



“Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ’s love.”

17 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsbluff, NE  
(308) 632-8023  
[calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

**Easter Sunday Worship**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**March 31, 2024**

## Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Our Lord

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

### Prelude Music

### Welcome and Announcements

### **‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

#### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ‡ one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn:**

**“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

**ELW #365**

- 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!  
sinners 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!**
- 4. 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!**

**\*The Easter Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace and the peace of the risen Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

**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.**

**\*Glory to God:**

**Page 139**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡**

**First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "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.**

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

<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.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel Acclamation:**

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **\*Gospel: Mark 16:1-8**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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 him. <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.

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Kathy**

*(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)*

**✚WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD✚**

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

**“Borning Cry”**

**ELW #732**

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."
  
2. "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun."
  
3. "In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
with just one more surprise."

4. "I was there to hear your bawling cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold."

‡SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM‡

**Introduction of Baptismal Candidates:  
Jase Michael Schroeder and John Michael Schroeder**

(The minister addresses the candidates)

**Response by Congregation**

People of God, do you promise to support Jase and John and pray for them in their new life in Christ? **We do.**

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

Once you were no people, now you are God's people. Through our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection we have become God's people.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

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



Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?  
Do you renounce your old, dead life?

**Yes, for once we were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ Jesus.**

Do you plan to continue living as one of God's children, proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection in all you say and do?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me -- each and every day of my life.**

## **Baptisms**

### **Congregational Welcome**

Through Baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Jase and John, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

### **\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*

God of grace....**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

... 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.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

## **Offering**

**Offertory: "Mighty to Save"**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory 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.**

**‡HOLY COMMUNION‡**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\* Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **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.**

### **\*Invitation to Communion**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

*We celebrate with Jase Schroeder as he partakes in his First Communion.  
Jase and his family are invited to come forward at this time.*

### **Distribution of Communion:**

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

*(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.*

*APPLE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.*

*Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

**Distribution Music**

**Tahnee Hutchinson**

**\*Post-Communion Blessing**

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

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.**

**‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

**\*Benediction**

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 Hymn:**

**“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”**

**ELW 619  
vv. 1,2,7&8**

- 1. I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
he lives, my ever-living head!**
- 2. He lives triumphant from the grave;  
he lives eternally to save;  
he lives exalted, throned above;  
he lives to rule his church in love.**
- 7. 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.**
- 8. He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
what joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

## **\*Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

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**Music: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today:** Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4 © Public Domain; **Borning Cry:** Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker OneLicense.net A-705226; **I Know That My Redeemer Lives!:** Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt. ©Public Domain

**Thank you to everyone who provided an Easter lily for our sanctuary this Easter.**



Jean Stormoe

**In memory of**

**her sister Alice Braaten, her husband Don Stormoe and her parents Sam & Betty Backer.**

Virginia Pickett & Family

**In memory of**

**her husband Lloyd Pickett, her parents Carl & Fern Stahla  
and her husband's parents Ernest & Effie Pickett, her brother Larry Stahla**

Pam Eskam

**In memory of**

**her husband Gary Eskam.**

Pastor Kathy  
In memory of  
her beloved husband Dennis and other loved ones

Monty & Shari Copsey  
In memory of  
Allan Johnston and her parents Ken & Joyce Hillman

### **In Our Thoughts and Prayers**†

Prayers for healing: **Kurt Nikont** (recovering from foot surgery), **Sheila Miller** (health issues), **Catherine Rahrs** (major medical issues—Val Rahrs' mother), **Family of Baby Gideon**, **Larry Spomer** (left knee replacement surgery) **Larry Loeks** (improved health), **Jack Day** (stroke—Lynn Margheim's brother), **Glenna Linfield** (hospice— Pastor Kathy's aunt), **Jeremy** (test results—Deb Brown's son), **Bert Bessey**, **Shelia Colson** (hospital recovery), **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Drew Selck** (Cancer), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer— Larry Gibbs' brother), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Zeke Chilcott** (deployed—friend of Marissa Wright), **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).



Shawna Payne, 4/1; Dave Holdt, 4/2; Lynn Margheim, 4/4;  
Bill Thomas, 4/5; Gregg Gingrich, 4/6; Will Voss, 4/6

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.



## YOUR GIVING ONLINE

Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website: [www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org) and click on the **Give Online** button OR download the **Vanco Now App** on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.

### Coffee and Fellowship

We would like to invite people to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. The coffee pot will be on, but if you would like to provide treats, please sign up on the sheet outside the office.



### APRIL FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

**FOOD PANTRY:** Pancake Mix

**BACKPACKS:** Mac 'n Cheese Bowls

Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for your generosity.



### **CLCW APRIL MISSION PROJECT: CALVARY KITCHEN SHOWER**

A box will be placed in the Reception Area on the table under the CLCW bulletin board next to the narthex door to receive items needed for the kitchen. The kitchen could use the following:

**Paper plates, paper towels, napkins, Styrofoam & plastic cups.**

Cash donations are also welcome; be sure to clearly mark them 'Kitchen Shower'.

