.  
 Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the  
 earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards  
 of all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

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 the Risen Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace as you are comfortable.*



## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*be seated*

## **OFFERING**

*stand if able*

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.'

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDETH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

SS Easter

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.**

## THANKSGIVING "THE LORD BE WITH YOU"

ELW 144

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

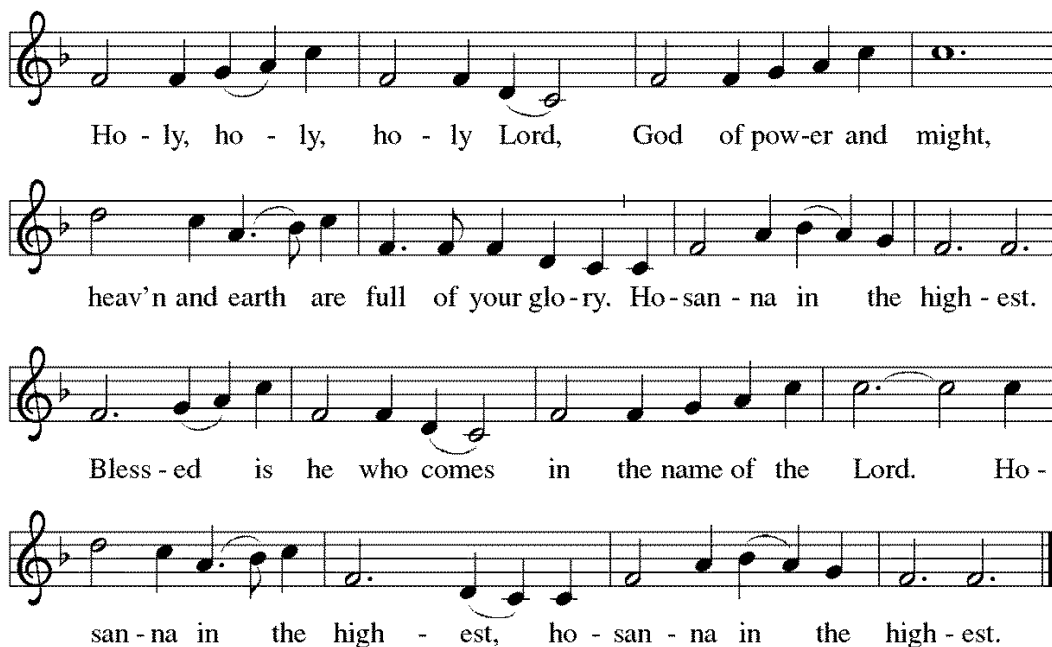
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

ELW Easter

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, 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**





1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
 The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**



**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

SS Easter

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.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**  
 Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
 Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.  
**Amen!**

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -



tri - umph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 song to strew his way; let all the world re - joice and say:  
 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 day with one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

SS Easter

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**