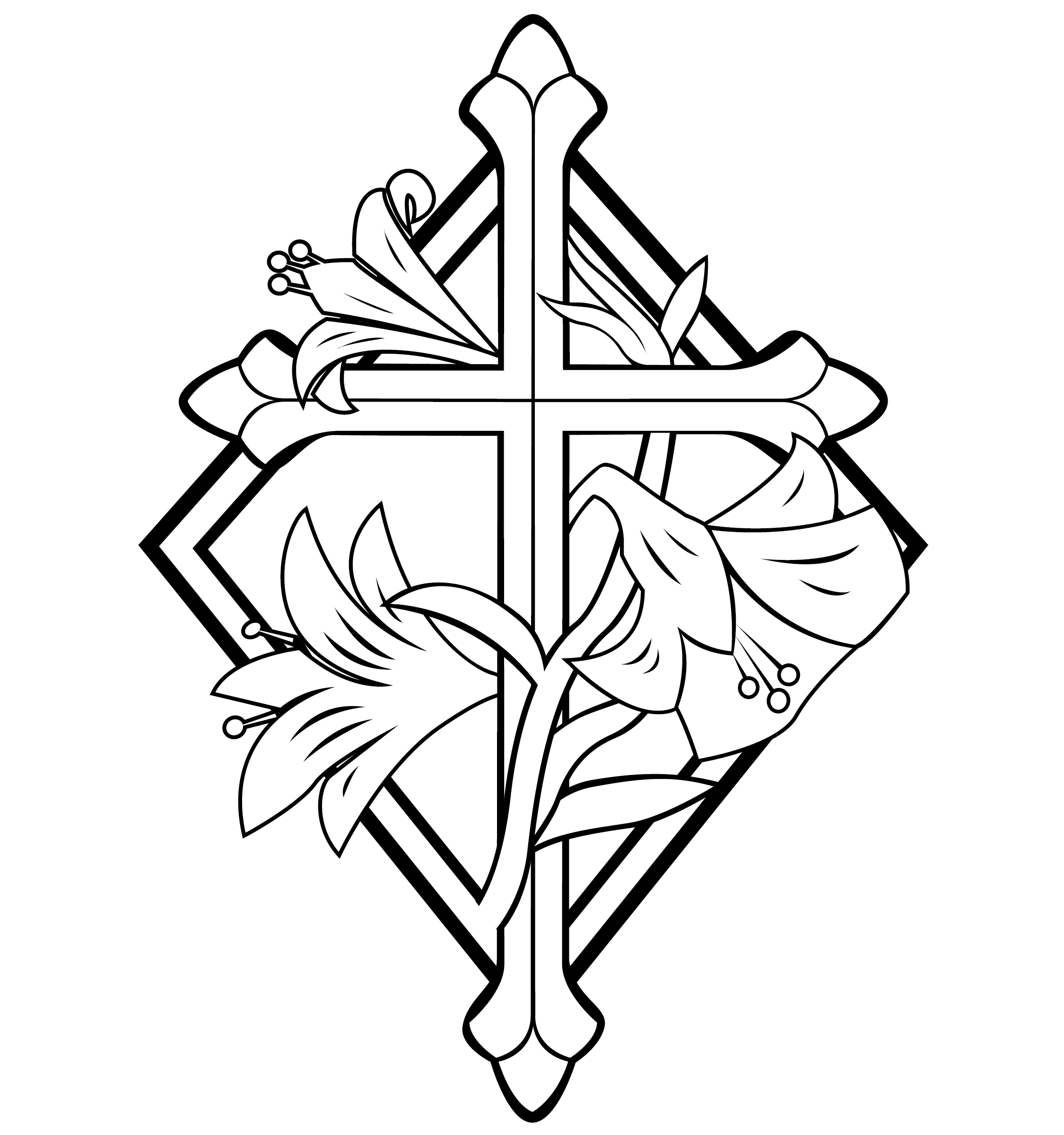
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**Easter Sunday**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*March 31, 2024*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

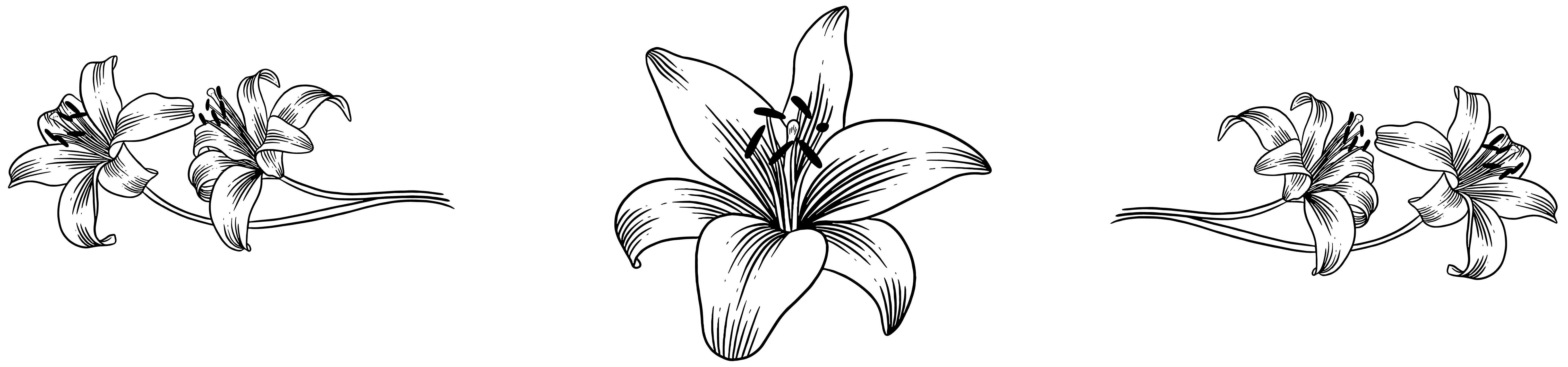
Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! The Lord has shattered the gates of hell, crushed the serpent’s head, and broken the power of the grave as he has risen in triumph to new and everlasting life. We commemorate our Lord’s victory today and look forward to our own resurrection.

