



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

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Worship for the Day of our Lord's Resurrection

March 31, 2024

Opening Hymn: (by Choir) "An Easter Chant"

Invitation to Worship

P: The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

P: Remember how he told you while he was still in Galilee:

C: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.

P: He was delivered over to death for our sins;

C: He was raised to life for our justification.

P: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

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

P: Jesus has risen, just as he said.

C: He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CW 438

1 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!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

unto Christ, our heav'nly King, Alleluia!

who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

sinner to redeem and save. Alleluia!

**3 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!**

Psalm: (Psalm 118:14-24)

P: The LORD is my strength and my song;

C: he has become my salvation.

P: Shouts of joy and victory

C: resound in the tents of the righteous:

P: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

C: the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

P: I will not die but live,

C: and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

P: The LORD has chastened me severely,

C: but he has not given me over to death.

P: Open for me the gates of righteousness;

C: I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

P: This is the gate of the LORD

C: through which the righteous may enter.

P: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

C: you have become my salvation.

P: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

C: the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: (sing) Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Prayer

P: Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before you in righteousness and purity forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Hymn: (by choir) "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

The Old Testament Reading: Job 19:23-27

²³Oh how I wish that my words were written down.

Oh how I wish that they were inscribed in bronze,

²⁴that they would be engraved in rock forever

with an iron tool and letters filled with lead.

²⁵As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust.

²⁶Then, even after my skin has been destroyed,

nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God.

²⁷I myself will see him.

My own eyes will see him,

and not as a stranger.

My emotions are in turmoil within me.

P: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn: I Know that My Redeemer Lives *CW 441*

1 (All) I know that my Redeemer lives!

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

he lives, my everliving head!

2 (Men) He lives triumphant from the grave;

he lives eternally to save;

he lives all-glorious in the sky;

he lives exalted there on high.

3 (Women) He lives to bless me with his love;

he lives to plead for me above;

he lives my hungry soul to feed;

he lives to help in time of need.

4 (All) He lives to grant me rich supply;

he lives to guide me with his eye;

he lives to comfort me when faint;

he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

**5 (Pulpit side) 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.**

**6 (Lectern side) He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

**7 (All) 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.**

STAND

**8 (All) 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!**

The Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could go and anoint Jesus. ²Very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³They were saying to each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb for us?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸They went out and hurried away from the tomb, trembling and perplexed. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn: He's Risen, He's Risen

CW 445

- 1 He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
he opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
and earth, sea, and mountain, the praises prolong.**
- 2 The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
the Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
for Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**
- 3 But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
and death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;
he lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.**
- 4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions his blood does atone;
redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**
- 5 Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
with Father and Spirit he ever shall reign.**

Sermon Text: I Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen

asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Easter Means There's No More "If"

I. About our faith

Hymn: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands *CW 440*

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!

II. About our forgiveness

Hymn: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands *CW 440*

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 saith
that death is swallowed up by death;
disgraced, it lies defeated.
Alleluia, alleluia!

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
whom God so freely gave us;
he died on the accursèd 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!

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!

III. About our future

Hymn: Awake, My Heart, With Gladness *CW 443*

1 Awake, my heart, with gladness—
see what today is done!
Now, after gloom and sadness,
comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
where our bed must be made
when to the realms of light
our spirit wings its flight.

2 **The foe in triumph shouted**
 when Christ lay in the tomb;
but lo, he now is routed,
 his boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free;
in glorious victory
 he who is strong to save
 has triumphed o'er the grave.

5 **He brings me to the portal**
 that leads to bliss untold,
whereon this rhyme immortal
 is found in script of gold:
"Who there my cross has shared
finds here a crown prepared;
 who there with me has died
 shall here be glorified."

Offering

Prayer of the Church for Easter

P: O almighty, eternal, and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise and glorify you. In your infinite mercy you did not spare your own Son, but delivered him over to death for our transgressions and raised him again for our justification, making him the first fruits of those who sleep.

C: The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

P: O glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we give thanks to you for your triumphant resurrection. By it you have abolished death and given us new birth into a living hope and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade, kept in heaven for us.

C: I will praise you, O Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

P: O God the Holy Spirit, we praise and glorify you that through the Word and Sacraments you have imparted and confirmed to us righteousness, peace, and joy; all the treasures of grace purchased and won for us by Christ who died and rose again in glory.

C: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

P: O Holy Trinity, bless your Church. Preserve the good news of Easter among us and through us cause the good news of life and salvation by faith in Christ to be told to the ends of the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

P: Comfort us, Lord, as we journey through this world of sorrow with the assurance of your abiding presence and the glorious hope of the resurrection to everlasting life. While we live, guide us with your counsel, and when we die comfort us with the assurance that you will raise us from death and give us the crown of life.

