

**Celebration Lutheran Church**

Pastor: Sarah Toney

Pianist: Susan Gubsch

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 5, 2026

**Welcome to Easter Morning!**

*Prelude Music*

*Welcome and Announcements*

**We Gather to Encounter God**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Thanksgiving for Water and Life*

L: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

L: Let all who thirst, come to the water. Come, all who are weary; come all who yearn for new life. The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ washes over us, and our Gracious and Holy God beckons and blesses us. Drink deeply of these living waters.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.**

L You are the fountain of life.

**C: Refresh us.**

L: You are the cleansing spring.

**C: Heal us.**

L: You are the well from which we drink and never thirst again:

**C: Fill us.**

L: Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You pour out your very self for your people. You breathe life into our dry bones. Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into all of us. Through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and creates with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Alleluia!

**C: Alleluia and Amen!**

**Gathering Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today # 365**



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Easter Litany*

L: We are the Easter people who have been to the tomb and proclaim that it is empty. He is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed!**

L: We are the Easter people who have met Him by the roadside and recognized Him as the Son of God living in this world and the next. He is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed!**

L: We are the Easter people who have placed our hand in His side and felt His wounds. He was once dead but is now alive. He has been raised by the triumphant power of the Almighty God. He is Risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Hymn of Praise: Hallelujah ACS # 1088**

Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah,  
hal - le-lu-jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah!

*Prayer of the Day*

L: God of mercy,

**C: ... 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 life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and creates with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**We Hear God's Word**

*Jeremiah 31:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;  
when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines  
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:

"Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the Lord our God."

*Psalms 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. R**

<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. R**

<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. R

*Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4*

<sup>1</sup>If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Gospel Hymn: Alleluia! ACS pg 33**



*Matthew 28:1-10*

L: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew in the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

L: The gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

**We Respond to God's Word**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayers of the People*

L: Merciful God,

C: ... receive our prayer.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

*Greeting of Peace*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*We Offer Our Gifts*

**Offertory Hymn: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me # 860**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
 When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

L: Merciful God,

**C: ... accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**We Share Christ's Meal**

*The Great Thanksgiving*

L: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

L: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

*Communion Prayers and the Story of Our Lord's Supper*

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

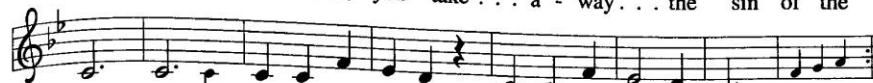
*Distribution of Communion – This is an open table. Anyone and everyone can come forward to participate in Christ's supper, prepared for you.*

**Communion Hymns: O, Lamb of God**

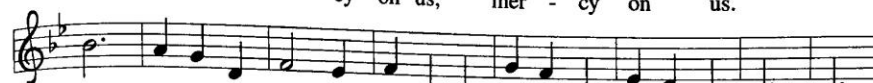
**# 197**



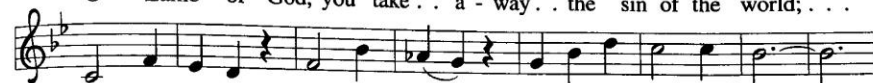
Oi, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man  
 O Lamb . . of God, you take . . . a - way . . . the sin of the



syn - nin, ar - mah - da mei - tä, ar - mah - da mei - tä.  
 world; . . have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Oi, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa, io - ka pois o - tat maa - il - man syn - nin,  
 O Lamb of God, you take . . a - way . . the sin of the world; . . .



an - na meil - le rau - ha - si ja siu - na - uk - se - si.  
 grant us vi - sion, grant us jus - tice, grant us your own true peace.

Beautiful Savior

# 838



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Post-Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn:

Thine Is the Glory

# 376



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

We Go To Love Others As Christ Loves Us!



## Easter Lily Dedication

Laurie Holman

In Memory of Bette Walsh & Bobbie Holman

George Herring & Mary Bywater

In Memory of Karin Herring & Jack Bywater

Barbara Weaver & Jeremy Long

In Memory of Richard Weaver

Debbie Conde

In Memory of Diana & Doug Lock, and Walter Conde

Forever Loved and Remembered

### **Welcome to Celebration! Some information for our visitors.**

**Holy Communion:** All are welcome to the table. You need not be baptized or meet any guidelines to participate. If you prefer, you can come forward for a blessing. White grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

**Nursery:** A nursery is available for your use at the back left of the sanctuary. This is where the changing table is located.

**Fellowship:** Please join us for Easter breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for your children. All children who want to participate are welcome! Gather in the entrance at 11:30 am for the hunt.

**Church Information:** If you would like more information about Celebration, there are informational fliers in the entrance. We invite you to leave your contact information with us, as well, and we can follow up with you.

Celebration Lutheran is a member of the ELCA denomination. For more information on the ELCA, you can visit their site at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).

### **Thank you for all those involved in Easter worship!**

*We give thanks for the musicians, artists, Sunday School creators, communion bread bakers and helpers, acolyte, ushers, greeters, AV tech support, those bringing wonderful food to share, the kitchen clean up crew, egg hunt organizers, candy donors, egg packers, flower providers, yard clean-up crew, and office support. What an extraordinary community!*