

# Easter Sunday

## The Resurrection of Our Lord!

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

10:00am

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Wheat Ridge, CO

### Introduction to Today's Worship

*Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!*

# Gather

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

## +A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark 16:1-8

*The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.*

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

## +Gospel Acclamation

"Easter Fanfare"

(Hillebrand)  
Brass and Organ

## +Easter Proclamation

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

This is the day which the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## +Gathering Song:

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

ELW #365

## +Welcome

## +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*

ELW Setting 3

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

## +Prayer of the Day

**God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Hear the Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### +Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

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

<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.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### +Kids Church

*After Kids church, the children are invited to the "Prayground" (back of the sanctuary) to play and pray with friends. Weekly activity sheets are provided. Our worship is inclusive of all ages and learners, welcoming all children, young and old, as Jesus did, to worship in a variety of ways in the same sacred space.*

### +Sermon

#### +A Reading from 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."*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right 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.**

**+Hymn of the Day:**

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

ELW #619 1,2, 7, 8

**+Nicene Creed**

**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.**

## +Prayers of the People

*After each petition we respond: God of Grace, **hear our prayer.***

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith (*name/s may be spoken here*) and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death (*especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith*). Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

## +Share the Peace

*In this community we honor the sacredness of each person and their body by asking for consent to enter their sacred space. We honor one another in our greeting, passing of the peace, and in building relationships.*

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

## Bless and Share the Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

+Musical Offering

"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

(Peterson)  
Choir

+Gathering Our Gifts

# Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

## Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
 with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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### + Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

### + Thanksgiving and Blessing at the Table

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let's celebrate this irrepressible life;

let's open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite possibility,  
 of unquenched hope, of eternal resurrection.

**We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts in worship and thanksgiving to the God who lives.**

...Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.  
 Defying death, He refused to release His hold on life and love.

So now, as He encouraged us, we choose to remember  
 so that we too can truly live.

At supper on the night before He died Jesus took bread and blessed it. Then He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: This is my body, broken so that you may know life.

**Do this in remembrance of Me.**

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it. Then He gave it to His disciples saying: This is my blood, shed so that you may know life. **Do this in remembrance of Me.**

So, now, Lord of Life, we share in this meal, we celebrate together,  
and we remember You.

And we will continue to do this until resurrection  
has flooded the whole creation. **Amen.**

May this bread and this wine become for us in this moment  
your life-giving body and blood,  
And may we who share this meal, be joined with you,  
and with one another,  
as one body united in resurrection life,  
and sharing with all of creation in your eternal salvation. **Amen.**

...As we break this bread, we receive Christ's life.

**In all our diversity, in all our individuality, as we share this one loaf we are one.**

#### **+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.  
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.**

#### **+Invitation to Communion**

*At this meal, Jesus Christ is both the host and meal. Regardless of where you come from, who you love, the color of your skin, your religious background, if you have a little or a lot, are hungry or well fed; or if there is any barrier that you feel keeps you from experiencing God's grace, know that Jesus welcomes you to this meal - the body and blood of Jesus Christ! Bread/Gluten-Free, Wine/Grape Juice provided.*

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

#### **+Musical Meditation**

"I Know that My Redeemer Liveth"

(Handel)  
Ariel Dudgeon

#### **+Communion Distribution**

#### **+Table Blessing**

#### **+Prayer after Communion**

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.  
**Amen.**



# Bless and Send

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## +Blessing

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

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## +Sending Song

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! “

(Ode To Joy)

### Verse 1

Christ is risen shout Hosanna  
Celebrate this day of days  
Christ is risen hush in wonder  
All creation is amazed  
In the desert all surrounding  
See a spreading tree has grown  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
Bring a taste of love unknown

### Verse 2

Christ is risen raise your spirits  
From the caverns of despair  
Walk with gladness in the morning  
See what love can do and dare  
Drink the wine of resurrection  
Not a servant but a friend  
Jesus is our strong companion  
Joy and peace shall never end

### Verse 3

Christ is risen earth and heaven  
Nevermore shall be the same  
Break the bread of new creation  
Where the world is still in pain  
Tell its grim demonic chorus  
Christ is risen get you gone  
God the First and Last is with us  
Sing Hosanna everyone