C: I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you take me into your glory. 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: The Day of Resurrection *CW 450*

**1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**2 Our hearts be pure from evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light
and, list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin,
let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.**

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

Let us rejoice to know that our Lord’s resurrection on this Easter Day means there is no more “if” about our faith, about our forgiveness, or about our future.

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 Week— 305 (109/196) Bible Class – 73

Offering Last Week—\$11,987.00 Sunday School – 20

(Meeting our 2024 Ministry Plan requires weekly offerings of \$14,735.00.)

*“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”*

Psalm 16:11.

Announcements:

1. **Thank You** Thank you to all who helped out with our special Holy Week services. To our organists and instrumentalists, to our ushers and altar guild members, to all who contribute and those who count offerings, to our secretary who puts all the service folders together, and to all who attended our special services...a sincere thank you for the gift of your time and talents, your treasures, your abilities and energy. *“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God” II Corinthians 9:12.*
2. **Thursday Service** We will resume Thursday evening services on Thursday, April 4. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m.
3. **Baptism** Mason Henry Socha was baptized on Saturday, March 30 at St. Matthews. Mason is the son of Ashley (nee Hartwig) and Jacob Socha and was born on November 1, 2023. Serving as sponsor was Matthew Hartwig. *He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:5-6*
4. **Sunday Morning Bible Class** – We have begun a study of the Minor Prophets in Bible Class. We are currently studying the book of the prophet Jonah. Bible class will meet next Sunday, April 7 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship area downstairs. You are invited to join us.

5. **Funeral** Jeff Sather was called to his eternal home on Sunday, March 24, 2024. His Christian funeral service will take place at St. Matthews on Tuesday, April 2. We extend our deepest sympathy to his loved ones. May God comfort those who mourn with his precious promises in Christ Jesus.
6. **Funeral** Arvilla Kotwitz was called to her eternal on Monday, March 25, 2024. There will be a graveside service for Arvilla on Monday, April 8. We extend our deepest sympathy to her loved ones. May God comfort those who mourn with his precious promises in Christ Jesus.
7. **Women's Bible Class** Women's Bible Class is held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are currently working on our handouts regarding Pastor Mark Paustian's books "Prepared to Answer" and "More Prepared to Answer". We hope to have the lessons ready to print in 2024. When we aren't doing these lessons we are using a Women's Bible Study Book from NPH called "In God's Orchard- Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lenser at 608-728-3120.
8. **Welcome to "Fellowship with" WELS** This morning you will find a wooden box for special offerings for the Obadiah Lutheran Synod in Uganda, Africa. You may remember that the president of the OLS came to St. Matthew's and preached for a service here last summer. At the time we did not receive any kind of special offering but we will begin to do that now. If you have a desire to help the OLS and welcome them into fellowship, just place your offering in the box.
9. **Wednesday Evening Confirmation Class** Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet at 5:00 p.m.
10. **Evening Guild will have their April meeting Monday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Please plan on attending as we wind up activities and reports and get ready for our May meeting. Remember your Esther book!!!
11. **LWMS Spring Rally**—Our next rally is scheduled for **Saturday, April 20** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Watertown. This is a special anniversary rally since Trinity hosted our circuit's first rally 60 years ago! The schedule for the ½ day rally includes

registration and morning refreshments from 8-9 am; a devotion, mission presentation and business meeting from 9 am-12:30 pm, and lunch at 12:30 pm. Pastor Jonathan Bauer from Good News Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb, WI will lead the presentation on home missions, with the theme, "Day after Day." Consider attending the rally to learn more about home mission opportunities and challenges! We will need to RSVP a head count to the ladies at Trinity, so please either sign up on the sheet provided in the narthex or call Ann Janke (608) 563-4383 by Wednesday, April 3.

*If you are in need of childcare while at the rally, Trinity is offering that service during the rally...just let Ann know so she can reserve you a spot!

12. **LWMS Mission Offerings**-Mission offerings can be given to Ann Janke at church or mailed to her. Checks should be made payable to St. Matthew's Evening Guild. They need to be given to our Rock River circuit treasurer (now, our own Lisa Thoni!) by April 5, so please have your mission offering to Ann by this date. The offerings collected from our Rock River Circuit will be designated for Vicars in Mission Settings (Home Mission) and Paraguay (World Mission).

Please continue to pray for the spread of the Gospel through our WELS missionaries and mission opportunities!

13. **Ushers Needed** Many of our ushering teams are in need of help, especially in the second service. We will train you. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please text or email me.

