



“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

I Corinthians 15:3-4

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net Website: theforgivenessplace.org

The Resurrection of Our Lord

March 31, 2024

A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today, especially to our guests and visitors. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace, there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore, the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through these Means to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Sacrament of the Altar.

DEAR GUESTS On this Easter morning we rejoice that there are guests and visitors with us to hear the Easter message "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" Our Redeemer observes the practice of Closed Communion. This means that only communicant members of Our Redeemer, as well as members of sister congregations in the LCMS, are permitted to partake of the Sacrament of the Altar. We would graciously ask that you respect this practice. An explanation of this practice may be found on the 2nd to last page of this bulletin.

PASCHAL CANDLE A prominent symbol in the celebration of Easter is the Paschal Candle. This Candle, which represents the resurrection of Jesus, was lit at the Easter Vigil last evening. The Candle will be lit throughout the Easter Season, until the day of the Ascension. It is a visible reminder of the 40 days during which our risen savior showed himself to be alive and triumphant over death and the grave.



THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Rod Lair **Service Assistant:** Steven Dekutoski **Crucifer:** Logan Baker

Ushers: Dusty Greiman, Casey Greiman **Organist:** Roxann List

Offering Counters: Paula Czarnetzki, Char Strub **Shut-Ins:** Roxann List

I. THE PREPARATION

STAND

After the bell rings please rise and face the procession.

Choral Prelude

"Christians, To the Paschal Victim"

Men's Choir

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

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, Merciful and Just, Holy and Righteous, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit kindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Victory which has no end; 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: Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

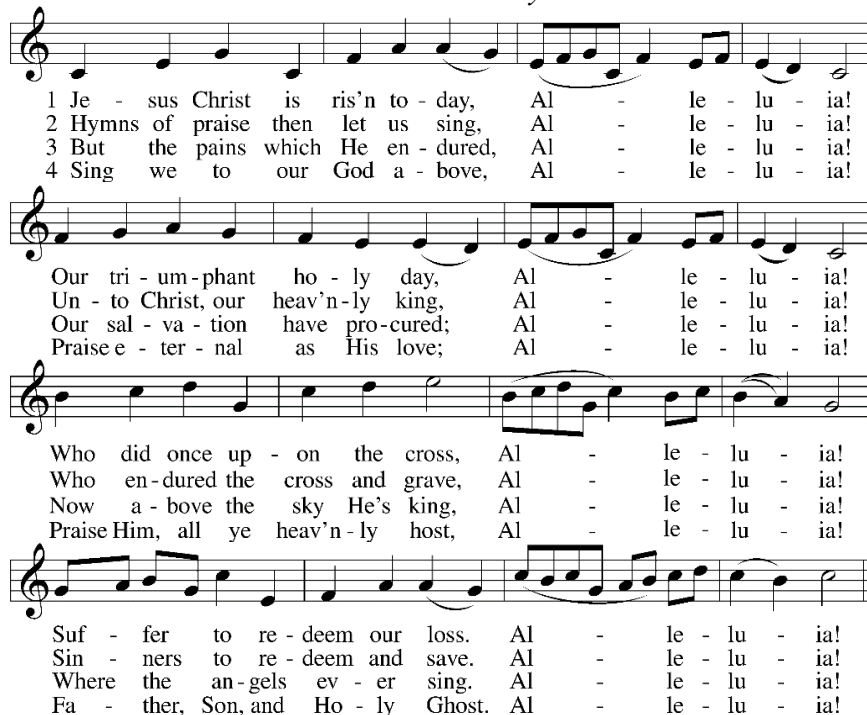
C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

The 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!
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!

