



Messiah Lutheran Church
 Website: www.messiahluthpa.com
 Facebook / YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)

Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday (11am – 2pm)

Pastor John Mayer Dut Cell: 306.961.0877 Pastor.mlc@sasktel.net	Messiah Office / Lisa Haight Phone: 306.763.7374 messiah@sasktel.net
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Easter Week Services: Good Friday @ 10:30am, April 3
Easter Sunday, April 5:
Free-will breakfast 9 – 10am, Fellowship Hall
 (children’s craft between breakfast and worship service)
Worship Service / Holy Communion at 10:30am

Easter Lilies and flowers in memory of loved ones are welcomed for the Easter Sunday service. Bring them to the Good Friday or Easter Sunday Services or phone Cheryl at 306.961.2967

Worship Leader: Pastor John Mayer Dut **Musician:** Colleen Bowen

Sunday School is cancelled for these services


The Service is on YouTube ([MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)) @ 10:30am;
 and posted for later viewing

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



UPCOMING @ MESSIAH

	<p>Holy Baptism, Sunday, April 12 @ 10:30am Worship Service Nyibol Juma De Madhol Mamur, daughter of Adok Awan and Juma Mamur. May God’s grace and blessings received by baptism guide Nyibol throughout her life.</p>
<p>Caring Ministry & Community Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Bank donations are collected each Sunday - Relative’s Lodge (formerly Stepping Stones Shelter): drop off donation box in the Narthex for blankets, hygiene items, towels, winter jackets, mitts, toques, socks, and underwear. - Salvation Army Ministry donations – Online: SalvationArmy.ca; choose “Donate to a specific location”; Prince Albert Community Services; QR Code: available on The Salvation Army Prince Albert’s Facebook page; Phone: 1-800-725-2769; Prince Albert Community Services - Adult boots and shoes (any condition - larger sizes especially) for Victoria Hospital – put in or by the Donation box.
<p>Bible Studies (Peace Chapel or via Zoom)</p>	<p>Weekly on Wednesday at 7pm – Zoom ID: 885 6495 2469 & Passcode: 518446 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88564952469?pwd=yAY3S5UwbKXH7MLDyTJxTLN0lpkcrZ.1 Monthly on third Tuesday at 7pm – Zoom ID: 859 1940 4343; Passcode: 210248; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85919404343?pwd=t0A2kA5mg58xSGnD5lQpzOSeNfuNjR.1</p>
<p>Coffee & Conversation</p>	<p>An informal gathering on the first and third Thursdays @ 10am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!</p>

Confirmation Classes: Contact Pastor John (306.961.0877)	
Senior Home Services	Monthly: Mont St. Joseph Home (first Wednesday); Points West Living (first Thursday); Good Shepherd Villas (second Tuesday). Pineview Terrance (fourth Wednesday)

Around the Community, the Saskatchewan Synod & beyond ...

 <p>LuMinHoS LUTHERAN MINISTRY IN HOSPITALS OF SASKATOON</p>	<p>Sunday, April 19, 7pm - LuMinHoS welcomes everyone to 'Spring Hymn Sing', Resurrection Lutheran Church, 310 Lenore Dr, Saskatoon.</p> <p>This is a wonderful opportunity to blend your voice with others in praise to our risen Lord! An offering will be taken in support of the LuMinHoS ministry, and a time of fellowship and refreshments will be provided.</p>
	<p>Worship and Music Symposium, Christ Lutheran Church, Regina, May 7 to 9. Featuring a great group of presenters: Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, National Bishop ELCIC; Dr. Joy Berg; Rev. Kristian Wold; Ben Johnston-Urey; Neil Cockburn, and Rev. Dennis Henrickson. Free Community Events: Hymn Fest on May 7, and a Mysterium service on May 8. For more information and/or to register, go to: https://clcregina.ca/Symposium.htm</p>
<p>ELCIC Day of Action</p>  <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada <i>Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love</i></p>	<p>This year marks 40 years in the life of our church! This milestone invites us to remember our story, also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church <i>Living out God's grace and unconditional love.</i> One of the key moments to celebrate this milestone is the ELCIC Day of Action on Sunday, May 31. We are invited to join with congregations across the ELCIC in stepping beyond our church walls and engaging in acts of service in our community. <i>If you have any ideas about what we can do at Messiah, please talk to a Messiah Council member.</i></p>
	<p><u>PROVIDE RELIEF IN THE MIDDLE EAST:</u> "No place feels safe. Families are fleeing with little notice...Children are sleeping in classrooms. Others remain in their homes, hearing bombs fall nearby." This is what we're hearing from our partners on the ground in Lebanon. The escalating violence in the region is causing displacement, fear and uncertainty in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories and beyond. Please pray for peace across the region and everyone affected by the violence. And consider donating today (www.clwr.org) to provide emergency relief like food/ water, blankets and psychological care for families experiencing trauma.</p>
<p>WHAT IS GOD CALLING CANADIAN CHRISTIANS TO DO?</p> 	<p>Message from ELCIC National and Sask Synod: As members of one body in Christ, we are called to pray to the Triune God of peace: for the cessation of hostilities, for a just and sustainable peace, for healing from trauma, and for reconciliation grounded in truth. We encourage prayer that is rooted in Scripture and attentive to concrete realities, including the suffering of civilians, abducted children, prisoners of war, and those worshipping under threat. We raise the suffering caused by the invasion of Ukraine, escalation of violence in Jordan and the Holy Land, Iran and the middle east, and all areas of our global world.</p>
	<p>Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) has a new book that offers a different conversation about refugees and migrants in Canada titled <i>A Renewed Canadian Welcome - Eleven Visions from Migrants and Advocates</i>. It is a compelling call to reimagine Canada's approach to immigration as one that affirms dignity, equity, and justice for all. Go to A Renewed Canadian Welcome Book – Buy Now CPJ</p>

Paschal Letter March 25, 2026

Dear sisters, brothers, siblings, rostered leaders and beloved congregations of the SK Synod,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we enter once again into the sacred days of Holy Week, we are invited to walk the path of Christ's Passion, a path that leads us through the shadows of betrayal, suffering, and death, and into the radiant dawn of resurrection life. This is not simply a story we remember; it is the mystery we are drawn into, the very heart of our faith.

