



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026

9:00 A.M.

## The Resurrection of Our Lord! Christ Is Alive! Alleluia!

*The long Lenten journey has passed; the glorious resurrection of Jesus has come into view.  
May the good news of the empty tomb fill us with joy, and bring hope to every living thing!  
He is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!*

### An Easter Prelude

#### Return of the Alleluias & Easter Greeting

Children of God, where did we place our Alleluias at the beginning of Lent?

**(Children) We buried them in the ground!**

Why did we bury them?

**(Children) Because we were waiting for Easter!**

And now, what have you done this morning?

**We have dug them up!**

People of God, what does this mean?

**Easter is here! Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

What was hidden has been brought to light. What was silent now sings again.

**Alleluia! Let the feast begin!**

The power of death has been broken!

**Alleluia! Love has the final word!**

Hope is alive, and joy is overflowing!

**Alleluia! The table is set for all!**

Then let us return our Alleluias to God with joy!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Processional Hymn

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

(hymn) 365 vv. 1-4

<sup>1</sup>Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

<sup>2</sup>Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

<sup>3</sup>But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

<sup>4</sup>Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

### **Announcement of the Resurrection**

On the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, they saw a man dressed in a dazzling white robe, who said to them, *“Do not be alarmed; you are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised.”*

### **Hymn**

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

(hymn) 619

<sup>1</sup>I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!

<sup>2</sup>He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;  
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

### **An Easter Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness**

This day, we move from the *cruel* cross to the empty tomb.

**The wilderness has wearied us, but we believe a feast of joy lies ahead.**

This day, we move from the *testing* cross to the empty tomb.

**We have known sorrow and struggle, but we believe laughter will rise again.**

This day, we move from the *shadowed* cross to the empty tomb.

**Injustice has wounded many, but we believe resurrection brings courage and change.**

This day, we move from a *silent* cross to the empty tomb.

**Our faith has sometimes faded into habit, but we believe our hearts will sing again, as we join in Christ’s healing work, at home, in our neighborhoods, and across the world.**

The stone is rolled away. The table is set. New life is here!

**We release what weighs us down. We embrace the joy of now. We welcome the future with hope and holy hunger.**

In Christ Jesus, you are forgiven. You are free. Feast on grace. Live with joy. The Risen One goes with you! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Words of Welcome**

**Easter Gospel: John 20:1-18**

*The Holy Gospel according to St. John. Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her. *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Children's Message****Easter Message****Easter Song of Praise**

"Awake, My Soul!"

<sup>1</sup>Breathe on me, breath of God, breathe on me.  
 Breathe on me, breath of God, breathe on me.  
 I come alive, I'm alive when you breathe on me.  
 I come alive, I'm alive when you breathe on me.

*(Chorus)*

Awake, awake, awake my soul! God resurrect these bones!  
From death to life, through you alone. Awake my soul!

<sup>2</sup>Breathe on us, breath of God, breathe on us.  
Breathe on us, breath of God, breathe on us.  
We come alive, we're alive when you breathe on us.  
We come alive, we're alive when you breathe on us.

## **Offering**

**Offering Music**

“Joy and Elation”

*Bell Choir and Flute*

## **Offertory Prayer**

Risen Lord, **with grateful hearts we bring these gifts to you. Out of your abundant love, you have given us life, hope, and new beginnings. Receive what we offer this day, and use it to share your resurrection life with the world, bringing hope to the weary, joy to the sorrowful, and love to all. Amen.**

## **Easter Statement of Faith**

**I believe in a great God, who created the world in power and love, and who brings life out of death. God’s glory is revealed in all of creation, and in the empty tomb on Easter morning.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God. His life, his teachings, his miracles, his death, and his resurrection bring true forgiveness of sin and new and everlasting life. His strength meets me in my weakness. His love overcomes my failures. His cross redeems me. His resurrection restores me. I trust him as Savior, risen Lord, and friend.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, God alive and at work in and among us, raising us to new life even now. I believe God is present and active in today’s world, and that the joy of the resurrection is already breaking into our lives.**

**I believe the Church is the people of God, called to live as witnesses to the risen Christ. Through prayer, the Sacraments, and the community of faith, I experience the promise of new life, deep hope, and everlasting love. Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving, Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer**

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.**

And so we remember, that night when Jesus was betrayed ... do this also, in remembrance of me. And now, as we are all gathered into one by God's Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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.**

## **Communion Distribution**

### **Communion Music**

### **Communion Blessing**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Risen Christ,

**we give you thanks that you have met us here, in bread and cup, in promise and presence. You have fed us with your life, filled us with your love, and renewed us by your resurrection. Send us now into the world to live as your risen people, bearing hope where there is despair, life where there is death, and joy where there is sorrow. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ our Savior has risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

May the Lord bless you and keep you ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

## Sending Hymn

“Thine Is the Glory”

(hymn) 376 vv. 1, 2

<sup>1</sup>Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment, rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay. *Refrain*

### *Refrain*

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won!