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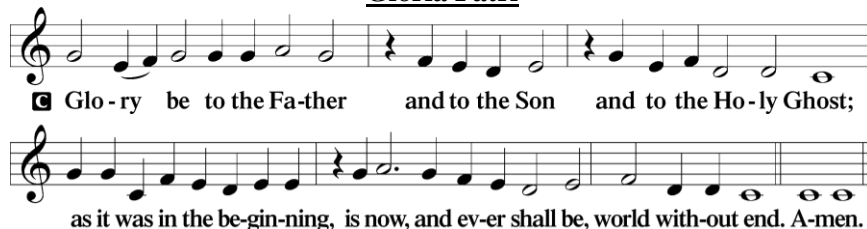
II. SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Men's Choir: I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
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 holy 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 established.
The Lord will reign forever and ever.
I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; antiphon: Exodus 15:1b

Gloria Patri



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

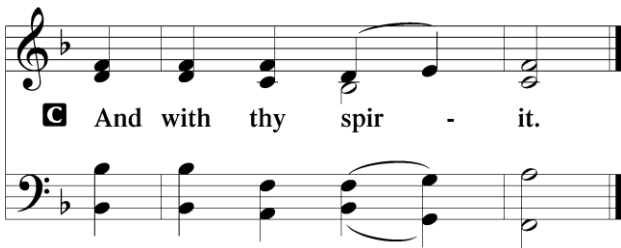
The Salutation



The Lord be with you.

The Lord be with you.

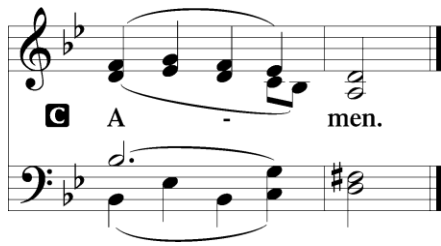
II Timothy 4:22



And with thy spir - it.

The Collect of the Day

P: Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED

The Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual

Men's Choir: Christ is 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 under his feet.

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STAND

THE GOSPEL PROCESSION


As the organ introduces the Verse, please stand and direct your attention to the cross and the Holy Scriptures as they are carried into the midst of the Congregation. Throughout the Easter Season the Gospel will be read from the center of the Nave, a reminder that following Jesus' resurrection He appeared bodily among His disciples.

The Verse

“O Sons and Daughters of the King”

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

Cantor: O sons and daughters of the King,
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia!

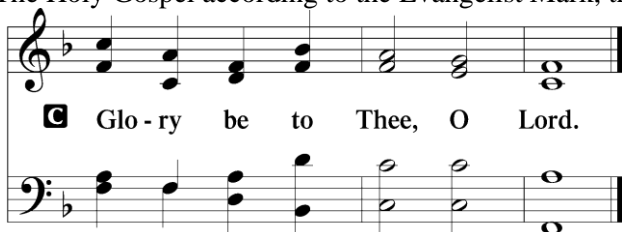
Congregation: 
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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The Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Mark, the 16th chapter.



P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Praise be to Thee, O Christ." The notation is written on two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and homophonic, with the lyrics "Praise be to Thee, O Christ." written below the notes. A square icon with a letter 'C' is positioned to the left of the first note.

The Nicene Creed

**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 Hymn of The Day“Christ Jesus Lay In Death’s Strong Bands” *LSB #458*

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens -
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, Such ru - in sin
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, His peo - ple to
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife When life and death



es giv - en; But now at God's right hand He stands
 had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
 de - liv - er; De - stroy - ing sin, He took the crown
 con - tend - ed; The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,



And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 And there - fore death had brought us In - to bond - age
 From death's pale brow for - ev - er: Stripped of pow'r, no
 The reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture



joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 from of old And ev - er grew more strong and bold
 more it reigns; An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
 plain - ly saith That death is swal - lowed up by death,



Loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 And held us as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

5. Here our true Paschal Lamb we see, whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursèd tree—So strong His love—to save us.
 See, His blood now marks our door; faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!
6. So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is Himself the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
 Now His grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 The night of sin is ended. Alleluia!
7. Then let us feast this Easter Day on Christ, the bread of heaven;
 The Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.
 Christ alone our souls will feed; He is our meat and drink indeed;
 Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

III. THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Sacrament of the Altar is not something to be celebrated in our homes. It is to be received under the care of your rightly called Pastor. Those members who are unable to attend church in person, should contact either Pastor Knox or Pastor Saunders to receive a visit in their home.

