

Easter



About the Cover

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Christ's resurrection has changed everything. By faith, we have died to sin, have been buried with Him, and have been raised with Him. This changes the way we look at this life, turning our eyes upward toward the things of God. One day, Christ will return. On that day, what we now hold by faith will be delivered before our very eyes as we appear with Christ in His glory at the resurrection of our bodies. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A Reason for Hope

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It is Easter Sunday, and we set aside this day to confess the bodily resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lilies scent the air, and alleluias are on our tongues. Yet these happy celebrations aren't reserved for only Easter Sunday. Every Sunday is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, and as baptized children of God, our every moment finds meaning and hope in Christ's defeat of sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Sometimes, however, those Easter memories fade, and we wonder if there's anything to hope for. Do we hope only in this life? Do we deserve the pity Paul speaks of in 1 Corinthians 15 because we lack faith in our death-defying, devil-destroying Savior? We often revel in our own pity parties. We wring our hands, get tension headaches, and worry about all the things in life we can't control.

Yet we have a Savior who has gone to the cross, destroyed death, and risen from the dead. Better yet, He did it all for us out of love and mercy. Now that is a reason for hope!

Lord Jesus, help us rejoice in Your Easter victory and live as baptized children of God, relying on Your mercy and abounding in good works. In Your name we pray. Amen.

PORTALS
of PRAYER

Adapted from *Portals of Prayer* © Concordia Publishing House
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You have been raised with Christ





First Saint John Lutheran Church
Kensington, Kansas 66951

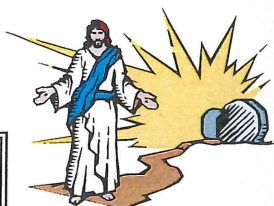


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Easter Sunday
April 05, 2026

*The angel said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?
 HE IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN!"*

Enter in Darkness; Watch the Lamb
Ray Bolz (Video)
 The Acolyte lights the candles.



Psalm 22 details carefully the suffering, crucifixion, passion story, and the death of Jesus. Yet it also ends with a powerful statement of life and Victory, of posterity, remembrance and Joy for a people, yet unborn -

Easter - Opening Reading
Ps. 22: 23-24, 27-31; -
 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the Afflicted One; he has not hidden his face from him, but has listened to his cry for help.
 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
for He has done it!

"For He has done it!"
It sounds so much like His words from the cross; "It is Finished!"

OPENING HYMN; #461 (v. 1,2,8) I Know that My Redeemer Lives

P. Christ is risen!

C. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. We begin this Day of Resurrection and newness of life in the name of the Father who created us; in the name of the Son, whose blood redeemed us, and who rose victorious over Satan, sin, and death; and in the name of the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains our faith, and keeps us rooted in the Grace of God through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

P. "He is not here – He is risen!" – the angels said, and the message of the Easter dawn began. Hope grew in the darkness. While grief began the day, joy followed with the sunrise.

P. Where there was darkness;

C. Jesus brought light!

Where there was sin.

Jesus brought grace!

Where there was division,

Jesus brought peace!

Where there is death and the grave;

Jesus brings life!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



The Confession;

P. It was for our sins that Jesus died. The penalty He paid for sin was ours.

C. The good things I should do, I don't do. The wrong and evil things I should not do, I do anyway. Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Christ is Risen!

C. He is risen indeed; Hallelujah!

He has overcome sin and death. By his rising from the grave, he also raises us to newness of life. In Jesus, your sins are forgiven, washed away in His blood, and we are made alive by faith in Him. Christ is risen!

C. He is risen indeed; Hallelujah!

P. Let us pray; Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin to serve you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

Song: **Above All;** Michael Smith
Above all powers, Above all Kings
Above all nature, and all created things
Above all wisdom, and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms, Above all thrones
Above all wonders this world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure what you're worth

[Chorus] Cru-ci-fied, laid behind a stone
You lived to die, rejected and alone
Like a rose, trampled on the ground
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all! (Repeat All)

Parish Joys and Concerns: Prayer requests; Each petition ending with;
P. Lord in your mercy; **C. Hear our prayer.**

The Scripture Readings: After each reading;
P. This is the Word of the Lord; **C. Thanks be to God**

SONG: Video; *In Christ Alone*

The Message; Pastor Dave Hutson

The Nicene Creed; inside the back cover of the hymnal.
The Offering is Received;

THE LORD'S SUPPER



P. The Lord be with you;
C. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is good and right to give Him thanks and praise.

