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The Rev. Robert Vogl Brian Larson, Cantor  
8:30am Assist Min: Chris Weinrich Lector: Gail Roe  
Communion Distribution: Fay Faller, Mary Parade  
11:00am A.M.: Dave Faller Lector: Marilyn Langenbach  
Communion Distribution: Henry Currey, Mia Parada  
Trumpet: Jordon Ferguson Saxophone: Craig Weinrich  
April 5, 2026 at 8:30am & 11:00am

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day.** This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.



## GATHERING

### Handbells

Thine Is the Glory  
Morning Has Broken

Susan E. Geschke  
Arnold B. Sherman

### Welcome

### Choir

They Rolled the Stone Away

Layton James

*Mary climbed the hill at dawn; angels sittin’ in an empty tomb.  
Someone said, “I think he’s gone.” Angels sittin’ in an empty tomb.*

*They rolled the stone away, angels sittin’ in an empty tomb.*

*Looked around to see who’s there, stood a gardener, tall and fair.  
“They’ve taken him away,” she said, “Just folded sheets left on his bed.”*

*Mary’s never been the same since the gardener spoke her name.*

*Recognized the voice of love sweet as any turtledove.*

*Light of heart, to town she ran, a clutch of flowers in her hand.*

Stand

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. *Water is poured into the font.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn 365

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus Christ Is Risen Today'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody with various note values and rests, including some beamed eighth notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. Below the treble staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part (1, 2, 3, 4). The lyrics are: '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!', and '4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!'. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the treble staff.

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 you 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: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise: *This Is the Feast*

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-  
 lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! lu-ia!

To stanzas Last time

1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
 hon - or, the bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - - men.  
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - - ia.



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

# WORD

## First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

A reading from Acts. <sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 choir/congregation



<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,**  
**"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**  
**"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,**  
**and declare the works of the LORD.**

- 18 The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.
- 19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- 20 “This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter.”
- 21 **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 **By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

A reading from Colossians. <sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Children’s Message**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**      sung by the choir      Richard Hillert, LBW10

*Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth; play music to praise God's name. Alleluia.  
Our Passover Lamb is Christ, who banished the angel of death. Alleluia.  
Our God who raised Christ from the grave gives us new birth as children. Alleluia.*

## Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, 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> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, 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 and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”



The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Be Not Afraid** sung twice

Hymn 388

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community  
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

## Hymn of the Day 382

## Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turms to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**Nicene Creed** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit or kneel*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*Sit*

## **Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts**

## Choir

## The Chief Cornerstone

Bradley Ellingboe

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

*The guards outside the tomb could not contain his might.*

*Christ broke the seal of death and rose into the light.*

*The devil and his lies, the world, the flesh and sin,  
cannot defeat Christ now nor hedge his victory in.*

*As he was raised from stone we also will be raised  
to join the heavenly hosts before the throne of grace.*

*So sing, angelic choirs, O hosts of heaven sing!*

*Break forth, O earth, in song and praise your Lord and King!*

Text by Gracia Grindal

*Stand*

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

*Sit*

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.  
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



## Lamb of God

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.

## Tenor Sax/Piano

## What Wondrous Love Is This

Mark Albrecht

## Communion Hymn 361

## The Day of Resurrection!

- 1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
- 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
- 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.  
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

*Stand*

## **Table Blessing and Communion Prayer**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

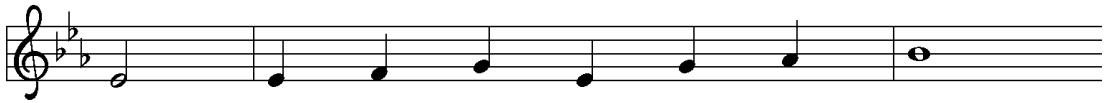
## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

# Sending Hymn 367

# Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



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



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 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!

Sit

## Announcements

### A New Birthday Song

Using the tune KREMSER, We Praise You, O God

**We celebrate with you the life that God gave you.  
We thank God for letting us share in your joy.  
God bless you and keep you and shine Christ's light upon you.  
With love we sing together: happy birthday to you.**

### Dismissal

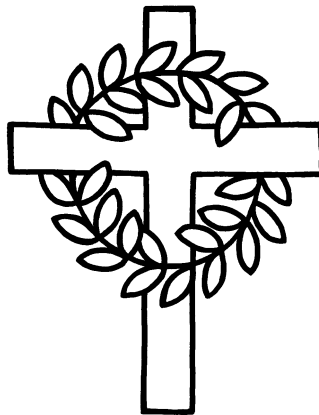
Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

