



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
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EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026 - 6:00 AM, 7:30 AM & 9:00 AM

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!

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

P Jesus Christ is arisen!
C **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. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ 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 HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

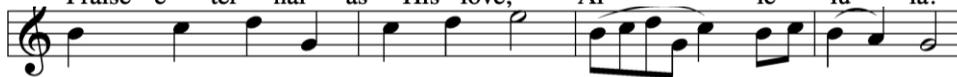
LSB 457



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!
 Δ 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 ye 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 and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P Christ is risen!

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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

C **He has swallowed up death forever.**

P The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty.

C **The crucified One lives!**

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

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

P In heaven and on earth and under the earth.

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

P Come, let us bow the knee before the risen King.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P 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 confess our sins to God our Father. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Father.

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

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

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

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

C **We have lived as though death still reigns.**

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

C **have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

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

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Christ is risen!

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

LSB 477; vs. 3

△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

- A The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- A 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.
- C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(Death is swallowed up)*

Isaiah 25:6-9

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. ⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

(9:00 AM) **SPECIAL MUSIC** *"In Christ Alone"* by the Holiday Choir

EPISTLE *(Every knee will bow.)*

Philippians 2:9-11

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

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

- P Alleluia! Christ Jesus, who was crucified, has been raised from the dead!
C **Alleluia! At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord!**



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5. *He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.*
6. *He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.*
7. *He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.*
8. *He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!*

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING

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. You can also visit our app or 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 †

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on the third day raised Him back to life. Therefore, with the women at the tomb, John and Peter, all who saw Him raised back to life, along with angels and archangels, we praise and glorify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB p.161

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

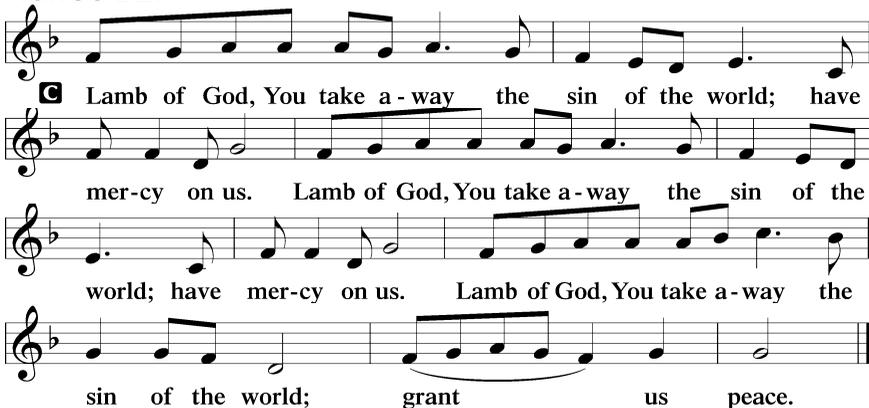
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

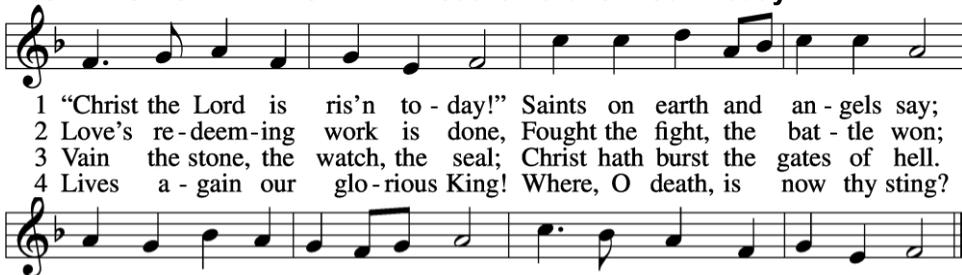
LSB, p. 163



C 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

LSB 469



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
Lo! Our Sun's e-clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for-bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

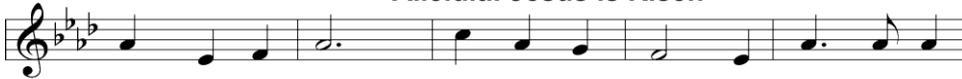
5. *Soar we now where Christ has led;
Foll'wing our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.*

6 *Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!*

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“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”

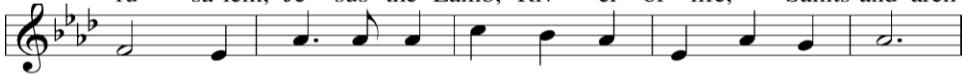
LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: “O grave, be
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 o - pen!” Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

LSB 633



1 At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death’s dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael’s hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

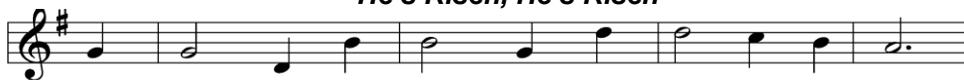
EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

“He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

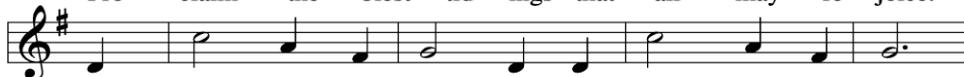
LSB 480



1 He’s ris - en, He’s ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
△ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death’s pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den’s door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
In Sa - tan’s do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;
For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.
Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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

Easter Blessings



Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious Easter Breakfast of pancakes with pure maple syrup, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, juice, coffee, milk and some delicious sweets.

A free-will offering will be accepted.



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.