

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Easter Worship Service

Opening Hymn

438 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Call to Worship

M: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

M: We celebrate this festival day in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Upon the hill the cross stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb.

C: **Christ is risen, Alleluia!**

M: Within us, new life is awakened. God has given new hope to a dying world.

C: **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! Amen!**

Confession of Sins

M: Lord, prepare us for worship as we confess our sins.

C: **Almighty Lord God, we have come together to stand in your presence, to hear your Word, and to worship you by celebrating the resurrection of your Son.**

M: But who may appear in your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on you for help?

C: **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart shall receive blessings from the Lord.**

M: O holy and righteous God, you alone can make us clean. We have rebelled against you and are worthy to receive only your wrath and condemnation. But your mercies never end; they are new every day. With your command and promise in mind, therefore, we come to you to confess our sins.

C: **O holy and merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But at your gracious invitation I come to you, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, I plead: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Absolution

M: Having heard your confession, I as a called minister of Christ assure you that our gracious Father in heaven has heard your prayer, and by the command of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

The Lord has taken away our disgrace, torn up the shroud of death, and promised us an eternal feast of joy.

On this mountain the Lord of Armies will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines, with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the burial cloth stretched over all nations. He has swallowed up death forever! The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face. He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth. For the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said, “Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the Lord! We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 118 (In Hymnal)

The Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Christ is risen, so death has lost its sting.

Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. But once this perishable body has put on imperishability, and this mortal body has put on immortality, then what is written will be fulfilled:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your sting?

Grave, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:1-12

The account of Christ’s Easter victory.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. When they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothing. The women were terrified and bowed down with their faces to the ground.

The men said to them, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be

delivered over to the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?" Then they remembered his words.

When they returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Yet these words seemed to them like nonsense, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over to look in, he saw only the strips of linen cloth. He went home, amazed at what had happened.

Sermon Hymn

441, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Sermon: Psalm 51:18-19 Rejoicing in Resurrection Hope

The Confession of Faith (*The Nicene Creed, p. 162*)

The Easter Prayer

The Communion Liturgy (page 165 in *Christian Worship*)

The Distribution Hymns

445, "He's Risen, He's Risen"
449, "This Joyful Eastertide"

The Closing Hymn

471, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION: Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

HEAD USHERS THIS SUNDAY: Don Koch/Doug Schulz; next Sunday: Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz

MR. LORGE RETURNS CALL: For those who may not have heard, we are happy to report that Mr. Lorge has returned the call he received to be Principal and Gr. 7-8 teacher at St. John's Lutheran School in Caledonia, Minnesota. Please keep Mr. Lorge in your prayers as he continues to serve the Lord here at St. Matthew's!

EASTER FLOWERS: Those of you who ordered lilies for today's church services should make arrangements to pick up your flower(s) immediately after our 9:00 AM worship service. If you plan on getting your lily at another time, please inform Wayne or Bonnie Schultz of this. Payment for your lily (or lilies) should be made to Wayne or Bonnie Schultz. The cost for each lily is **\$13.50**. If you are paying by check, make it payable to: **St. Matthew's Service Group.**

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES begin once again this coming **Thursday, April 24, at 7:00 PM.**

ORGANISTS: The **May** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

CALL MEETING: The Call Meeting which had been scheduled prior to the Quarterly Voters' Meeting was postponed as the Synod was unable to provide a viable Call List. We are currently exploring other options to fill our part-time Gr. 5-6 vacancy. Please watch the bulletins for further announcements.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: The following are highlights from the Quarterly Voters' Meeting which was held on Wednesday, April 16: Membership action included: **Received by Transfer:** Pastor Nathan & Alyssa Schulte from the SEW District; **Removed from Membership:** Jake Antonioni; Benjamin Breitreutz; Ashley Gundrum; Raymond Koester; Howard Krohn, II; Justine (Field) Orr; James Person; Jessica (& Jasmine) Person; Zachary Reffke; Brittany Schmidt; Mark Schwersinske; Julie (& Brian) Wagner; Jeff Whitney; Ryan Whitney; Mary Jo Wiedmeyer; and Tammy (Weiss) Young.

In other business, 1) A proposed 2025 – 2026 budget was adopted at a total amount of **\$459,572**. This represents a **20.16%** increase over the past year's budget. This budget includes raising our called workers' housing allowances to **\$13,200** per annum to more fully align with Synod guidelines. This new budget goes into effect on **July 1, 2025**; 2) This year's **Altar Offering** will be taken on **Thursday, May 15, and Sunday, May 18**. The money received has been designated as follows: 100% to the Church Refurbishment Fund.

SERVICE GROUP MEETING: The next meeting of the Service Group will be held immediately following the fellowship hour on **Sunday, April 27**. All confirmed members are invited to join us!

EVERYONE OUTREACH: The next outreach meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 29**, beginning at **6:30 PM** (for snacks). The meeting will start at **7:00 PM**. Everyone is invited to attend (even if you missed the first two meetings)! We will be continuing with discussions and ideas generated at the workshop and the first follow-up meeting. If you do plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board in the school hallway. Thank you!

WE THANK the Adult Choir for beautifying our Easter service with their song today!

WE THANK Dean and Suanne Ebert for organizing today's Easter breakfast! We also thank everyone who helped in any way for this breakfast, including set up, serving food, clean up, and donation of food items!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Lenten Services (4/9): 67/22; Palm Sunday: 155

Offerings: Lenten Services: \$788.00; Palm Sunday: \$5,101.25

Tuition: \$1,623.96; **4K Tuition:** \$378.00

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$85.00; Christian Life Resources: \$25.00



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: **EASTER** – Communion Worship Services7:00 AM/9:00 AM
(Breakfast served between services)

Monday: **NO SCHOOL – EASTER MONDAY**

Tuesday: *School - Classes Resume*

Thursday: Worship Service7:00 PM
NO Adult Choir

Sunday: Worship Service (**Fellowship Sunday**)9:00 AM
**Service Group Meeting – Immediately following
fellowship hour**