The Preface



P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.

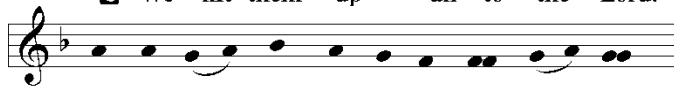


P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

[Psalm 136]



C It is meet and right so to do.

The Proper Preface

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Our Father who art in heaven, . . .

Matthew 6:9-13

G For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Consecration

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed . . .

The Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
G A - men.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

Be seated

The Distribution

- The Communicants will be ushered forward to receive the Sacrament of our Lord’s body and blood.
- All guests who desire to commune should have spoken with our Pastors or Vicar before the Service.
- Guests who have spoken with Pastor Knox, Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker may give their guest card to the Usher as they come forward.
- A note concerning Closed Communion is printed on the back page of this bulletin.

Distribution Hymn

“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!
 Christ 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!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5. Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!</p> <p>6. Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!</p> | <p>7. Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!</p> <p>△ 8. Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!</p> |
|---|---|

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Choral Hymn

“Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Risen”

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander
Music by John Carter

Distribution Hymn

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia” LSB #466



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear!
4 “Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;
5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.
He has a - ris - en this world to save.
Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go;
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;
Je - sus’ re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
And in its con - quest His might did show.
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there.”
E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won.”
He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death’s fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

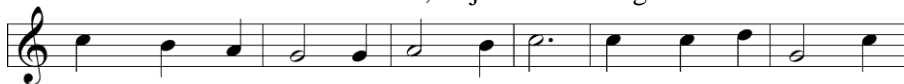


Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

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Distribution Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing” LSB #475



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



of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
strew His way; Let all the world re-joice and say:
can-not die, And sing with hearts up-lift-ed high:
one ac-cord The life laid down, the life re-stored:



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

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Stand

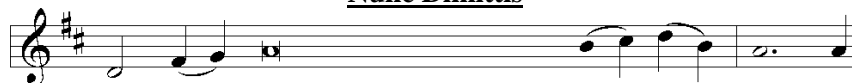
The Dismissal

P: The eating and drinking of your Savior's sacred body and blood, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Depart in (✠) peace.

C: Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



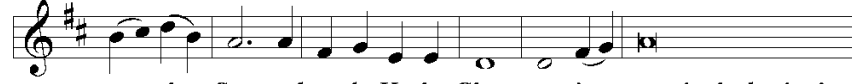
which Thou hast pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,



a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy



peo-ple Is-ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and



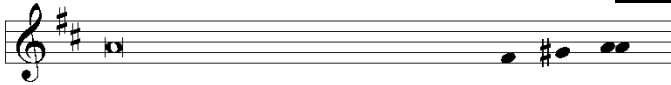
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



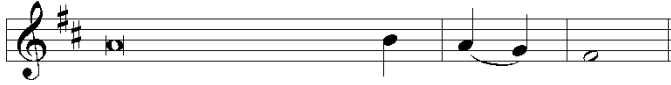
is now, and ev-er shall be, world without end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

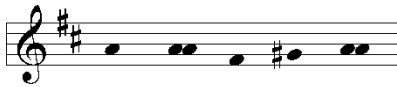
Post Communion Collect

P: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that 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 A - men.

Salutation



P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus



A Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]



C Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24-26



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Recessional Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” *LSB #465*

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
△ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And

praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!

He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
life And by His pres - ence stills all
day That by our lives we tru - ly
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE CLASS OR SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY Our regular schedule will resume next Sunday, April 7. The Adult Bible Class will continue its study of Revelation.

