

April 5, 2026

Easter Dawn

# IT IS FINISHED

*Fasting Gives Way to Feasting*



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Without the resurrection of Jesus, we could only fear death and feel sorrow at the departure of those we love. But Jesus lives, and it makes a difference. Jesus is the resurrection first fruits for the harvest of humanity. Dead is not dead forever. Death is not final at all! Our deceased Christian loved ones are not gone forever. We will see them again when Jesus does what he promised. He turns our Lenten fasting into Easter feasting.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** The prophet Zechariah, hundreds of years before Jesus was even born, prophesied about the work the Savior would do. During Lent, we've considered some of the prophecies God spoke through him. Those words, of course, describe not only his suffering, but his victory as well. It is that victory that we see in Easter's empty tomb.

**PASCHAL CANDLE:** The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty Victor over death and sin. It is lit at every baptism, for *"we are 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."* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ's resurrection and the Christian's resurrection to life eternal.

**A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION:** Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Keyboard: Luke Dorn, Jordyn Anderson

Violin: Charlotte Lonetti

Soloist: Abigail Ibsch

Youth Praise Group: Jordyn Anderson, Joy Ibsch, Charlotte Lonetti, Emma Strachan

Adult Praise Group: Luke & Allison Dorn, Renee Nair,  
Tom Stob, Jessie Wolfe, Nathan Enter, Jacob Olsen

# Order of Worship



*After the ringing of the bells, the pastor removes the veil from the altar cross, reminding us of the funeral shroud gone from Jesus' face Easter morning.*

## **Easter Acclamation & Dialogue**

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

M: This is the day the Lord has made.

**C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

**C: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

M: I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

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

M: The Lord's right hand is majestic in power. The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.

**C: Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

M: The Lord will not abandon me to the grave. He has made known to me the path of life.

**C: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

M: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

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

M: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

**C: The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

M: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

# Hymn: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

CW 443

All sing verses 1, 3, 5. Men sing verse 2. Women sing verse 4.



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness— see what to -  
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens— what peace it  
4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my  
5 He brings me to the por - tal that leads to



day is done! Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes  
in the tomb; but lo, he now is rout - ed, his  
does im - part! Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the  
Sav - ior dear. My Lord will leave me nev - er; with  
bliss un - told, where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is



forth the glo - rious sun. My Sav - ior there was  
boast is turned to gloom. For Christ a - gain is  
joy with - in my heart. No gloom shall ev - er  
him I need not fear. He rends death's i - ron  
found in script of gold: "Who there my cross has



laid where our bed must be made when to the  
free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry he who is  
shake, no foe shall ev - er take the hope which  
chain; he breaks through sin and pain. He shat - ters  
shared finds here a crown pre - pared; who there with



realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.  
strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
God's own Son in love for me has won.  
hell's dark thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God dearly wants us to share in his life and love. He created us for himself, yet we fall short of his perfect holiness. He yearns to be reconciled with us. Let us therefore approach him this Easter morning seeking his pardon for our sins.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I confess that I stumble in my faith. Sometimes I live and act as though Your Son neither died for my sins nor rose bodily from the grave. Too many times I have neglected your Word and worship.**

**For these and other offenses, I deserve to be abandoned by you both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my risen Savior, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, did not spare his own son but gave him up into death on the cross to atone for the guilt of all people. Whoever believes in him will not perish but has eternal life! Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the risen Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **Anthem: Alleluia, Love is Alive!**

S. Angrisano

*The congregation is invited to join in the second verse.*

People of God, see the morning is new;  
Rise from your sleeping and run to the tomb.  
Come and see! Come and see! He is alive!  
A grave that is empty, a promise fulfilled.  
God who was with us is here with us still.  
He is here! He is here! He is alive!

*(Refrain)* Alleluia! Love is alive;  
Conquered the grave and defeated the night.  
Alleluia! Love is alive!  
The Son has arisen for all. Your people sing alleluia!

**People of God, let your fear fall away.  
Your chains have been broken; abandon your shame.  
Lift your hearts! Lift your hearts! He is alive!  
Here now is mercy embracing your soul;  
Here the fulfillment that once was foretold. It is true! It is true! He is alive!**

## First Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

*God's people praise the Lord that his anger is turned aside by Jesus' payment for sin. We rejoice that God is our salvation and strength.*

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say:

"I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,  
your anger has turned away  
and you have comforted me.

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation."

<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say:

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done,  
and proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;

let this be known to all the world.