Leave your name and phone number and which service you prefer. Thank you for taking this opportunity to serve! Bob Williams 608-751-0731 alas52@yahoo.com

14. **Call for Artists**. Are you an artist, crafter, or maker of any kind? Do you paint, draw, knit or crochet, do needle pint or photography, even make cards or clothing? St. Matthew's invites you to share your talents and gifts in our upcoming exhibit titled "The Work of His Hands Through the Work of Ours." We would like this to be an intergenerational event so all ages (0-100+) are encouraged to submit pieces. Work does not need to be new or recent, but it does have to be handmade. Also, pieces do not need

to be overtly Christian-themed, but all exhibitors will be asked to provide a Bible verse to accompany their display items. Submission deadline is **Friday, April 5th**. All pieces must be received by the church office by **Wednesday, April 10th**. Opening reception is scheduled for **Friday, April 12th**.

15. **2024-2025 Preschool Enrollment** 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 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 are also offering wrap-around care for students after preschool is over. This new program started five years ago. We would like you to get the applications in by **May 23** so a spot can be reserved for you. Shortly after that we will begin advertising to the public that there are spots available for next year. If you have any questions about our preschool or would like an enrollment form, please contact Mr. Proeber or Mrs. Sonntag.
16. **Finish the Work** Perhaps you have noticed that we are running regular updates for the special “Finish the Work” debt retirement/ reduction offering. **To date offerings given to this special effort total over \$87,000.00!! We have received 69 special offering envelopes.** For this we thank our gracious God and his generous people here at St. Matthews. If you would still like to participate in the offering, special “Finish the Work” envelopes are still available on the counter in the narthex. Thank you again to all for your prayers and support.
17. **The April school newsletter and calendar** are available on the counter in the narthex. Take one if you wish.
18. **Thank you to the women** who served on the altar guild for the month of March: Jill Sennett-Newlin and Deb Shadoski. Serving for the month of April will be: Evie Burkholder, Cathy Sonntag, Ashley Phillips, and Lori Sage.

Assisting with Worship

Organist:

Meredith Moeller

Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – Rich Hatfield, Michael Borchardt, Ryan Borchardt, Kyle Stade

10:30 a.m. – Tom May, Ben May, Eddie May

Next Week Ushers:

8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers, Bob Williams, Mike Fox, Nico Caminata

10:30 a.m. – Steve Sage, David Johnson

CODS:

Sunday, March 31, 8:00 a.m. – Phil Fry

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. – Karl Kroening

Thursday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. – Brian Hartwig

Next Week CODS:

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – George Ehlers

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. – Marc Augsburg

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. – Jim Daley

Greeters

Sunday, March 31, 8:00 a.m. – Dale & Lynn Beutin

Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. – Mary Kowal

Next Week Greeters:

Sunday, April 7, 8:00 a.m. – Mike & Bethann Borchardt

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. – Art & Linda Hilker

Church Cleaning:

April 7, 2024 – Warren Scheibe & Jon Spinsky families

April 14, 2024 – Brandon Schulz & Mark Schulz families

This Week at St. Matthew's

Easter Sunday

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

Easter Breakfast 9:15 a.m.

No Sunday School or Bible
Class

Monday

No School – Easter Break

Evening Guild Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

No School – Easter Break

Wednesday

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

Public School Confirmation
5:00 p.m.

No Choir Practice

Thursday

Worship Service 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Sprouts 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Art Show Entry Deadline

Sunday

Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
SS/Bible Class 9:15 a.m.



*We Thank the Many Who
Beautified Our Easter Worship
With Flowers*



Dale & Lynn Beutin in memory of their parents and grandparents

Charlotte Bothum in memory of her nephew John Schroeder

Nick & Nicole Caminata & family in memory of Grandpa Frey

James & Shirley Daley in memory of their parents

Don & Bridget Dickinson in memory of Norm & Grace Dickinson &

Barb & Ludwig Kavetschanky

Bill & Lois Forbes in memory of their parents

Beverly Gasner in memory of her husband, Jerry Gasner

Paul & Debbie Kleban in memory of their fathers Robert Kleban & Elroy Nitz

*The McIlvain family in memory of Wayne & Joyce Rohloff, Alberta Morehead,
& Shirley Jacob*

Jean Muche in memory of her husband, Vern Muche

Penny Pucher in memory of Elma & Malin Pucher & Mattila & Pucher families

Steve & Lori Sage in memory of Fred Sage &

Ray, Evelyn, & Georgia Wendt.

In memory of Jeff Sather

Jack & Diane Schroeder in memory of their son John Schroeder

Kathy Tanko in memory of Sharon Hanrahan

LouAnne & Lisa Thoni in memory of family members

Tom & Resa Truppe in memory of their parents

Bob & Linda Williams in memory of their loved ones