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Our Church Believes the following regarding The Lord's Supper;

1. I am a baptized Child of God.
2. I trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior.
3. I confess my sins and my need for God's grace; along with a desire to live a new life in Christ;
4. I believe that Christ is truly present in this Sacrament with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

If any question, see the Pastor before the service.

P. It is good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God; But chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us, and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death, He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again, He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we lift up our voices in praise to Him, and pray as He has taught us;

All; **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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION;

P. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed . . .
The Peace of the Lord be with you always;

C. And also with you.

Oh Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION; *Today we will use "continuous communion. We will start with the south side of the sanctuary first. Please follow the guiding of the ushers.*

After all have communed;

P. May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in true faith unto life everlasting! Go in Peace;

C. Amen.

Song: **The Goodness of God;**

I love you Lord, For your mercy never fails me
All my days; I've been held in your hands.
From the moment that I wake up; Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing, of the goodness of God.

Chorus;

All my life you have been faithful;
All my life, you have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able;
Oh, I will sing, of the goodness of God.

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I love your voice; You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night; you are close like no other.
I've known you as a Father;
I've known you as a friend.
Oh, I have lived, in the goodness of God.

Chorus;

*All my life you have been faithful;
All my life, you have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able;
Oh, I will sing, of the goodness of God.*

Chorus;

Please stand; Let us pray; We give you thanks, almighty God, the You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You, that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

P. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;

And His mercy endures forever.

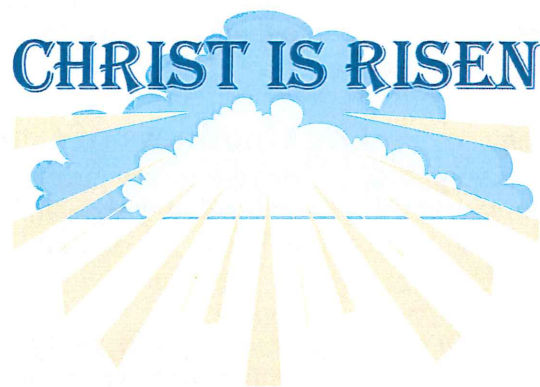
P. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Amen.

EASTER PRAISE; #477 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven and Voices Raise"



Happy Easter—to Everyone!!

Thank you for all you do and have done through this season!

Baptism Next Sunday;

Next Sunday, Apr. 12, we will celebrate the baptism of **Bexley June Bienhoff:** Daughter of Blayne and Alyssa Bienhoff. We thank God for this special blessing.

Church Council Meeting; Wednesday, Apr. 8, @ 7:00 p.m.

Calendar Oops; Apr. 14 - there is no Res. Study.

April Voters Meeting coming soon;

Voters meeting will be on Sunday, Apr. 26, with a Pot Luck Dinner after worship. The meeting will follow the meal.

Birthdays this week;

Dixie Rietzke	April 6
Kyle Barnes	April 6
Keagan Rietzke	April 6
Curtis Bogart	April 7
Suzanne Faulkner	April 8
Lauren Webb	April 10

Wedding Anniversaries;

Mick & Janet Barnes	04-06-1985
Steve & Trish Campbell	04-06-2002

Easter 20bts



Special Thanks; Our thanks to so many who have worked to help us through the Lent and Easter services. For our fellowship hosts, window darkeners, altar preparations, the musicians, and so much more that we all enjoy through the season. Thank you for all your time, talents, efforts, and service. *Pastor Dave*

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

April 5, 2026

INTROIT Ex. 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: Ex. 15:1b

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.
The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and he has become my sal- | vation;
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.
You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you | have redeemed;*
you have guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.
You will bring them in and plant them on your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which you have made for | your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6*

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

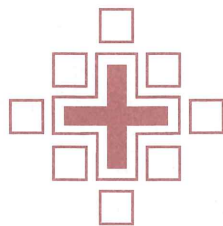
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

DAILY READINGS

April 5: Ex. 14:10–31; Heb. 7:23–8:13; **6:** Ex. 15:1–18; Heb. 9:1–28; **7:** Ex. 15:19–16:12; Heb. 10:1–18;
8: Ex. 16:13–35; Heb. 10:19–39; **9:** Ex. 17:1–16; Heb. 11:1–29; **10:** Ex. 18:5–27; Heb. 12:1–24; **11:** Ex.
19:1–25; Heb. 13:1–21.

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First Reading: Acts 10:34–43

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Epistle: Colossians 3:1–4

¹If then 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 things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1–10

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”