



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## EASTER SUNDAY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

The Resurrection of Our Lord  
April 5, 2026 – 10:30 AM  
**“Every Knee Will Bow”**

**As We Gather** Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Throughout Lent we have bowed the knee before our crucified Savior — kneeling in repentance, humility, and awe before the One who humbled Himself even to death on a cross. But today the stone is rolled away. The grave is empty. The Crucified One lives! Today we rejoice that God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name. The risen Jesus reigns. Death is defeated. Sin is forgiven. And the promise is sure: every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Welcome to this celebration of resurrection victory. Come, let us worship the Lamb who was slain — and who lives forevermore!

**Pre-Service:**                      **“He Lives”**                                      (Praise Team)                      **#111 Key of D**  
   **“Ain’t No Grave”**                                      (Praise Team)                      **#54 Key of Bm**

### THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

**Pastor:** Jesus Christ is arisen!

**People:** He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

### THE EASTER GOSPEL      **Matthew 28:1-10**

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And 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. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then 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.” <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and 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 to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

### PROCESSIONAL SONG: **“Christ The Lord Is Risen Today (He Is Not Dead)”**      **#112 Key of A**

**Vs. 1** *Christ the Lord is risen today alleluia  
Sons of men and angels say alleluia  
Raise your joys and triumphs high alleluia  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply alleluia*

**Vs. 3** *Love's redeeming work is done alleluia  
Fought the fight the battle won alleluia  
Death in vain forbids Him rise alleluia  
Christ has opened paradise alleluia*

**Vs. 2** *Lives again our glorious King alleluia  
Where oh death is now thy sting alleluia  
Dying once He all doth save alleluia  
Where thy victory oh grave alleluia*

**(Chorus)**  
**Vs. 4** *Soar we now where Christ has led alleluia  
Following our exalted Head alleluia  
Made like Him like Him we rise alleluia  
Ours the cross the grave the skies alleluia*

**Chorus** *He is not dead He is alive  
We have this hope in Jesus Christ*

**(Chorus 2X)**

## INVOCATION

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: On this mountain the Lord of hosts has prepared a feast of rich food.

People: **He has swallowed up death forever.**

Pastor: The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty.

People: **The crucified One lives!**

Pastor: God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name above every name.

People: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.**

Pastor: In heaven and on earth and under the earth.

People: **And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Pastor: Come, let us bow the knee before the risen King.

People: **Let us worship and rejoice in His salvation. Alleluia!**

**THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE** – *Here the congregation is invited to greet one another with the joyful Message of Easter. Greeting: “He is risen!” Response: “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”*

## SONG

**“Ain’t No Grave”** #54 Key of Bm

**Vs. 1** *Shame is a prison as cruel as a grave  
Shame is a robber and he’s come to take my name  
Love is my redeemer lifting me up from the ground  
Love is the power where my freedom song is found*

**Chorus 1** ***There ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down  
There ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down  
When I hear that trumpet sound  
I’m gonna rise up out of the ground  
There ain’t no grave gonna hold my body down***

**Vs. 2** *Fear is a liar with a smooth and velvet tongue  
Fear is a tyrant he’s always telling me to run  
Love is resurrection and love is a trumpet sound  
Love is my weapon I’m gonna take my giants down*

**(Chorus 1)**

**Vs. 3** *There was a battle a war between death and life  
There on a tree the Lamb of God was crucified  
He went on down to hell He took back every key  
He rose up as a lion  
Now He’s setting all the captives free*

**Chorus 2** ***There ain’t no grave could hold His body down  
There ain’t no grave could hold His body down  
When He heard the trumpet sound  
He rose up out of the ground  
There ain’t no grave could hold His body down  
There ain’t no grave could hold His body down***

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ is risen and death is defeated, we still live as those who struggle with sin. We do not always bow before our risen Lord. We cling to fear, pride, and doubt. Yet He calls us not to be afraid. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.**

Pastor: We have not always bowed the knee to Jesus as Lord.

**People: We have bowed instead to fear, selfish ambition, and the approval of others.**

Pastor: We have doubted Your promises and forgotten the victory of the empty tomb.

**People: We have lived as though death still reigns.**

Pastor: For the sake of Your Son, who humbled Himself even to death on a cross,

**People: have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

Pastor: that we may rejoice in His resurrection and confess Him boldly as Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news! The angel said, "Do not be afraid." The crucified Jesus is not in the tomb. He is risen, just as He said. Because Christ has been raised, death has been swallowed up in victory. Because He lives, your sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who on this day swallowed up death forever and raised Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from the grave: Grant that we, who have bowed the knee before His cross in repentance, may now rejoice in His resurrection with fearless hearts and steadfast faith. As You have highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name above every name, so bring us at last with all the saints to the feast You have prepared on Your holy mountain, that with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we may confess with joyful tongues that Jesus Christ is Lord; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen and reigning Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## MONTHLY VERSE Matthew 28:5-6

***"Do not be afraid; I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay."***

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *(Death is swallowed up)*

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. <sup>7</sup>And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. <sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from

all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

**EPISTLE**      *(Every knee will bow.)*

**Philippians 2:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**THE SONG OF THE DAY**      **"He Lives"**      #111 Key of D

