

The Divine Service

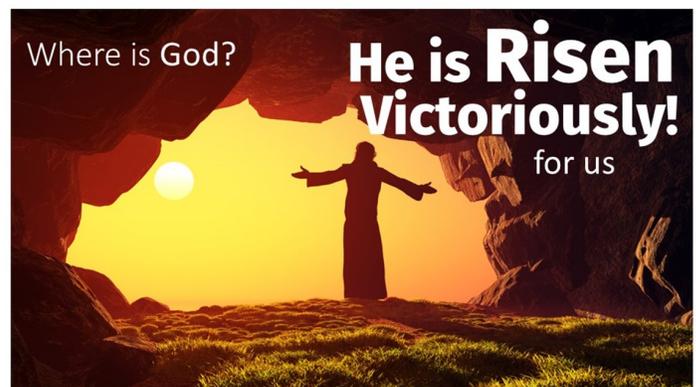
April 17, 2022



TO OUR GUESTS: Welcome to Good Shepherd! Thank you for joining us today. May today's worship be a blessing to you throughout your week.

We are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We confess the historic Lutheran Confessions found in the Book of Concord (1580). We rejoice in our fellowship with likeminded believers in the WELS (www.wels.net).

OUR THEME: During Lent our theme was "Where is God?" In the difficulties of life God can seem far off or not caring. But on Easter we celebrate the presence of God that He has risen from the grave. To the world he seemed like a defeated man: opposed and killed by his enemies, his followers scattered in fear. Yet three days after Jesus' death he rose victorious from the dead. Nothing would ever be the same. The rest of eternity is now a victory march for the risen Christ. During Easter, we should not think of ourselves as passive observers in Christ's victory. We are more than fans cheering for our favorite athlete! Rather, we are active participants in Christ's triumph. Just as his death was our death, so also his life is our life. Buried with Christ in baptism, our life is now hidden with him on high. The victory is ours, now and forever because Christ has risen!



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: (*Privately as you prepare for worship*)

Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. As I celebrate your triumphant victory over death and hell and sin, I fall down before You and worship You. I cry with others around the world, "worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP ✠

God said, "Where ever I cause my name to be honored,
I will come to you and bless you." (Exodus 20:24)

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

Congregation: Amen.

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

P: Let us rejoice and give thanks to God for the victory our Lord Jesus Christ won by his death and resurrection. It is for us that he has triumphed.

C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

C: Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

EASTER HYMN OF PRAISE

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

CW 157

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

✠ CONFESSION & PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS ✠

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, (Acts 3:19)

P: “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:8–11

C: I caused Your grief and sighing by evils multiplying as countless as the sands. It was our sin that caused Christ to die to ransom us from the death of sin. By the power of Your death and resurrection, Lord Jesus, forgive us and raise us to new life.

P: The risen Jesus is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. Whoever believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. In the stead and by the command of my 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.

(tune: Be Still My Soul CW415)

♪ **I now shall live as one who's been forgiven;
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father
I am His child, and I am not afraid.
I'm raised with Christ, new life is freely given.
So now I'm free to live for Him always.**

**Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor,
And may your living kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with fervor,
And may you feed a hungry world through me.
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother;
The law of love I gladly will obey.**

‡ THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD ‡

Wherever I cause my Name to be known, I will come to you and bless you."

Exodus 20:24)

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 25:6–9

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.

⁷On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples,
the burial cloth stretched over all nations.

⁸He 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.

⁹On 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!”

These are the words of our God.

This is the word of God.

(Tune: CW 153)

**Alleluia! Jesus lives! He is now the living one;
From the gloomy house of death forth the conqueror has gone,
Bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

Look, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in 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. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴But 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.

⁵⁵Death, where is your sting?

Grave, where is your victory?

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

C: Alleluia! Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Alleluia!

(Tune: CW 153)

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice; praise him ransomed ones of earth.
Praise him in a nobler song, cherubim of hev'nly birth.
Praise the Victor king, whose sway sin and death and hell obey.**

**Jesus lives! And thus my soul, life is yours eternally;
Joined to him your living head, Where he is you too shall be;
You with him at his right hand victor over death shall stand.**

THE ACCOUNT OF JESUS' RESURRECTION: John 20:1-18 and Luke 24:1-12

Pastor: 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. Mary Magdalene left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she told them, "and we don't know where they put him!" When the other women 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.

All: The men said to them, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?" ⁸Then they remembered his words.

C: (CW 152)

**♪ I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead
He lives my ever-living Head!**

**He lives triumphant from the grave
He lives eternally to save.
He lives all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.**

All: When they returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. Yet these words seemed to them like nonsense, and they did not believe them.

Men: So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

Pastor: Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The cloth that had been on Jesus' head was not lying with the linen cloths, but was folded up in a separate place by itself.

Women: Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. (They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.)

Pastor: Then the disciples went back to their homes amazed at what had happened. But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. They asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Women: She told them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have laid him."

Pastor: After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus.

**♪ 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**

Men: Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Women: Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him."

Men: Jesus said to her, "Mary."

Women: She turned and replied in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means, "Teacher").

Pastor: Jesus told her, "Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.'"

All: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” She also told them the things he said to her.

(CW 152)

♪ **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.**

**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: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

THEME: WHERE IS GOD? RISEN FROM THE GRAVE IN VICTORY!

✠ OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD ✠

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

HYMN OF RESPONSE AND FAITH

(CW 143)

♪ **He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
Death's prison he opened, incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
While earth, sea and mountain the praises prolong.**

**Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all your transgressions his blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**

PRAYERS

P: Risen Lord,

C: In you we have life and victory!

P: Crucified and risen Savior, the world offers us false hope and peace that is easily lost. In you alone we have a living hope and peace that can never be taken from us. In you alone we have victory over death and the hope and promise of the resurrection.

C: In you we have life and victory!

P: Crucified and risen Savior, empower us as Easter people, as your servants to carry the good news of salvation to people who are without hope. Help us to bring your comfort and care to those who are filled with despair and fear. Risen Lord,

C: In you we have life and victory!

P: Crucified and risen Savior, just as you rose bodily from the dead, on the Last Day, at your command, we too will rise, transformed and glorified, to live in your presence forever. With all the saints we will praise you, the Lamb who was slain for us, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Risen Lord,

C: In you we have life and victory!

P: Amen.

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 today 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 LORD'S BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN:

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

CW 145

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died.
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.

All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever,
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.



SPECIAL PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS