

Stand

PRAYER

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. Guide us from here today in continued Easter joy, that we would be dead to sin, alive in your Spirit, and ready to serve your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

Amen.

Be seated

HYMN: 441 | *Know That My Redeemer Lives*

As you depart the sanctuary today and return to the life with which God has blessed you, please take a moment to greet those around you in the name of the Lord. Introduce yourself to people you may not know. Offer to help those who may need assistance. Ask questions if you have any. Answer any questions as you are able.



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Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Notes for Visitors:

- **Jesus lives!** Through his resurrection, he has promised us eternal life as well! What a blessing to gather and worship our risen Savior. If you are visiting, welcome! We are glad you've joined us to worship our living Savior, Jesus. We look forward to serving your spiritual needs however we are able. May God bless your week! We hope you worship with us again!
- **Restrooms** are located in the hallway north of the sanctuary.
- **Difficulty hearing?** Tune headphones to 103.3FM (closed circuit broadcast of service). Ask for a portable FM radio and headphones if you need some.
- **Difficulty reading small print?** Magnifying readers with light are available by the bookshelf in the narthex and in the ramp by the pulpit.
- **Nursery Room:** If you need a quiet place for your children, we have a room near the church offices. If you need help finding the room, please ask an usher for assistance.
- **Hymnals:** Use the blue hymn books in the rack ahead of your pew to follow along in the service. If you need help or guidance, please ask someone nearby to assist you.
- **Bibles:** Available at the bookshelf in the narthex and on the ramp by the pulpit.

April 5, 2026

The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

The Pastors' Notes

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. Some of them matter more. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ *is* risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50 day celebration of that fact.

With that good news in our hearts we worship today. After saying farewell to Alleluia on Transfiguration Sunday 7 weeks ago, we sing our praises to the Lord with unbridled joy! This Easter morning, let us welcome back the Alleluias to our risen Savior, Jesus, with songs of joy and praise and loud Alleluias!

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Special prayers or intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Be seated

HYMN: 452 *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*



**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.**

Be seated

OFFERING & HYMN: 465 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The members of Emanuel Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will—false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent the women with news of the risen Christ, call those in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Following the bells, please stand. We will begin worship with the responsive "Call to Worship" below.

EASTER FESTIVAL CALL TO WORSHIP

They have taken our Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

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 Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM—ELS STUDENTS: Let All the World Be Glad and Sing

HYMN: 438 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

FIRST READING Jonah 2:2-9

²He said the following:

In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.

From the belly of the grave I cried out,
and you heard my voice.

³You threw me into the depths,
into the heart of the seas.

The currents swept around me.

All your breakers and your waves swept over me.

⁴I said, "I have been driven away from your sight.

Nevertheless, I will once again look toward your holy temple."

⁵Waters engulfed me so that I was near death.

The deep surrounded me.

Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down.

The earth locked me behind its bars forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God.



⁷When my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD.
 My prayer came to you, to your holy temple.
⁸Those who cling to worthless idols forsake the mercy that is theirs.
⁹But I, with a shout of thanksgiving, will indeed sacrifice to you.
 What I have vowed, I will certainly pay in full.
 Salvation belongs to the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

PSALM 118

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹Brothers, I am going to call your attention to the gospel that I preached to you. You received it, and you took your stand on it. ²You are also being saved by that gospel that was expressed in the words I preached to you, if you keep your hold on it—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁴that he was buried,

that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.

⁶After that he appeared to over five hundred brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, he appeared also to me, the stillborn child, so to speak. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, and I am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted God's church. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not ineffective. On the contrary, I worked more than all of them (and yet it wasn't my doing, but it was the grace of God, which was with me, that did it). ¹¹So whether it is I or they, that is what we preach, and that is what you believed.

The Word of the Lord.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

HYMN: 466 *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*; v1,2

Stand

GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²Suddenly, there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and going to the tomb, he rolled away the stone and was sitting on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴The guards were so terrified of him that they shook and became like

dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here. He has risen, just as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead! And look, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you!"

⁸They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

This is the Gospel of our Lord:

Praise be to you, O risen Christ!

Be seated

SOLOIST: *Because He Lives*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: 466 *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*; v3,4,5

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

JESUS' RESURRECTION IS CERTAIN

Part 1— Certain according to the Scriptures

Hymn 449 This Joyful Eastertide; v1

Part 2— Certain according to the witnesses

Hymn 449 This Joyful Eastertide; v2

Part 3— Certain to change lives

Hymn 449 This Joyful Eastertide; v3(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

**The italicized portions highlight the beautiful truths of Easter*

**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.