

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

*Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life*

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### INTRODUCTION

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.*

### WELCOME

**(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)**

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice  
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.  
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,  
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which, in ancient times,  
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,  
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,  
are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night **[This is the night]**

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.  
O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know  
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night **[This is the night]**

of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day,"  
and, "then shall my night be turned into day."  
The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;  
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace;  
and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace,  
receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving  
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
reflected in the burning of this candle.  
We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,  
the brightness of which is not diminished  
even when its light is divided and borrowed.

This is the night **[This is the night]**

in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,  
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,  
will continue to vanquish the darkness of night  
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.  
May Christ the Morning Star find it burning,  
that Morning Star who never sets,  
that Morning Star who, rising from the grave,  
faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.  
And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve  
with your continual protection your whole church,  
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;  
through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PRELUDE**

**Jesus Lives!**

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## GATHERING SONG

### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (ELW 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!

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from Acts

<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.**

## **ANTHEM**

**Easter Morning by Christian Yoder**

**CLC Choir**

### **SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4**

A reading from Colossians

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

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

**GOSPEL: John 20:1-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 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. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (ELW 366)***

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
 4 Christ closed the yaw - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909  
 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.....

Christ is risen! God's son was sacrificed, died, was buried, and is now raised—purely out of love for us and as a gift for our forgiveness. The first witnesses proclaimed the good news of Jesus'

resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Send the Holy Spirit to give us strength to live out our faith, overcome our doubts, and passionately pursue justice. Grant us the courage to be faithful stewards of your love. Forgiving Father, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ is risen! In this season of rebirth, open our eyes to see the beauty of God's creation and realize that we are caretakers, not owners. Renew our zeal to preserve the world's ecosystems, to reduce our wastefulness and greed, and to use resources wisely. Teach us to be faithful stewards caring for the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. Loving Creator, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ is risen! We praise God for the bountiful blessings we have received. Open our hands to help those in need and do your work in the world. Bless all bishops, clergy, and lay church leaders. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, and other happy occasions. Lead us to be faithful stewards of our God-given talents. Redeemer Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ is risen! May every morning be Easter morning, bringing the good news of peace and salvation to everyone. We fervently pray for an end to war in our broken world. Lead all the nations' leaders to seek compromise and tolerance rather than oppression and revenge. Protect all who live amid violence and those serving in the military. Sustain military families, veterans, and refugees as they cope with stress and trauma. Inspire us to be faithful stewards of your peace. Risen Christ, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ is risen! We pray for healing for all those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit; bring them comfort and wholeness. Strengthen anyone dealing with long-term diagnoses, such as dementia, depression, or addiction. Guide the work of doctors, nurses, caregivers, and researchers. Embrace our elderly loved ones and shut-ins with your love. Help us to be faithful stewards of your grace. Gracious God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, you hear all our prayers. Listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud..... Merciful Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O comforter, we pray for those who are dying and give thanks for the lives of all who have died. Console their family and friends who mourn and bring them solace and hope in the days of grief ahead. Strengthen us with the promise of eternal life and open our lives to follow in the way of the cross. Saving Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

**OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

**OFFERTORY**

**The Lord is Risen Indeed**

**CLC Choir**

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

*(Beloved people of God, all are welcome to receive communion this morning. This table is not Christ Lutheran's table; it is the Lord's table, and the Lord does the inviting. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever the state of your faith today — you are welcome here. Jesus makes no exceptions, and neither do we.)*

**DIALOGUE**

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.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth...  
...Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.

Come, eat and be satisfied. **Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

*(To receive communion come forward at the direction of the ushers and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread and then may choose to receive either red wine or white grape juice by small glass, or by sipping wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine you will return to your seat. Tell the communion server if you need gluten free bread.)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,

Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**SENDING SONG**

***Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377)***



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!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

***SERVING TODAY:** Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Asst/Lector: Jane Unger; Live Stream: Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Jana Hovland; Ushers: Marilyn Shealy, Sue Ellen Miller; Greeters: JoAnne L'Heureux; Acolyte: Dessa; Tray Server: Stephen Chikosky*

***Thank you to those who purchased the flowers to decorate our sanctuary.***

***Please take them with you following worship today.***

Stephen Chikosky	In memory of Karen Chikosky, Bob & Audrey Murray, Alfred & Elsie Chikosky, and in honor of Lillian & Audrey Morar
Marilyn Shealy	In memory of Freemon & Mary Hanes
Jane Unger	In memory of Hank Millhorn
Sam & Adele Hanson	In memory of our parents
Fran Snyder	In memory of Larry & Marc Snyder
JoAnne L'Heureux	In memory of Carl Savage
Chris & Dan Snoddy	In memory of Roy & Eloise Snoddy, Joanne Voelkel, Bill Voelkel
Linda & Rod Sauer	In memory of Vicki Baldwin
Milena Miller	In memory of Olcta & Fritz Miller
Carol Kuhre & Bob Alexander	In memory of Bruce Kuhre & Ally Alexander
Betsy Winsley	
Linda Batey	
Solveig Spjeldnes	
Peter Jung	