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

*In response to forgiveness won by our Passover Lamb Jesus, our whole lives celebrate God's truth in a continual Easter celebration.*

Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? <sup>7</sup>Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:24



### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **Refrain**

## Gospel

John 20:1-18

*Our Lord Jesus appears, alive, to Mary to dry her tears and remove her fears.*

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup>as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup>Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup>Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup>and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup>At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup>Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion



## Hymn of the Day: The Tomb is Empty

CW 453

*The Praise Group sings verses 1 & 3. The congregation joins for verses 2, 4, 5.*



1	The	tomb	is	emp - ty,	is	emp - ty!	Come	and
2	The	tomb	is	emp - ty,	is	emp - ty!	Come	and
3	The	tomb	is	emp - ty,	is	emp - ty!	Come	and
4	The	tomb	is	emp - ty,	is	emp - ty!	Come	and
5	The	tomb	is	emp - ty,	is	emp - ty!	Go	and



see	where	once	the	bod - y	lay.		
hear	these	words	of	life	and	peace:	
touch	the	stone	and	fold - ed	shroud.		
meet	the	ris - en	Christ	our	Lord		
serve	all	peo - ple	who	long	to	be	free!

Can it be true, be true, that Je - sus  
 "He is not here, not here. He lives a -  
 Christ lives in - deed, in - deed. Al - le - lu -  
 in whom we have, we have our vic - to -  
 Raise those who sleep, who sleep in tombs of

Christ is raised to life to - day?  
 gain in all your Gal - i - lees."  
 ia! Be - liev - ers, shout a - loud.  
 ry, in whom is life re - stored.  
 fear, and give them eyes to see!

*Refrain*

Sing al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

## Sermon Text

*Zechariah 8:19-23*

<sup>19</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: "The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace."

<sup>20</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, <sup>21</sup>and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the LORD and seek the LORD Almighty. I myself am going.' <sup>22</sup>And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the LORD Almighty and to entreat him."

<sup>23</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'"

## *"Our Fasting Gives Way to Feasting"*

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### *The Second Article (Redemption)*

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

#### *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

*Be seated.*

### *Offering*



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



*Please stand.*

### *Prayer of the Church*

**M:** O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**C:** **Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**M:** In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**C:** **Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.**

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

**C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.**

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Hymn: This Is the Feast

CW 938 Final Refrain

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

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

## Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Communion Distribution

*For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten. Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.*

*If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.*

## Communion Anthem: Because He Lives

B. & G. Gaither

*The congregation is invited to join the praise leaders in Easter song.*

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus.

He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon.

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*(Refrain)* Because he lives I can face tomorrow.  
Because he lives all fear is gone.  
Because I know he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he gives.  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because he lives.  
And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain,  
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. *(Refrain)*

## **Response of Thanksgiving**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalms 118:1*

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

## **Easter Prayer & Blessing**

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through faith, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: The events and victory of this Easter Day happened for you! Christ is risen and with that he has brought you life and forgiveness; and he gives you purpose, peace, and hope. May these truths guide you and be a blessing to you. Go and live each day in that victorious joy!

C: **Amen**



## Hymn: *This Is Amazing Grace*

Phil Wickham

*The congregation is invited to join the praise leaders in Easter song.*

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*(Refrain)* This is amazing grace. This is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place, that you would bear my cross.  
You laid down your life that I would be set free.  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory.  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings. *(Refrain)*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements



**Easter is just the beginning.** Since Jesus is alive, it answers more than the question. **It changes everything.** Over the next few weeks, we'll explore what that really means for your doubts, your direction, and your eternal future. Don't miss what comes next. Learn more and plan your return at [salemlutheran.org/easter](http://salemlutheran.org/easter)

## Acknowledgments

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### Easter Fellowship & Celebration Continues

After worship all are invited to enjoy breakfast and fellowship downstairs. Bible study and Sunday JAM for kids will return next Sunday.

*Easter Flowers on the Altar are  
placed in memory of*

Verna & Franklin Gruetzmacher  
Pearl & Howard Elder  
Robert & Neola Raasch  
John Rogotzke  
Anna Rogotzke  
Bill & Lois Polzin  
Barb & Don Anderson  
Lyle & Aris Crawford  
Bernice & Paul Roth  
Connie Sweeney  
Lyle Doerr  
Tracy & Ella Berdan  
Kay Berdan  
Gilbert & Rosella Ecker  
Alfred & Joanna Stoller  
Kent Hadrits  
Palmberg Family Members  
Brenda Ross  
Merlyn & Arayla Rogge  
Linda Wyland  
Al & Eileen Lindberg  
Bill Galler  
Bob & Doris Sinclair  
Robert Sorensen  
Harold Wilk  
Marvin & Jeanne Passow  
Carl & Emma Bourman

Gary Campbell  
Stan Vetsch  
Collin Fitzgerald  
Zaylee Fitzgerald  
Schultz Family  
Friends of Sharon Looney  
Pastor David & Carmen Ponath  
Raj & Meena Nair  
Donald Roettger  
Geraldine Roettger  
Victor Prescott  
Amanda & Charles Dahlke  
Michael Miller  
John Falck  
Jan & Lloyd Grobe  
Eliana Eudora Shah  
Syed Shah  
George & Mardell Hackler  
Kevin Danen  
Ron & Beulah Raleigh  
Sue Galler  
Tom & Dorothy Gerson  
Ron & Bonnie Smith  
Darrold Thompson  
Emma & Wilbert Miller  
Anton & Frances Wolfe  
Herb & Catherine Monthie



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