**Vs.1**    *See the tomb where He laid  
See the stone rolled away  
He is risen He is risen He's alive  
See His hands see His feet  
Touch His scars and believe  
He is risen He is risen He's alive  
Oh He's alive*

**Chorus**    **He lives  
All honor and power are His  
All glory forever amen  
Jesus (lives)  
(Jesus lives)**

**Vs.2**    *Hear the shackles breaking free  
Hear the song of the redeemed  
He is moving He is moving He's alive*

*So take this freedom take this love  
Can you feel it rising up  
He is here He is here He's alive*

**(Chorus 2x)**

**Bridge**    *You took all our shame  
Left it in the grave  
We're forgiven we're forgiven  
The work forever done  
Only by the blood  
It is finished it is finished  
(Repeat)*

**(Chorus 2x)**

**Ending**    He is risen He is risen He's alive

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**THE MESSAGE**      **"Every Knee Will Bow"**

**NICENE CREED**

**C**      **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME / OFFERING “He Lives” (Instrumental) #111 Key D**

*During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at [www.trinitymerrill.com/live](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/give) to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. (When filling out the attendance book – please list the names of all in attendance in your family)*

**+ WELCOME TO THE LORD’S TABLE +**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS**

**“Reign Above It All”**

**#53 Key of D**

**Vs. 1** *The reign of darkness now has ended  
In the kingdom of light  
In the kingdom of light  
Forever under Your dominion  
You’re the King of my life  
You’re the King of my life*

**Chorus 1** *You reign above it all  
You reign above it all  
Over the universe  
And over every heart  
There is no higher name  
Jesus You reign above it all*

**Vs. 2** *On the cross the work was finished  
God You poured out Your life  
Just to give us new life*

*Now from the lips of the forgiven  
Hear an anthem arise  
'Cause Jesus You’re alive  
(Chorus 1)*

**Chorus 2** *Let all of heaven  
And the earth erupt in song  
Sing hallelujah to the Everlasting One  
There is no higher name  
Jesus You reign above it all*

**Bridge** *You sent the darkness running  
Out of an empty grave  
Now seated alone in glory  
Enthroned on the highest praise  
(Repeat 3 times)  
(Chorus 1 & 2)*

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**“Man Of Sorrows” #42 Key of D**

**Vs. 1** *Man of sorrows Lamb of God  
By His own betraye  
The sin of man and wrath of God  
Has been on Jesus laid*

**Vs. 2** *Silent as He stood accused  
Beaten mocked and scorned  
Bowing to the Father's will  
He took a crown of thorns*

**Chorus** *Oh that rugged cross my salvation  
Where Your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah  
Praise and honour unto Thee*

**Vs. 3** *Sent of heaven God's own Son  
To purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones  
Who nailed Him to that tree  
(Chorus)*

**Bridge** *Now my debt is paid  
It is paid in full  
By the precious blood  
That my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin  
Has no hold on me  
Whom the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed (Repeat)*

**Chorus** *Oh that rugged cross my salvation  
Where Your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah  
Praise and honour unto Thee*

**Vs. 4** *See the stone is rolled away  
Behold the empty tomb  
Hallelujah God be praised  
He's risen from the grave  
(Chorus)  
Praise and honour unto Thee*

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

### EASTER GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### CLOSING SONG

*"In Christ Alone"*

#102 Key of D

**Vs.1** *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*

**Vs.2** *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*

**Vs.3** *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*

**Vs.4** *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*

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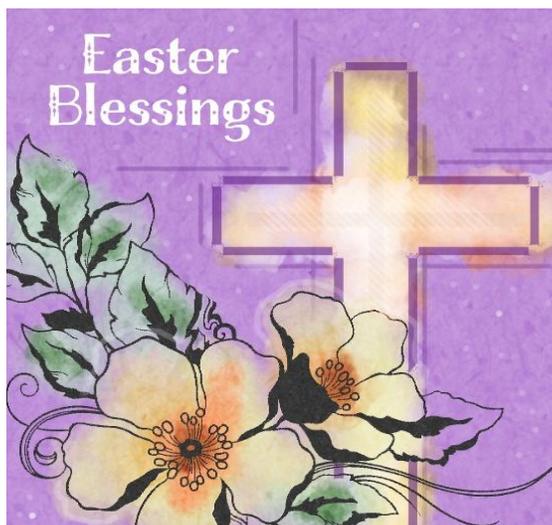
### RECESSIONAL

*"Death Was Arrested"*

#46 Key of G

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is sponsored by Roger & Rebecca Hinner in celebration of blessings received.

**The Easter Lillies on the altar** is given in loving memory of parents, Arvin & Hilda Dengel by Linda & Ron Behrens and Grace & Dan Frick.



Thank You! A sincere thank you to all who helped in any way with the "Bow the Knee" presentation here at Trinity. What a blessing it was to share the story of God's amazing grace with you and our community. A special thank you to Eileen Hass for organizing this wonderful performance at Trinity for everyone to enjoy.