



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH



**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | [apostles-elca.org](http://apostles-elca.org) | [facebook.com/ApostlesELCA](https://facebook.com/ApostlesELCA)



## **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY**

Proclaim the resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through  
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

**If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

## RECONCILING in CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

## FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.apostles@gmail.com). Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

## PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

## NAME TAGS

**Please wear your nametag!** Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

# GATHERING

*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.*

## PRELUDE

## CHOIR ANTHEM

**"Rejoice!"**

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us: the Piankatank River, the North River, the Ware River, the East River, the York River, the Chesapeake Bay. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW #382**

**"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"**



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-returns to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.  
Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## APOSTOLIC 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


**ELW #394**

**Hail Thee Festival Day, Verse 1**


*Refrain*




Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;



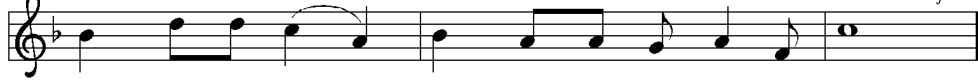
day when our Lord was raised, break - ing the king - dom of death.



*Easter 1* All the fair beau - ty of earth from the



death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good



gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns:

*Refrain*

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **WORD**

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

*Sit*

### **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 [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness 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."

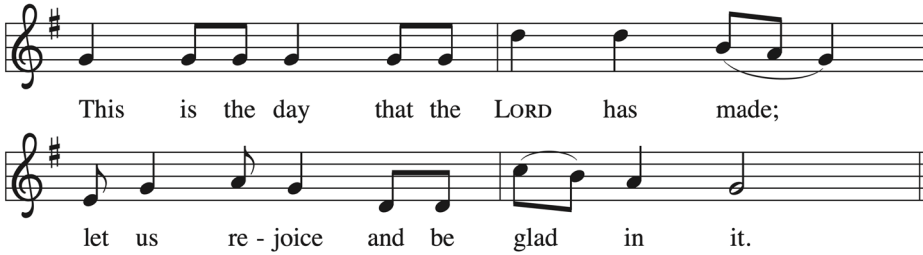
*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM

# PSALM 118: 1-2, 14-24

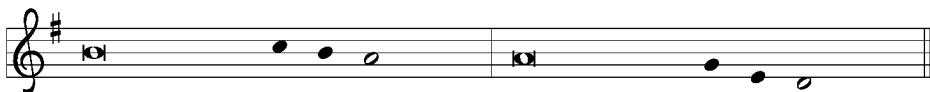


This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us re-joice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress  
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- <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 build- | ers 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**



This is the day that the LORD has made;



let us re-joice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING

## COLOSSIANS 3: 1-4

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

<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.

*Response after the Second Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

## **MATTHEW 28: 1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<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."

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

## **PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*

Please rise in body or in spirit.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #389

### “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## **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 INTERCESSION**

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

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

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.

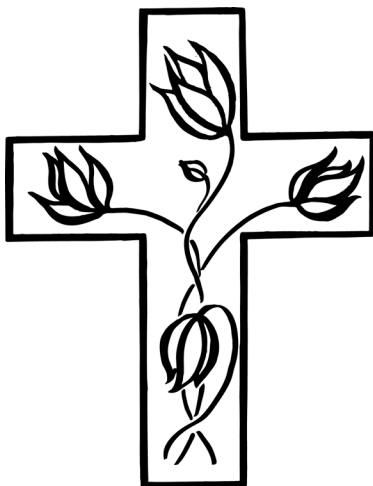
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*



# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Sit

## OFFERING

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

*The Congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the final verse.*



Come, ris - en Christ, with us a - bide in this our  
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; your own re-deemed for - ev - er  
shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.

**Choir:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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From *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* (CGA1016).  
Text: 5th cent. Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
Music: *PUER NOBIS NASCITUR*, 15th cent. Trier manuscript, adapt. Michael Praetorius,  
1571-1621. Arranged by John Ferguson.  
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*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*To give online:*

- ✦ **Visit [apostles-elca.org/contributions](http://apostles-elca.org/contributions)**
- ✦ **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

## DOXOLOGY

ELW #884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Psalms 150; Is. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:8*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

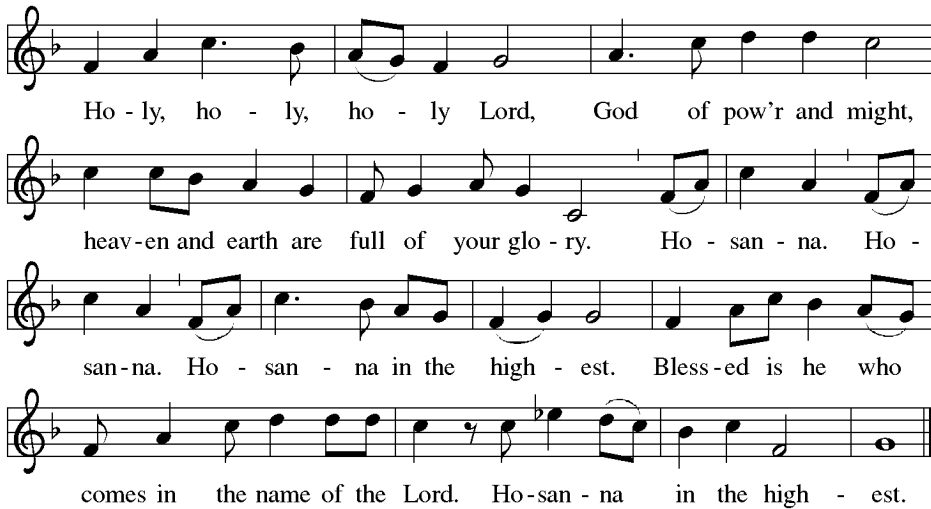
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... 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.

