



Christ the Lord  
is *Risen* Today

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## **Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Old Zionsville, PA

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 | 10:30<sup>AM</sup>

## **Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church**

We are a community that cares for one another. Feel free to voice your prayer concerns. Know our hearts join together as we pray. Everyone's voice is needed to tell the good news of God's love in Jesus; whether it be singing hymns, reading lessons, or greeting your neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit <https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion's Church, please visit <http://www.zelcoz.org>.

## **As We Worship**

### **Hidden with Christ**

Easter turns the world upside down. It defies our expectations with hiddenness and bluntness: Mary does not recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20:14), the good news is heralded by an earthquake and terrifying angels and is brought to the women of the church first, rather than to the Twelve (Matt. 28:1-10). The radical reversals prophesied in scripture and revealed in Christ's life and ministry culminate in the good news we proclaim today: Christ, through death, has triumphed over death. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" (Ps. 118:22).

Easter offers the mystical possibility of transformation in every moment. In this season, what is dying and what is being born? For our communities? For our families? For our world? What is breaking open like a seed to die (John 12:24) so that new life might thrive?

The theme is framed candidly in Colossians: "You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). In the season of Easter, we are invited to allow old husks to fall away so that Christ's new life may emerge. This part of the resurrection story is strange, unsettling. We are invited, after all, to share fully in Christ's death as well as his resurrection (Rom. 6:5; 2 Cor. 4:10-11). Terrifying, but in the mystery of the Holy Spirit's work in us, we receive it as hope (1 Peter 1:3).

On this Easter day, we are honest about how God is stirring us to transformation, and we may be called to faithfully lament the letting go. Almost simultaneously, as we embody Christ's resurrection in the present, we celebrate it with great joy (Matt. 28:8). In our desire to be hidden in Christ's abundant life (John 10:10), we can even name seasons of suffering as Christ's resurrection emerging (Phil. 3:10).

Prelude

*“The Day of Resurrection”*

setting by Michael Burkhardt

*“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”*

settings by Thomas Geischen et. al.

*“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*

setting by Michael Burkhardt

*The Easter proclamation begins:*

This is the day that the Lord has made!

**Rejoice and be glad:**

Heaven and earth will never be the same!

**This is the good news we tell to all the world:**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!! Alleluia!** *(repeated 3 times)*

*Please rise if you are able.*

Processional Hymn

*“The Day of Resurrection”*

ELW 361

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**





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.

*Refrain*

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.

*Final refrain*

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## Time for All Ages

### First Reading—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."

Holy wisdom, holy word.

**Thanks be to God.**



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.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon—The Rev. Thomas D. Busted**

*(Silence for reflection). Please stand for the hymn.*

### **Hymn of the Day**

***“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”***

**ELW 382**

### **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,  
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 Intercession

Petitions will conclude "Merciful God,"  
Please respond "**receive our prayer.**"

*At the conclusion of the prayers, the presiding minister offers the final petition.*

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.**

## The Sharing of the Peace and Announcements

*Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## Musical Selection

*Please stand*

Offertory

**“Now the Green Blade Rises”**

ELW 379, verse 1

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

*Thank you* for supporting the Ministries of Zion's Lutheran, either by placing a donation in one of the plates/boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary, or by conveniently contributing online at the Vanco Mobile App, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Contributions to Zions can also be made by using your phone camera and positioning it over the QR code to the right.



## The Holy Communion

*In the Holy Communion, we experience the Real Presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all adults and children who desire to receive Him are encouraged to come forward. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.*

## Great Thanksgiving

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.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

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

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## The Fraction

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## Hymn

### *"Lamb of God"*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace.  
Receive the gift of new life.

*Please be seated.*

## Musical Selection

*Please rise if you are able.*

## Prayer after Communion

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

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

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Sending Hymn      *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"*  
ELW 619, verses 1—4

*The congregation is asked to remain in their seats until the Pastor, Assisting Minister and Acolyte have recessed.*

