

Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, NALC

Easter Service

April 12, 2020 10:00 AM

WELCOME all friends and guests. We welcome all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and ask for God’s blessings during this time of worship. May each one of us be stirred by the Holy Spirit and be enlightened, so that we may share witness to others through the Love of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death “by hanging him on a tree.” Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear “to us who were chosen by God as witnesses” in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.)

P: In the name of the father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia” LBW 128

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by His glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with Him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

R: The First Lesson is from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:1-6

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

R: The Second Lesson is from the third chapter of Colossians

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-4

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the twentieth chapter.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord**

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Tod Mohr

Sermon: “Resurrection in a Cross Shaped World” Reverend Harrison Gapter

The Apostles’ Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: You give life to your church by joining the baptized to the body of Christ. Bless the newly baptized as we proclaim the one whose death and resurrection makes us one in you. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: You give life to the world by laying a cornerstone among the nations. Rebuild the powers and principalities around us in ways that protect the vulnerable and raise up the lowly. Be with our men and women who serve in the military, *especially: Ashton, Isaac, Leah, Jeff, Kyle, Seth, Nick, Conner, Jamie, Shad, Travis.* Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer

P: You give life to those in need by the anointing of your Holy Spirit. Comfort those who suffer, encourage those who care for the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and wipe away the tears of all who mourn. We pray especially for especially for *Larry Cole, Caleb Gallmeyer, Cindy Gapter, Ellen Jackson, Jan & Carson Moser, Eileen Shanyfelt, Lynn Shutt, Ava, Aly Springer, Bob Thiele, Shirley Bishop, Brent Dafforn, Linda Hitzeman, Racee May, Norma Whitacre, Bill Thiele family* Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

Be with those who have been affected by COVID – 19, especially Mark and his coworkers, those who have lost their job due to this pandemic. Bring healing to Karen Littleford’s niece and all others who have been diagnosed with COVID – 19. Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

In the days ahead protect us in the midst of this COVID – 19 pandemic. Thank you for giving us strength and peace during this difficult time. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: You give life to this community of faith by infusing us with love for one another. Inspire us to reach out to our neighbors in meaningful ways and bring the joys of community to a wider family of people. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: You give life to your saints by setting a banquet table of rich food. Feed us with the bread of life and bring us with all your saints to the feast that has no end. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the spring of new and everlasting life. **C: Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us.

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

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory”

LBW 145

Thine Is the Glory



- 1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
- 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain



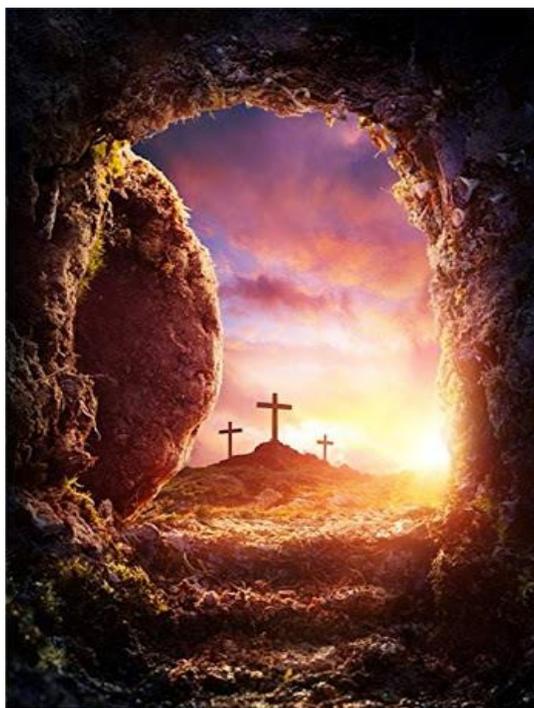
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

Closing Prayer



News From Saint Mark Lutheran Church

Easter The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter is the sacred celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is the oldest and holiest Christian festival and the holy day to which all other holy days point. Even denominations that do not strictly follow a liturgical calendar celebrate **Easter** with tremendous joy and thanksgiving. The most commonly stated rule for determining the date of **Easter** is that it is the first Sunday that follows the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This means that in *Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran, and Protestant churches*, **Easter** can fall as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. In actuality, the rule given above is something of an over simplification because the calculation of the date of **Easter** involves ecclesiastical definitions that do not exactly correspond to astronomical observations.

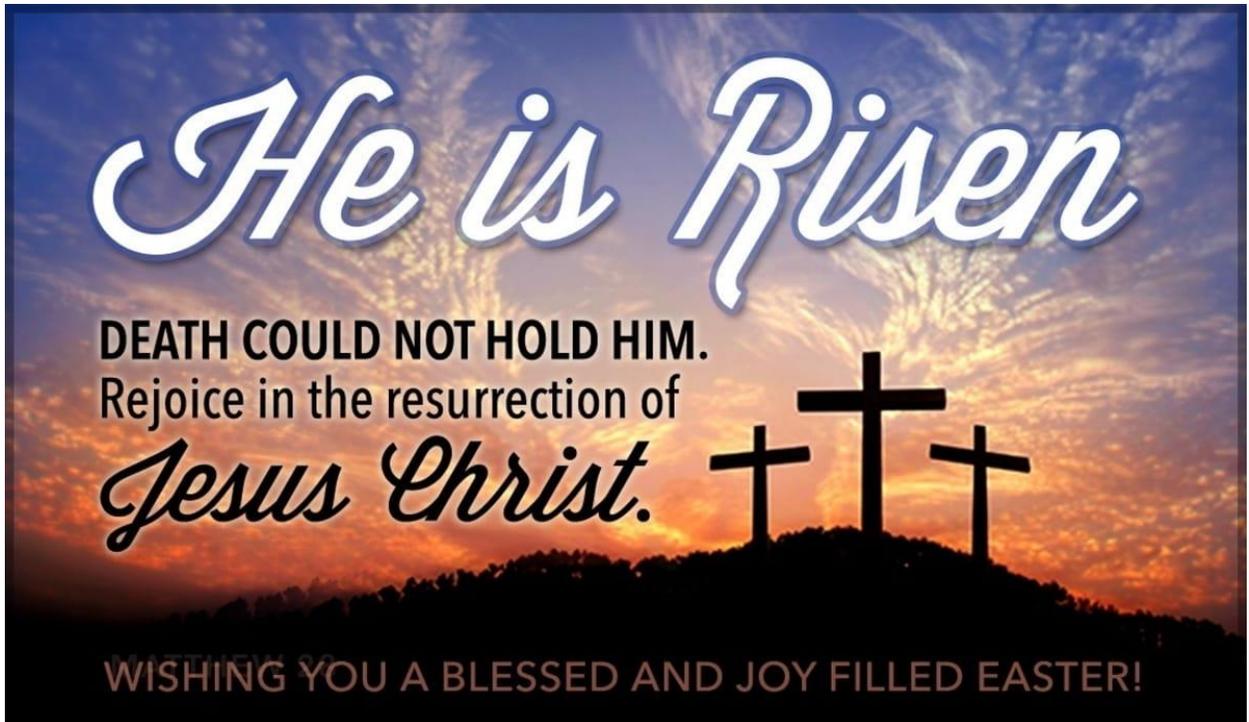
The joy Christians experience when contemplating Jesus' resurrection is so profound and overpowering that it cannot be confined to just one festival day. This is why **Easter** is a season that begins on **Easter** Sunday proper and contains seven full weeks. This cycle is known historically as the *Great Fifty Days* or the *Week of Weeks*. During this time, the Church celebrates Jesus' resurrection, His appearances to the disciples after **Easter**, His post-resurrection teachings, His ascension, and the disciple's anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit on *Pentecost*. *Ascension Day*, the 40th of the *Great Fifty Days*, is sometimes commemorated with a special evening service since it always falls on Thursday.

The **Easter** season is the most joyful and festive season of the Christian year. Worship during this time features the prominent return of the "*Hymn of Praise*" and the "*alleluia*;" expressions of joy and praise that were removed at the beginning of *Lent*. Chancels and sanctuaries are usually decorated with banners and flowers, especially **Easter** lilies. White, the symbol of gladness and holiness is the liturgical color for all the Sundays of **Easter**. Finally, the paschal candle is allowed to shine throughout the *Great Fifty Days*.

The foundation of the Christian faith is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the righteous and perfect life that we couldn't live because of our fallen and sinful nature. He suffered the penalty for our sins by taking our guilt upon Himself and dying horribly on the cross. He rose bodily from the dead on that first **Easter** morning, ensuring that we who have been baptized into His death and resurrection will rise again in glorified bodies on the Last Day. This is the great paschal mystery that Christians have celebrated since the earliest days of the Church. As the Apostle Paul joyfully declared: "**But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.... Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**" (1 Corinthians 15:20-22 and 55-57). On **Easter** Sunday, while secular society occupies itself with eggs and bunnies, the Christian church celebrates God's greatest triumph over sin, death, and the devil with the ancient greeting:

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen! He is risen indeed!**

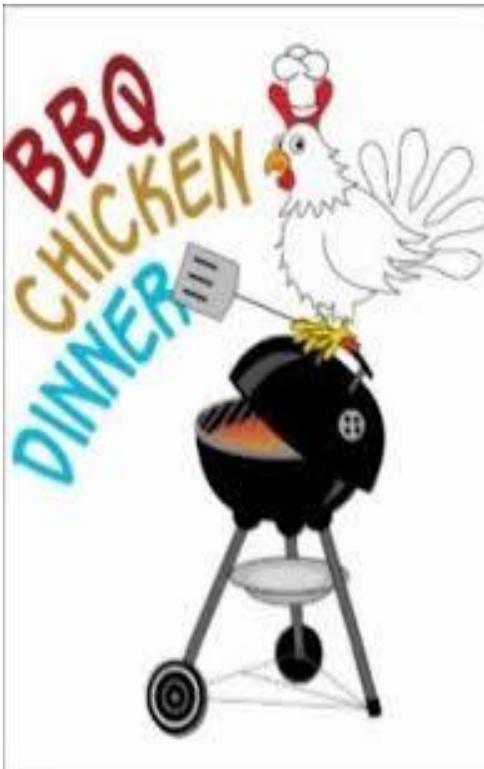
In Christ,
Pastor Harrison D. Gapter, M.A., M.DIV.



Announcements

On April 6, 2020, the Executive members of the Church Council (President, Vice President, and both Elders) decided to suspend church services and all ministry activities during the month of April 2020. They will meet again on April 27, 2020 to reassess what to do in the midst of this COVID – 19 pandemic.

Hopefully we will be able to have church worship services again sometime in May 2020. If you need anything, please call Joyce who will be in the office every day or Pastor Harrison.



**Mother's Day
Chicken Bar-B- Q
will be postponed until later
this summer
Thank you!**

Pray WITHOUT
CEASING

When you have a moment, please pray for Cindy and Pastor. It doesn't have to be a long prayer, just one from the heart.

Thank
You

Thank You all for your thoughts, prayers, cares, visits and chocolate candy during my recent back surgery. Thru your love and caring I could very much feel Gods love. This helped me in my recovery.

Warmest Regards,
Steve Branstrator



Please feel free to mail your offerings to the church; your gifts are extremely important in paying our expenses. Thank you so much for your generosity.

hope

If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be... Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.

- Nikki Banas