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving concludes.*

... 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, 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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.*

*You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION

**ELW #362**

**"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"**

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di-vine gives his  
 3 Where the pas-chal blood is poured death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas-chal

our vic-tor-ious king, who has washed us in the tide  
 sa-cred blood for wine, gives his bod-y for the feast—  
 an-gel sheathes the sword; Is-rael's hosts tri-um-phiant go  
 vic-tim, pas-chal bread; with sin-cer-i-ty and love

flow-ing from his wound-ed side. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 Christ the vic-tim, Christ the priest. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al-le-lu-ia!  
 eat we man-na from a-bove. Al-le-lu-ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
 you have conquered in the fight,  
 you have brought us life and light.  
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
 now no more the grave enthral;  
 you have opened paradise,  
 and your saints in you shall rise.  
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
 This alone can sin destroy;  
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
 newborn souls in you to be.  
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
 Savior, by whose death we live,  
 Spirit, guide through all our days:  
 Three in One, your name we praise.  
 Alleluia!

*After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. 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.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.*

## **BLESSING**

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.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**ELW #365**

**"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**



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!

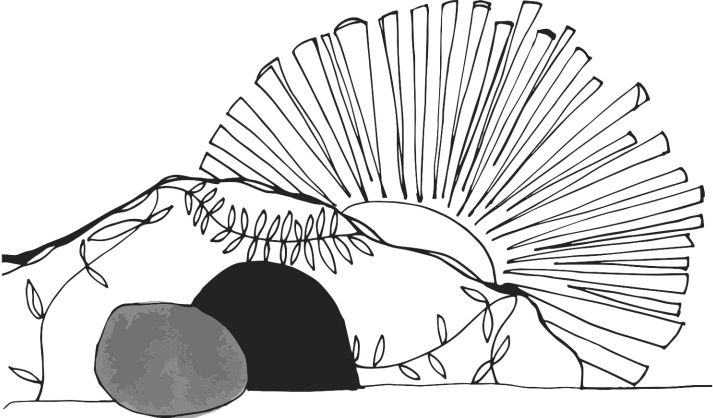
Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
 Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher.....	Pastor Jay Serafin .....	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister .....	Irene Albert .....	David Leunig
Lector .....	Chase Ambrose .....	David Leunig
Acolyte .....	Ray Scholz .....	Chase Ambrose
Crucifer .....	Chase Ambrose .....	
Accompanist.....	Janet Gomez .....	Janet Gomez
Choir Director .....	Sue Turner .....	
Altar Care .....	The Alberts.....	Judy Wright
Communion Bread .....	The Alberts .....	The Lowes
Greeter/Usher .....	Heinz Albert .....	Judy Wright
Technology .....	Chris Hawkins .....	Doug Dalager

## SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team .....	Scholzs .....	Gomez
Tellers .....	Ray Scholz/Chris Hawkins .....	Daniel Gomez/Barbara Runk
Fellowship Set Up .....	Ray Scholz .....	Jennie Hawkins
Fellowship Food .....	The Alberts.....	Scholz
Fellowship Clean Up .....	Easter Brunch .....	Jamie Serafin/Tonia Fallin

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of  
God's promise to David*

#### Psalm 16

*In your presence there is fullness of joy.*

#### Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

*New birth to a living hope through  
the resurrection*

#### Gospel: John 20:19-31

*Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

## **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).

## **THOUGHTS FOR TODAY**

A real-life story - a previously unhoused person advised a group of young people on how to talk with unhoused people they meet on the street. He shared with them the importance of learning someone's name and repeating it in conversation. He told them of his own experience on the street, explaining that he could go weeks or months without hearing another person say his name. Mary recognizes Jesus when he says her name. There is power in names, and that recognition opens us to the recognition of Christ in our midst.

It is hard not to notice how much fear comes up in the Matthew text. And it's understandable! An earthquake is a scary experience, and the sight of an angel with the news of a risen Jesus would be awe-inspiring and terrifying. Yet this fear does not stop the women from running and telling. Alongside the fear is "great joy." Fear can often eclipse our other thoughts and experiences. But when joy is so big, joy will live alongside fear and spur us on. What is the big joy that will eclipse or outweigh even our fear? What joys are your assembly experiencing today?

## **NEW ADULT STUDY TO START IN APRIL**

A new adult study will begin **in April on the 22nd**—"Understanding the New Testament." The class will be led by Pastor Jay—it will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month—bring a sandwich for dinner at 6:00 PM and the study will begin on 6:30 PM—please make plans to join us!!

## **APOSTLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson, Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Ben Slider (IV), Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, and Lena Woodlief**

## **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Patricia Armentor** (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, Kate Casper, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Al DeWitt, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, the family of Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Marier Upshrie, the family of Nancy Wagner, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

## **OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA**

**Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

# THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

**APRIL 5, 2026 – APRIL 12, 2026**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Easter Worship Service</b> Easter Brunch
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>4:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b> 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b> Congregation Council AA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Girl Scouts
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:30 PM	Young and Sober
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Sunday School/Coffee Fellowship

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...

**Jennie Hawkins, Pam Moore, & Ray Kendzierski – Apr 5<sup>th</sup> |  
Barbara Runk – Apr 7<sup>th</sup> | Doug Dalager – Apr 10<sup>th</sup>**

## THE BULLETIN TODAY IS SPONSORED BY ...

Angie Goetz



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