## +Sending

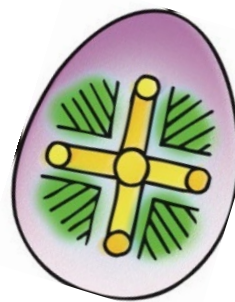
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## +Postlude

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

(Wolff)  
Brass and Organ

***After worship,  
join us in the  
Fireside Lounge  
(Left as you exit the sanctuary)  
for coffee, fellowship,  
and an Easter Egg Hunt!***



## A Special Thank You to Our Guest Musicians!

### ***Easter Brass***

Trumpets – Tony Zator and John Jungerberg

Trombones – Carl Cate and Dave Ernst

### ***Soloist***

Ariel Dudgeon

### **Acknowledgments**

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**This week, please pray for...** Willie Stemmer, Dale Crocker, Steve, Adam and the Iona family, Esther Jacobson, Lloyd Eargle, Jerry Strecker, Ralph Bunge, Judith Ware.

**Continued prayers for...** Susan Raines, Dorothy Strecker, Shaundra Rana, Rex Thomsen, Bob Denning, Erik Weichselbaumer, Thea Hunter, John England, Phil Wolfe, the Nyok family, Norma Pickett, Judy Makowski

**Prayers for our community and world...** Victims of gun violence; those who struggle for food, shelter, and sustainable employment; those displaced from their homes and countries - especially the influx of migrants into our community and those organizations that strive to assist them; and victims of the wars between Ukraine and Russia, and Israel and Hamas, and the violence in Haiti.

**Remember in prayer...** Holy Cross church council and Excellence in Leadership participants, Holy Cross Ministry Partners, and the Rocky Mountain Synod

*The prayer list will be updated on a monthly basis.  
If you want to add your name, or remain on the list, please contact the office.*



## **HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

- 🇺🇸 Merle & Martha Lydick – In memory of loved ones, and in honor of friends & family.
- Steve & Adam Iona – To Janet, who loved transformations
- Phil & Joyce Estrem – In memory of Nora & Erling Estrem, and Adriane & Carl Fiedler. In thanksgiving for our wonderful family.
- Kim & Dave Guinn – in memory of Tom & Marianne Guinn, & Byron Swanson. In honor of Kathryn Swanson and our grandson, Milo.
- Lloyd & Carole Talbert – To those who taught us about Jesus.
- Kay Kellerman – To my sons, Charles, Hal & Rob.
- Ralph & Paula Bunge – In honor & memory of Janet Iona.
- Doris Franke Swanson – In honor of my family and friends, and in memory of loved ones.
- Ryan, Anne Marie, Julio, Alyssa, Eli, Hannah & Emma Kaspersen – In remembrance of nephew & cousin Spencer, Sister-in-law and aunt Kelli, and grandparents & parents Fred & Annely Peterson.
- Bill Fleming & David MacDonald – In memory of Donny Mac.
- Marilyn Roll – In remembrance of husband, David, and son, Scott.
- Severt & Mary Kvamme – In memory of Severt A. & Nellie S. Kvamme, and Earnest & Mary Belle Espelie, parents.



Welcome to

**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WHEAT RIDGE, CO

*Whether you've been attending church for years or haven't stepped into a sanctuary in decades, your presence this day has made this community more complete. If you are here for the first time, stop by our welcome table on your way out so we can connect!*

At Holy Cross Wheat Ridge, we have a simple hope:  
To Know Christ and share God's Love with You.

*This church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute, and Lakota/Dakota peoples. We give thanks for their presence here and for all our Indigenous siblings who continue to call this land their home.*

**We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation**



Holy Cross Lutheran Church welcomes all who are seeking God's grace and love in an open and affirming congregation. We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; of every race, ethnicity, and culture; and of every socio-economic situation. Our doors are open to all regardless of religious background, age, abilities, or life experiences. We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion, whether by family, church, or society. We are a Reconciling in Christ Community. You are most welcome here.

We belong to the Rocky Mountain  
Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America (ELCA)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**Sundays @ Holy Cross**

Education Hour @ 9:00am (Sept. - May)

Worship @ 10AM

Coffee @ 11AM

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Holy Cross  
Website!



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***We hope you were at home here today. Come worship with us again!***