We begin in the upper room, where Jesus kneels to wash the feet of his disciples and gives us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). We move to the garden, where Jesus wrestles in prayer. We stand at the foot of the cross, where the Son of God bears the weight of the world's sin and cries out, "It is finished" (John 19:30). And then, in the stillness of the tomb, we wait. Only then, only through the cross, do we come to the empty tomb, where the women hear the astonishing proclamation: "He is not here but has risen" (Luke 24:5b).

This is the pattern of our lives as disciples of Jesus. As Lutherans, we know that God is most clearly revealed in the cross. In what appears to be weakness, defeat, and abandonment, God is at work bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, and new beginnings out of endings. The resurrection does not erase the cross; it transforms it.

Many of our congregations know something of this journey. We carry the weight of uncertainty, declining numbers, financial strain, and the fatigue that comes with faithful service in a changing world. Some of you are walking closely with grief, illness, or transition. Others are discerning new directions for ministry, seeking to be faithful in ways that may feel unfamiliar or even unsettling.

And yet, dear family, the Paschal mystery assures us that God is not finished with us. The crucified and risen Christ is already at work among us, calling, renewing, and sending. Even now, new life is stirring in our midst: in the laughter of children and youth, in the courage of congregations reimagining their mission, in the quiet faithfulness of those who visit, pray, serve, and give. The stone has been rolled away, not only from the tomb, but from every place where we have lost hope.

As rostered leaders, pastors and deacons, I offer you my deep gratitude. Your proclamation of the Word, your service, your administration of the sacraments, your pastoral care, and your presence among God's people are signs of Christ's own ministry in our midst. In these holy days, I encourage you not only to lead others through the story of salvation, but to dwell in it yourselves, to be renewed again by the grace you proclaim.

To our congregations, I give thanks for your witness. You are the body of Christ in your communities, imperfect, yes, but deeply beloved and called. Do not be afraid to follow where the Spirit leads, even when the path is not yet clear. Resurrection is always God's work, and it often begins in places we least expect.

In this season, I invite the whole synod, every member of our church in the synod, into deeper prayer, into renewed trust in the promises of God, and into a bold embrace of the life to which we are called together. As we proclaim Christ is risen, may we also live as people of the resurrection: bearing hope, practicing love, and serving with joy. I hold you all in prayer as you journey through these holy days. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Abundant blessings in Christ!

Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, Bishop, Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 3, 2026

GATHERING

'In Silence'

Introduction: *Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. ^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

PSALM 22:1-31

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.**

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸**"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb and kept me safe on my mother's breast.
¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**
¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.
¹²**Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.
¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.
¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.**
¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.
¹⁸**They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.**
¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.
²⁰**Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**
²¹Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
²²**I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**
²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (spoken):

Look to Jesus, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL: John 18:1-19:42

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Holy Gospel of John, the 18th Chapter.

¹[Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him,

came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" ¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. ¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel.

^{19:1}Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to

me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." ¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." ³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

SERMON: Pastor John Mayer Dut

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#351 'O Sacred Head, Now Wounded'

BIDDING PRAYER

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our bishops, **Rev. Dr Larry Kochendorfer, Rev. Carla Blakley, Rev. Dr Ali Tote , Rev. Trish Schmermund, Rev. Jason Zinko, Rev. Kathy Martin**, the Synods: **British Columbia, Alberta and the Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba / Northwestern Ontario, Eastern Synod**; for all pastors and our pastor John, and all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son.

Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names.

Bring an end to inter-religious strife and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you.

Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians,

and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for God's creation.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care

and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We

ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in need.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart.

Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble,

that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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.

We leave in silence.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

April 5, 2026

GATHERING & WELCOME

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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

This is the day that the LORD has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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.*

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. 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. 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 SONG: ELW#365 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'

GREETING (ELWp.184): 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.**

KYRIE (ELWp.184)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELWp.187)

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

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.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

MESSIAH CHOIR: Hallelujah! Now be Joyful!

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.

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. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELWp.188)

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 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. 3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. 4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 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." 8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor John Mayer Dut
SUDANESE SONG

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#364 'Christ Has Arisen Alleluia'

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. 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*) **Helen, Lyla, Ken, Daryl, Larissa/Taylor & family, Dick, Treasa, Diana, Leon, Sheila, Wayne, Pearl, Stanley, Rose, Rose, Sheila, Sharon, Jean, Audrey,** and all those we name aloud or in our heart. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. 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.**

PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you. We share a sign of Peace.**

MEAL & THANKSGIVING

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#367 'Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds' (vs.4)

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.**

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.**

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 (ELWp.190): **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.** 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.

LORD'S PRAYER: 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.

Invitation to Communion: Come to the table of new life. Receive the Risen Lord.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental

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 to the world.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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 SONG: ELW#376 'Thine Is the Glory'

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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