### Trumpet/Organ

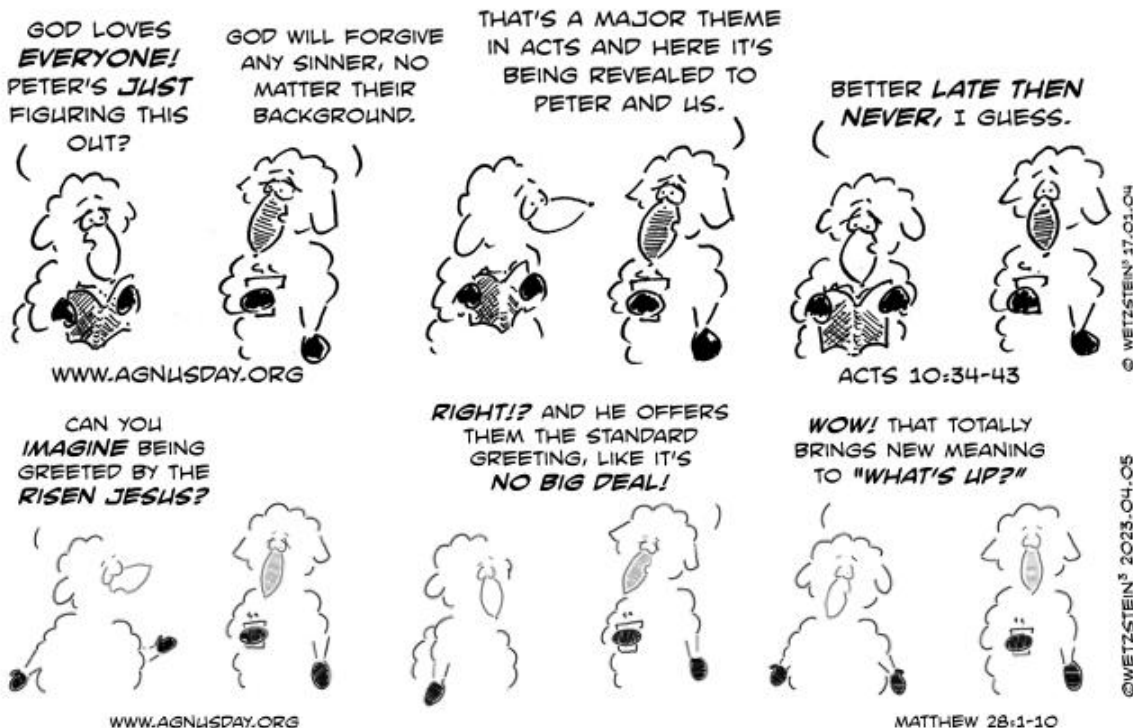
Joyous Procession

Garry Cornell



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The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org).



### Commemorations this Week

**Monday, April 6** **Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists** These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

**Thursday, April 9** **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945** Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

**Friday, April 10** **Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557** Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

# *Easter Flowers*

*that enhance the beauty of our chancel have been given to the glory of God  
by the following members and friends of Trinity:*

**Else Abel** in honor of good friends.

**Kathy Barrick** in memory of Gladys Bachman and Millie Patterson.

**Michelle Clancy** in memory of her husband, John Clancy; her son, Richard Clancy; her granddaughters, Lynn Hall Paydos, Korin Clancy Rose and Kaylee Vanscyoc.

**John King** to the glory of God.

**Marilyn Langenbach** in loving memory of Theodore Barchauski and Christian Langenbach.

**Larry Muchow** in memory of Linda and Diana Muchow.

**Craig & Jan Newton** to the glory of God.

**Shirley Niemyer** in memory of Herman and Alice Rauch.

**Evy and Karl Okerstrom** in honor of Evy's grandparents, Leonard and Emilie Bailey.

**Dave and Barb Padley** in memory of loved ones.

**Leith Patnaude** in honor of Jim Gilligan, and in loving memory of Ed Patnaude.

**Bruce and Nancy Spengler** in loving memory of family members.

**MaryLou Stavros** in memory of James Stavros, Melvin and Dorothy Jensrud.

**Gordon and Louise Stewart** in memory of Deborah Stewart.

**Betty Still** in memory of her parents, Vito and Elizabeth Rizzo; her family members, Frank Still and Frank Riley. She also honors her family.

**In loving memory** of Linda Voss and Mary Alyce & Alan Paul by the family.

## Strongly Sung Alleluias

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God's love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of "fear and great joy" (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they "took hold of his feet, and worshiped him" (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter "alleluia" was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation" (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God's liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)**