



*St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School*

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

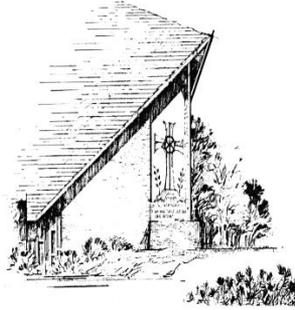
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*Worship for the 3rd Sunday of Easter
April 15 & 18, 2021*

Opening Hymn: CWS #720 “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (see pages 14 & 15 for music)

1 Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands

**For our offenses given; But now at God’s right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven. Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully Loud songs of alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

2 No son of man could conquer death,

**Such ruin sin had wrought us. No innocence was found on earth,
And therefore death had brought us Into bondage from of old
And ever grew more strong and bold And held us as its captive.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

3 Christ Jesus, God’s own Son, came down, His people to deliver;

**Destroying sin, he took the crown From death’s pale brow forever.
Stripped of pow’r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains; Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

4 It was a strange and dreadful strife

**When life and death contended. The victory remained with life;
The reign of death was ended. Holy Scripture plainly says
That death is swallowed up by death; Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children.

C: But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment.

P: Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,

Whom God so freely gave us; He died on the accursed 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! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, by raising your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead you have assured us that he is true God, that our sins are forgiven, and that we also will rise from death to live with you forever.

Grant that we may stand firm on this Easter gospel and devote ourselves to proclaiming it to the salvation of people everywhere; through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lesson: Acts 4:8-20

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

¹²“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

¹³When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and found out that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were astonished and took note of the fact that these men had been with Jesus.

¹⁴But since they saw the man who had been healed standing there with them, they could not say anything in reply. ¹⁵After they had ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they discussed the matter among themselves. ¹⁶They asked, “What should we do with these men? To be sure, it is evident to all who live in Jerusalem that a miraculous sign has been done through them, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷However, in order that this may spread no further among the people, let us give them a strict warning not to speak any longer to anyone in this name.”

¹⁸Then they summoned them and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, “Decide whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God. ²⁰For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Verse of the Day

All: (sing) 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! Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" Saddened, they stopped.

¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked them.

They replied, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. ²¹But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. ²³When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. ³¹Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?" ³³They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the

Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon." ³⁵They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

P: This the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn: #160 "This Joyful Eastertide"

1 This joyful Eastertide

Away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified,

Has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,

Not burst his three-day prison,

Our faith had been in vain:

But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;

But now is Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill

Since Jesus crossed the river;

Lover of souls, from ill

My passing soul deliver. [Refrain]

3 My flesh in hope shall rest

And for a season slumber

Till trump from east to west

Shall wake the dead in number. [Refrain]

Sermon Text: I Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Therefore...

I. Be steadfast in your faith

II. Be ceaseless in your service

III. Be certain in your weariness

Apostles' Creed

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

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

Amen.

Offering (offerings may be placed into the basket in the narthex)

Prayer of the Church for Easter

P: 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! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: In your compassion you sent your Son, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life and took it up again to rescue the lost.

C: You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

P: 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 power and wealth, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise."

P: 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: How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

P: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

C: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

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

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #154 "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

Refrain: *Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.*

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. Refrain.

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.

3 We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever. Refrain.

4 God has proclaimed his gracious gift:

Life eternal for all who believe. Refrain.

5 Come, let us praise the living God,

Joyfully sing to our Savior. Refrain.

Prayer

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #542 “Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give”

1. Dear Lord, to Your true servants give

The grace to You alone to live.

Set free from sin to serve You, Lord,

We go to share Your living Word,

The gospel message to proclaim

That all may know Your saving name.

2. We gladly go at Your command

To spread your Word o'er sea and land.

Be with us, Lord, and make us strong

To heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.

Your rule is over wind and wave,

And mighty is Your arm to save.

3. When all our labor seems in vain,

Revive our sinking hopes again;

And when success crowns what we do,

Oh, keep us humble, Lord, and true

Until before Your judgment seat

We lay our trophies at Your feet.

Members, Visitors & Guests—Welcome to St. Matthew's!

May our Savior's Easter victory lead us to be steadfast in faith, ceaseless in service, and certain when we weary that our work is not in vain.

If you are visiting our service, please sign a “care card” in the church pew or our guest book and come back to visit again soon.

Attendance Last Sunday—180 (20/160) Bible Class—49

Offering Last Week—\$12,968.00 Sunday School—14

(Meeting our 2021 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$13,600.00.)