The words of confession and absolution remind us of the power of Jesus’ resurrection: he has set us free from sin!



# Opening hymn *Welcome Happy Morning|* CW 163

**Gathering Rite**

P: This is the day the Lord has made

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The exchange of “Christ is Risen, he is risen indeed!” is called the **Paschal Greeting**. It echoes the greeting of the angel to the two Marys at the empty tomb, and expresses our joy to know Jesus has conquered death.

P: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous.

**C: The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!**

P: The Lord’s right hand is lifted high!

**C: The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!**

P: We will not die, but live,

**C: And will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

P: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans: “We have died to sin, how can we live in it any longer? We were buried with him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

**C: For we died and our life is now hidden with Christ in God.** *Colossians 3:3*

P: We have been crucified with Christ and no longer live,

**C: But Christ lives in us.** *Galatians 2:20*

P: God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.

**C: It is by grace we have been saved.** *Ephesians 2*

P: On this holy day, the whole Church of God remembers Jesus’ death and burial and rejoices at his glorious resurrection. Confident that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,let us confess our sins.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions and sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: The Lord is risen, let us worship him!

**C: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Exsultet is a lengthy proclamation that has been traditionally sung by a deacon during the Easter Vigil. This version of the Exsultet sets the words of in meter with the powerful melody Thaxted to be sung by the congregation in response to the absolution.

# song of praise *Exsultet*

**Exult, O angel armies,**

**You warriors of light.**

**Sound forth the golden trumpet**

**To end the darkest night.**

**Proclaim with fearless voices**

**The triumph of our King.**

**Rejoice, O host of heaven;**

**A new song to him sing:**

**“The Lamb, once slain, is living!**

**To him be strength and praise!**

**The Lion of salvation**

**Shall reign for endless days!”**

**Exult, O earth, in gladness, Exult, O Church, in glory.**

**All flooded now with light, O Bride, now see your Groom**

**Ablaze with warmth and glory Like lightning in the heavens**

**That puts the gloom to flight. Has left behind his tomb.**

**Be sure, O earthly creatures; Behold, he now has clothed you**

**All mortals, learn this well: In dazzling splendor bright;**

**The King of all the ages Exchanged your rags of mourning**

**Has smashed the gates of hell. For royal robes of white.**

**From dust he has arisen; So thunder now, God’s people,**

**In flesh immortal stands, And shake the walls with song.**

**With light and life and glory Your King has conquered darkness,**

**For all the tribes and lands. And righted ev’ry wrong.**

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# GOD’S WORD *The Easter Accounts*

**The Angel Appears to the Women at the Tomb**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

**The Women Report to the Apostles**

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

**Jesus Appears to Mary**

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**On the Road to Emmaus**

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?you.”

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

# M: The Gospel of the Lord

# C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

# hymn *O Sons and Daughters of the King|* CW 149

# sermon *Isaiah 25:6–9*

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

the sheet that covers all nations;

he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears

from all faces;

he will remove his people’s disgrace

from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.

In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the Lord, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

# hymn *This Joyful Eastertide|* CW 160

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

# M: Almighty God, You kept Your promise and delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior. By His sacrificial death, our sins are forgiven, and by His rising again, we have the hope of everlasting life. May we never fear our enemies nor give in to the temptation of despair in our days of trouble.

# C: Keep us in the holy joy of Easter throughout our lives.

# M: Be with Mark, our Synod president; John, our district president; and all our pastors. Keep them faithful to deliver to Your people the apostolic Gospel of Your Son’s death, burial and resurrection.

# C: May their witness be filled with Easter joy.

# M: Let us hold fast to the Word preached to us, that we may take our stand in it and be saved by it. Hinder all who would sow doubt into our hearts, and grant us courage to confess its truth in our life and conversation.

# C: May we always receive your Word with joy.

# M: Bless Joseph, our president, and all who make and administer our laws. Frustrate the forces of evil, and do not let our leaders cooperate with them or further their goals. Guard our armed forces as they stand watch for us at home and abroad. Let them serve with honor and integrity.

# C: May the joy of the resurrection attend those who defend us.

# M: Have mercy on the sick and those in any need. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ sustain them in faith. In accord with Your will, grant them renewed health — a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him.

# C: May we also rejoice in our sufferings, that we might share in Christ’s resurrection.

# M: We praise Your holy name, O Lord, for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We pray that You will not abandon us to the grave but will awaken us on the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

# C: Sustain us in joyful faith until that day.

# M: We join today in singing eternal alleluias with innumerable angels in festal gathering, with the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and we bring these petitions before You, dear Father, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who is risen and now reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# C: Alleluia! Amen.

**THE 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

C: Amen.

# hymn *Jesus Christ is Risen Today|* CW 157

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Pastor Timothy Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*