Be sure to designate CLCW on the envelope.

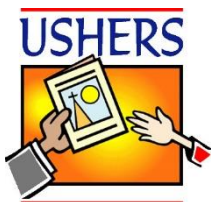


Our theme for Holy Humor Sunday will be "Beach Party" so wear your Hawaiian clothes or whatever you would wear to a beach party. Come prepared to have fun worshipping!



Middle School Gathering 2.0  
*My story is Your story is Christ's story is Our Story*  
April 13, 2024  
9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

A Synod wide day of service for middle school youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) to gather and learn to share Christ's story as they explore how daily experiences and interactions shape our faith stories. There will be no cost to you. It's located in Sidney, NE and Pastor Kathy will be taking the students. If you student is interested in attending, please let Pastor Kathy or Christy know immediately as registration closes April 1<sup>st</sup>.



For our present ushers & those who would like to usher, there will be an informational meeting April 14 following worship. If you have any questions, please contact Bill @ (308)631-3389.

For all 6<sup>th</sup> grade through Confirmation Youth that are Acolytes & those interested in becoming an Acolyte, there will be an informational meeting April 14 following worship. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathy @ (308)874-6025 or Bill @ (308)631-3389.



**WNCC's Spring Gala "Heroes vs. Villains"**

Join us April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> @ the Gering Civic Center. Tickets can be purchased through the WNCC website @ <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=231457> or by calling the box office. It's going to be a fun evening! Dinner is included with your ticket.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor Kathy**

**This Sunday – March 31**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Marissa Wright

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Shari Copsey

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Tracy Steele &  
Chris Thomas

**POWERPOINT:** Andi Dorn

**ACOLYTES:** Kippen & Jacey Cochran

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jim Dorn

**ALTAR GUILD:** Abby Newsom, Maunette  
Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

**ORGANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**Next Sunday – April 7**

**USHERS:** Monty & Shari Copsey

**LAY READER:** Angie Hinze

**HEAD COMMUNION ASST:** Barb Jensen

**COMMUNION ASSTS:** Rick & Lynn  
Margheim

**POWERPOINT:** Matt Payne

**ACOLYTES:** Jack & Max Judy

**MEDIA:** Chris Jensen

**AUDIO:** Jack Martin

**ALTAR GUILD:** Deb Brown, Vicki Howell,  
Tracy Steele, Shari Copsey

**PIANIST:** Tahnee Hutchinson

**COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP** *Please sign up!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, March 31**

***Easter Sunday***

9 - 9:45 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

10 a.m. – Worship

Easter Egg Hunt following worship

**Tuesday, April 2**

1 p.m. – Quilting

**Wednesday, April 3**

5:15 p.m. – Merrick Walsh's Baptism

5:30 p.m. – JAM

5:45 p.m. – Confirmation

7p.m. – Choir Practice

**Thursday, April 4**

11:30 a.m. – Exec. Comm.

**Saturday, April 6**

5:30 p.m. – Worship

**Sunday, April 7**

***Holy Humor Sunday***

10 a.m. – Worship

11 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship

MARCH 31, 2024  
EASTER SUNDAY



*Christ is risen. Alleluia!*

### ..... DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-5	In the beginning was the Word
Friday	Romans 5:1-5	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe

### ..... SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1 (NRSV)*

### ..... PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death for us through his death and resurrection. Amen. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for this gift of food and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ we give you thanks for your steadfast love that endures forever! Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Christ bless you with hope and joy.



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MARCH 31, 2024

### ..... HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

### ..... WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### ..... CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for but wonder if it will ever happen?
- What makes Easter important to you?

### ..... DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:1-18.

Mary came to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. The darkness versus light theme is found from the beginning of the Gospel of John, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5) When we gather in worship on Easter Sunday, we expect light and beauty to fill the sanctuary. That is not the story of the first Easter in the Gospel of John. It includes more references to death and the tomb than the other three Gospels. Death and darkness are realities, even on Easter. There is confusion and misunderstanding, including Mary not recognizing Jesus and two of the disciples not understanding that Jesus *"must rise from the dead"* (v. 9). Perhaps John wants us to dwell a little longer on the reality of death and darkness that surrounds us, even today. A closer look at the reality and sorrows of life and our own misunderstandings makes the message of Christ's resurrection stand out all the more. It might just make Easter even brighter, our hearts even warmer, and our hope even stronger. Christ is risen Alleluia.

*Discuss:* What is hard for you to understand about the resurrection?  
*Pray:* Almighty and everlasting God, for your glory and power over sin and death we sing your praises now and forever through Jesus Christ, the one who died so that we may live forevermore. Amen.

### ..... SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone going through a tough time?

### ..... RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Alleluia means "praise the Lord." The word Alleluia is traditionally not used and is "buried" during Lent. It is resurrected on Easter. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Consider using the candles as a centerpiece for Easter dinner. Write the word Alleluia on post-it notes or index cards. Place them around the candle cross.

*Soy:* Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

*Then pray:* This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen. (Psalm 118:24)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an reflective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