*“Be strong, and let your heart be firm, all you
who wait confidently for the LORD” Psalm 31:24.*

Announcements:

1. **The flowers on the altar** have been given by Bev Boughton in celebration of her mother's 102 birthday! We wish her God's continued blessings.
2. **Bible Class** Sunday morning Bible class will continue today at its usual time slot between services. Bible class meets in the fellowship area downstairs. We will continue looking at the book of Leviticus. Please join us as we "Book Through the Bible."
3. **Evening Guild Ladies!!** Don't miss our **LAST** meeting, May 3rd at **6:00 p.m.** It will be our Trinkets and Treasures fund raiser for LWMS. We are also having a potluck. Bring a dish to pass and if possible a treasure to silent auction off. The item(s) can also be a craft that you enjoy doing and don't mind selling. Potluck participation is strictly optional or you may bring your own food. Please NOTE the time change. Refreshments and tableware will be provided. Mark your calendars and don't miss this fun event. Questions? Linda Williams, 608-676-4257.
4. **Miss Moeller's Call** We would like to inform the congregation that Miss Meredith Moeller has received a Call to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Omaha, Nebraska to teach grades 3 and 4, coordinate school music, direct choir and play organ. Please provide encouragement and keep her in your prayers as she deliberates where the Lord wants her to serve in the future.
5. **Men's Softball** Janesville is having softball leagues again this summer! Any guys (18 and over) interested in playing for our St. Matthew's team in a 10-week Monday night church league should sign up on the narthex bulletin board. The games are played at Dawson Fields. Games begin June 7th and the cost is \$25/player. If you have questions, talk to or call Craig Sonntag (608) 322-7995.
6. **Fellowship/Outreach Committee** will be meeting on Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Anyone interested in Fellowship events (game night, pie night, etc.) or Outreach events (Easter for Kids, Summer Bible Camp, Christmas for Kids) please join us. We are looking for new ideas for both areas and look forward to your input. If you have any questions, please call Steve Sage at 608-295-1691.

7. **Preschool Registration** We will be accepting preschool enrollment forms for the coming school year. Our program for 3 year olds will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (Wednesday optional) from 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. Children must be 3 years of age by September 1st. Our 4 year olds will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. Children registering for this class must be 4 years old by September 1st. We would like you to get the applications in by **May 21** so a spot can be reserved for you. We will again offer “Afternoon Care for Preschoolers.” The purpose of this program is to provide care for the child after preschool is over. This care will be provided on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 3:00. Parents have the option of choosing from one to three days. After that time, the students will go to the library for our After School Care program. If you have any questions about our preschool or would like an enrollment form, please contact Mr. Proeber or Mrs. Sonntag.
8. **Luther Prep Children’s Theater:** LPS invites you to enjoy their production of "Itsy Bitsy: Trial of an 8-Legged Washout" by Charlotte Nixon in the LPS Auditorium at 7pm on Saturday, May 1st and/or at 4pm on Sunday, May 2nd. Tickets are \$4/person or \$10/Family. No RSVPs needed.
- There will also be an LPS Open House at 5pm before the 7pm show on Saturday, May 1st. You will take a tour, enjoy a complimentary dinner and free tickets to the performance. Please RSVP by April 28th to LPS at info@lps.wels.net or call 920-261-4352 if interested in attending the Open House.
9. **Church Council** The following action was taken at the church council meeting which was held on Wednesday, April 14:
- Micah & Stephanie Probst, and daughter, Octavia were received into membership by transfer from St. Paul, Fort Atkinson;
 - Riley Wild was received into membership by transfer from Bethany in Fort Atkinson; Jake Wild was received into membership by adult confirmation;
 - Andy Phelps was transferred to Risen Savior in McFarland;
 - Brett Boeck was transferred to Trinity in Marshfield.

- The treasurer's report which was presented to the church council on Wednesday evening indicates that the Lord has richly blessed the efforts of his flock here at St. Matthew's through the first three months of this year. Here is a break-down of our offerings by area through the end of March 2021:

	<u>Needed</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund/Debt	\$151,500.00	\$145,000.00	(\$6,500.00)
WELS	\$13,600.00	\$13,600.00	0
Lakeside LHS	<u>\$11,600.00</u>	<u>\$11,600.00</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$176,700.00	\$170,200.00	(\$6,500.00)

As you can see from the information above we are a bit behind our ministry plan. However, our offerings to the Lord year to date are running \$15,200.00 or nearly 10% ahead of last year at this same point. This is yet another blessing from our gracious God for which we give our humble thanks.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Kathi Hendee

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt, Mike Lenser, Kevin Paasch,
Cody Stanelle

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel, Connor Stirmel, Austin Schultz

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield, Andy Phelps, Stephen Phelps, Bill Moench

10:30 a.m. – Fred Shadoski, Steve Brudos, Russ Scott

CODS:

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – Phil Madsen

8:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield

10:30 a.m. – Tim Stirmel

Next Week CODS:

Thursday 6:30 p.m. – Brandon Phillips

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers

10:30 a.m. – Nick Schmitt

Church Cleaning:

April 17, 2021 – Steven Brudos & Evie Burkholder families

April 24, 2021 – Rich Burnside & Mark Butzow families

St. Matthew's Bible Classes

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

“Book Through the Bible: Leviticus”

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“The Pharisee & the Tax Collector”

Monday Evening Women's Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

“A Woman After God's Own Heart”

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

“Full Accessories of God”

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

“Book Through the Bible: Leviticus”

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

“The Rich Man & Poor Lazarus”

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Monday

Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Public School Confirmation

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

Worship with Lord's Supper

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

720 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of -
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, Such ru - in
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en. There - fore let us joy - ful be
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 er. Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
 ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says

And sing to God right thank - ful - ly Loud songs of
 And ev - er grew more strong and bold And held us
 An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains; Its sting is
 That death is swal - lowed up by death; Its sting is

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 as its cap - tive, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
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 Whom God so freely gave us;
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