THE REGULAR VOTER'S MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st at 1:30 p.m. This meeting is an opportunity to receive reports from Boards and Committees, ask questions, and participate with the elected leaders of the congregation in administering the affairs of the congregation. An Agenda will be published soon. If you have items to be included on the Agenda, please speak with Congregational President Doug Nefzger.

THE UPDATED PICTORIAL DIRECTORY is available in the Narthex after the Service this morning.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! A VBS meeting at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church--904 Bluff Street, Cedar Falls will take place on Saturday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School or wanting to learn more about this year's theme "Teach Them to Pray" is encouraged to attend. Contact Michaela Knox at msaunders02@gmail.com or by phone at 319-389-9226 with any questions or if you are unable to attend, but would still like to help.

BRUNCH BUNCH will meet on Tuesday, April 2. They will meet at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant in the North Cedar neighborhood starting at 9:00 a.m.

Readings and Hymns for Sunday, April 7 2024 – The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20: 19-31	
Invocation: He's Risen, He's Risen.....	480
Verse: O Sons and Daughters of the King	471
Hymn of the Day: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight.....	720
Distribution: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain.....	487
Distribution: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness.....	563
Distribution: I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives.....	468

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Tues. 4/2	9:00 a.m.	Brunch Bunch
Wed. 4/3	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	5:25 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sat. 4/6	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Sun. 4/7	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. The class is studying Revelation. We will resume our normal schedule on Sunday, April 7.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. We will resume our normal schedule on Sunday, April 7.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. We are no longer going to schedule the class after Lenten Services. The class studies the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. The class is studying "Agricultural Themes" throughout the Bible. The class will meet again on Monday, April 8

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. There is no class today but will resume on Sunday, April 7.

CONCERNING CLOSED COMMUNION

As Lutherans, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar “*is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself.*” (Small Catechism) As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion.

If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we invite you to speak with Pastor Knox, Pastor Saunders, or our Vicar about Holy Communion and becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you, but that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER

The bulletin cover is a form of Church artwork called an Icon. This style of art, used most frequently in the Orthodox Church of Eastern Christianity, uses images to teach the Faith.

This particular image gets its name from the inscription at the top of the page H ANACTACIC – which is Greek, written in uppercase or capital letters. Translated literally, it means “The Resurrection.” It is a reproduction of an image dating from the 14th century found on the wall of an Orthodox church in Istanbul, Turkey. The artwork, as identified by its title, depicts the most important event in all of history, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Why is this event the most important event in all of history? The Apostle Paul gives this answer, “***And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.***” (I Corinthians 15:17-19)

Christians need not be pitied, for Paul then proclaims the Christian's hope, “***But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.***” (I Corinthians 15:20) This artwork confesses not only Christ's resurrection but also the resurrection of those who trust in Him.

- The risen Jesus is depicted standing on the doors of the grave, triumphant over death and hell. Below the doors, bound hand and foot, is a depiction of a man. He represents all who do not believe in Jesus, who will remain under God's sentence of death, condemned to hell for all eternity.
- Jesus' hands are extended to a man and a woman, Adam and Eve, coming from their tombs. It is significant to note that Jesus is not holding Adam and Eve by the hand, but He has grasped their wrists, reminding us that Christ holds fast to us, not we to Him. Adam and Eve represent all of humanity, dating back to the very creation, for whom Jesus died and rose.
- To Jesus' right, the left side of the image, are representations of King David, King Solomon, and John the Baptist. David and Solomon authored many of the Psalms that point us to Christ, and John was the forerunner of the Messiah who declared Jesus to be “***the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.***” (John 1:29)
- To Jesus' left, the right side of the image, are representation of the Old Testament prophets. These prophets also foretold the coming of the Messiah, the seed of the woman, who would conquer death and crush the head of the ancient deceiver Satan.

There are other details in this beautiful artwork which could be described. May this brief explanation bring you joy as you are reminded that by faith you share in Jesus' victory over death, and that dying with Christ through Baptism into His death, you also await the resurrection of your body on the last day.