

Easter
C E L E B R A T I O N



Hallelujah!

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday
of *Easter*

Welcome to a Divine Liturgy of Word and Sacrament. In our worship we gather in the Lord's presence at his invitation and in the company of the whole Church in heaven and on earth. We hear Him speak to us as he freely bestows the abundance of his grace. In response, we repent of our sins and offer up to Him our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and dedicate our lives to serving Him. To this we say, "Amen!"



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross ✠ in remembrance of their baptism, as the minister begins.

Pin the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** Amen.

P Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!

C Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

P Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

C Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!



Hymn: 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.
- 2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried:
Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

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The GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C** And also with you.

Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE - This is the Feast

P This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

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

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

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray...O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

Sit

▪ **THE READINGS** - Hear the word of the LORD. (*Jeremiah 2:4*)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. *Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-14 (*congregation sings verses in bold text*)

I love the Lord, because | he has heard* my voice and my pleas for | mercy.

²Because he inclined his | ear to me,* therefore I will call on him as long | as I live.

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of

Sheol laid | hold on me;* I suffered distress and | anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name | of the Lord:* “O Lord, I pray, deliv- | er my soul!”

⁵Gracious is the Lord, and | righteous;* our God is | merciful.

⁶The Lord preserves the | simple;* when I was brought low, he | saved me.

⁷Return, O my soul, | to your rest;*

for the Lord has dealt bountifully | with you.

⁸For you have delivered my | soul from death,*

my eyes from tears, my feet from | stumbling;

⁹I will walk be- | fore the Lord* in the land of the | living.

¹⁰I believed, even | when I spoke,* “I am greatly af- | flicted”;

¹¹I said in | my alarm,* “All mankind are | liars.”

¹²What shall I render | to the Lord* for all his bene- | fits to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation* and call on the name | of the Lord,

¹⁴I will pay my vows | to the Lord* in the presence of all his | people.

A reading from the first Epistle of St. Peter

If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you. *1 Peter 1:17-25*

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*all stand and sing...*)

C Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

(Solo) Now Christ is raised from the dead, He will never die again

All who follow his way shall have life in him: Hallelujah, hallelujah

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." ²⁵And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while

he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. *Luke 24:13-35*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Hymn: 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain



Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise:

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center

Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

3 Jesus the vine, We are the branches;

Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,

Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:

Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God, Easter forever,

Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,

Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

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AFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before
all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy
Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified
also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian* and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen. (* catholic = universal)

Prayer of the Church

After each petition, the following is said: Lord, in your mercy. **C** Hear our prayer



WE PRAY for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, including— **Edna & Bob Waller, Delomi & Sarjue Persaud, Johnny Ramroop, Ruth Zerner, Violet Monson, Brenda Carmichael, Zonia & Resa Bucknor, Eunice Lyte, Agnes D'Ornellas, Carmen D'Ornellas, Sheila Motie, Jackie Wheeler, Joyce Deebrah, Dorothy Weener, Jeanette Mota, Dolly Singh, Khamlita D'Ornellas, Narda Seoprasad, Kirsten Sandblom, Pastor George Ramsudh, Joan Dookram, Ruth Cameron, Rushell Singh, Suresh Paul, Iris Cheddie, Sandra Campbell, Alecia Clark, Milo Noven, Pastor Dave & Sue Dietsche, Pastor Vic Rapp, Pastor Ken Schnepp, Justin Shaw, Deo Bhagwatprasad, Ismael Ulloah, Patrick Fredricks, Eleanor Drepaul, Pastor David Gerber, Andrea Doodnauth, Pastor Jean Cenat, Casilda & James Meade, Pauline Strong, Jen Santos, Kenneth Ragnauth, Megan Latchman, Jhoann Fuentes, Elisa Santiago, William Seepaul**

The PEACE is shared at this time.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

The OFFERING is received. The OFFERTORY is sung as the gifts are presented.

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The GREAT THANKSGIVING.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and ...evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed † is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will even to giving his life.

JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION, *then the following:*

P As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

P Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

P Hear us, Abba Father, for we pray as the Lord Jesus has taught us

C **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.**

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant...**

P Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are they who are invited to the Supper of the Lamb.

C **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Distribution

Post Communion Canticle

C **Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises. and leads his people forth in joy. With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P Let us pray...We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **C** **Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Hymn: 466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom. Refrain

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!

2 For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo;
And in its conquest His might did show. Refrain

3 The angel said to them, "Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
Only the grave cloths are lying there." Refrain

4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain

5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Refrain

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All sit for a moment of reflection.

P Rejoice in the resurrection and live in hope, peace, and joy.
Go and share the Good News.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



He

Worship
Servants }

Officiating Minister: Rev. Peter Deebrah, Pastor

Organist: Roger Clinton



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES YOU
God. In the name of Jesus, we bid you a warm welcome. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew. Please speak with the Pastor or one of our members concerning membership. First time visitors, please sign our guest book.

We are the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew**, America's oldest Lutheran congregation (Chartered Dec 6, 1664) - a friendly household of faith.

This congregation's mission is to share the Good News of

Announcements

- **Glad that you have worshipped** today in joining with the angels and archangels, and the whole company of heaven around the glorious throne of God.
- **Divine Worship:** Sundays at 1:30 PM
In-person and on Zoom (**Meeting ID: 821 423 1875**)
+ **Why do we gather for worship?** To celebrate the goodness of the Lord in thanksgiving. We are reminded: "Let us not neglect our meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of [Christ's] return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25
- **Your offering is an important and integral part of worship, given with joy and in thanksgiving to God.** We return to the Lord a portion of what He has first given us out of His Fatherly love. Your Offerings, in and out of season, support of the ministry of the congregation.
- **Visit our church website** www.stmatthewnyc.org
- **You may give your Offering electronically by either of the following ways:**
 - **use DONATE** menu tab on the St. Matthew website – www.stmatthewnyc.org
 - **use Zelle** and enter St. Matthew email: stmatthewnyc@aol.com
- Daily Bible reading and devotions on the internet, visit www.lhm.org/dailydevotions.asp
- **LET'S READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.** We are reading the New Testament (27 books) and the book of Psalms (150 chapters).

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

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