## Postlude

## *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”*

setting by Michael Burkhardt

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## Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed (Cell phone 570-856-2078)
Assisting Minister	Elliott Fegley
Director of Music	John Binde
Bell Choir Director	Susan A. Marin
Acolyte	Megan Loeb
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	Peg and Earl Hemnitz Ellen and Joe Litzenberger

## For Those in Need of Prayer

Additional Prayers—Stanley Trout, Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Christine Rex, June Trotter, Sandy Schlicher, Brenda Snyder, Maverik Wolbach, Holly Washburn, Melissa Yaglowski, John Hinnerschietz, Verna-Ann Tacker, Gerald Diehl, Melanie Wesser, Michelle Lewis, Earl Howell, Jared Washburn, Carol Yokum, Mark Sinex, Larry Kriebel, Daryl Bohn, Viola Bartholomew, Jane Merkel, Anne-Rose Reeves, Hector Valentine and Ruth Walck.



Today, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Forum @ 9:15 <sup>AM</sup> Sunday School @ 9:45 <sup>AM</sup> Worship @ 10:30 <sup>AM</sup>
Monday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Food Pantry Board Mtg. @ 1:00 <sup>PM</sup> Brownies @ 6:30 <sup>PM</sup>
Saturday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Crew @ 9:00 <sup>AM</sup>

## Easter Flower Remembrances

In Memory of	Given by
Warren, Loretta, David & Jackie Bruch Dallas & Evelyn Spengler	Wayne & Nancy Bruch
Doris, James & Jeffrey Buss	Cynthia Buss
Kay Diehl Family & Friends	Gerald Diehl
Carolyn & Dick Malburg	Tom & Jayne Fogle
The Gilberts	The Gilbert Family
Barry Heintzelman	Joan Heintzelman & Family
Diane Henry	Robert Henry
Stephen Hregician	Mrs. Stephen Hregician
My parents, Arlene & Melvin Marks	Teresa Marks
Our Parents	Fred & Linda Scheirer
Our Parents	Richard & Cindy SchmalEinst
Herman & Ethelmae Traub Charles & Evalyn Wetzel	Duane, Janet, Laura & Ty Wetzel
In Honor of	Given by
Pastor, John and Members of Zion's	Betty Richardson
Our Family	Fred & Linda Scheirer
Our Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren	Richard & Cindy SchmalEinst
Our Family & Our Friends	Duane, Janet, Laura & Ty Wetzel



**We welcome and thank** Jonathan Tice for providing music in today's worship service.



**For Children who are in the  
1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Grades...**

Sunday School will be offered for children who attend 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Grades. The combined class will be held generally **once a month** at **9:15<sup>AM</sup>** and will run until 10:15<sup>AM</sup>. Classes will be held today April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45<sup>AM</sup> (note change in time for Easter Sunday), April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to register your child/children, contact Teresa Marks ([tam1029@earthlink.net](mailto:tam1029@earthlink.net) or 610-509-1488). Come to learn more about God and Jesus through reading Bible stories, playing games and doing crafts. Hope to see you there!



**Game Day at Zion's**  
Thursday, April 16th  
1:00<sup>PM</sup>—4:00<sup>PM</sup>, Upper Room

Join us for a fun afternoon of games! Bring your favorite game to play, or come and join with others to play different games! Refreshments will be provided, and you're welcome to bring snacks!

## Zion's Seeking Part-Time Office Administrator

Our current office administrator, Betty, has announced her retirement, and we are seeking qualified candidates who are interested in serving as Zion's next office administrator. Full job description is available by contacting Pastor Tom at [pastor@zelcoz.org](mailto:pastor@zelcoz.org). Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and list of references to Pastor Tom. The deadline for applicants is April 30, 2026.





The Day of Resurrection/Easter Sunday + April 5, 2026

## Strongly Sung Alleluias

In Matthew's telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God's love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of "fear and great joy" (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they "took hold of his feet, and worshiped him" (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter "alleluia" was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, "The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation" (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God's liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Cherish God's Love

*"Cherishing God's Love, we seek to foster Relationships of  
Faith, Fellowship, Family, and Fun  
within our church and our community."*

Zion's Vision Statement, 2026

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