<sup>2</sup>Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*

## Dismissal

Go in peace! Share the Risen Christ's love, with joy!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude





Welcome & Thank You!

**Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Paul Lutheran on this Easter Sunday, where it is always our mission *“To Share Christ’s Love, With Joy!”***

We aim for your time with us to be both enriching and spiritually fulfilling. If you're new, please feel free to introduce yourself to the pastors and fellow worshippers. We value the opportunity to connect with you and hope to see you again soon. At St. Paul Lutheran, everyone is sincerely welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Should you require a gluten-free option, simply inform the pastor when you approach. Worshipers are encouraged to bring a bible to worship. If one is needed there are bibles available in the prayer room in the rear corner of the sanctuary. Additionally, gender-neutral restrooms are accessible in our education/preschool wing, ensuring a comfortable experience for all. We look forward to seeing you again!

**Please keep in your prayers this week:** Our partners in Tanzania, the Migoli and Mtera parishes, Ruth Koehly, Jean Enrooth, Josie Peterson, John & Darla Peterson, Allan DeWolf, Lois (friend of Janelle Albee), Kathy (sister of Ron Rozeske), Julie (family of Pat Miska), Mick Byl, Wendy Krona, Mike (Sally Liljedahl uncle), Lacey Sperling, Aspen Indihar, Waylon Buccanero, Jim Rauner, Jeremy and all who serve in the military, Shelby, Tom and all law enforcement.

**Refreshments** today are provided by Zella Oswald. The refreshment sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for signing up!

**Women’s Retreat at Carole England’s Cabin—Cushing, WI, Saturday, April 11.** Join us for a day of fellowship and renewal at Carole and Steve England’s cabin in Cushing, Wisconsin. We will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Our theme for the day is “I Am Among the Trees.” Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the narthex.

**Adopt-a-Highway Roadside Clean-Up. THIS Wednesday, April 8 at 6:15 p.m.** Once again, you and your family are invited **help clean up the mile stretch of the road on Wyoming Trail** in front of the church. Sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

**ENGAGE Sunday—Next Sunday, April 12.** Join us next Sunday for our final ENGAGE: Lutherans! gathering of the season, focusing on Law & Gospel. ENGAGE Sundays are a time of worship, learning, and conversation as we explore the core of what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutherans. **Wild Faith for Littles** will also meet **right after worship on April 12.** This gathering is for Pre-K children and younger with their parents, featuring play, sensory exploration, and simple, nature-based faith practices to take home. Invite a friend and join us! Questions?

**Pack Food With Us Wednesday, April 15!** Make plans to join us again for the **Annual Lakes Area Mobile Feed My Starving Children food packing event** at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake on **Wednesday, April 15 from 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.** There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Contact one of the pastors with any questions. Sign up today!

**West of 55—Join us on April 23,** from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for **May Day basket making.** Come help us make May Day baskets that will be delivered to our friends at The Meadows at Fairview. A wonderful hands-on service opportunity for all ages! All are welcome to help spread some springtime joy!

**Annual Mother's Day Spring Festival and Plant Sale—**Spring is in the air, and so is the excitement for our Annual Mother's Day Spring Festival and Plant Sale! Join us on **Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for a joyful celebration of the season. We're once again **partnering with our Discovery Center** to offer a beautiful selection of plants, just in time to find the perfect gift for Mother's Day. This event is perfect for the whole family, with games, activities, and a bounce house for the kids to enjoy. Come for the plants, stay for the fun! We look forward to seeing you there!

**Spring is here!** Join us for our **Annual Outdoor Spring Cleanup on Monday, April 13, Tuesday, April 14, and Thursday, April 16 from 5:30 p.m. until dusk.** Bring rakes, gloves, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, and any other tools that might be helpful. Many hands make light work, so come enjoy the fresh air, fellowship, and the joy of preparing our church grounds for this special season. Help us get our building and grounds looking like new for our 25th Year Jubilee Sunday Anniversary celebration! **We appreciate your help!**

# jubilee2026

Celebrating 25 Years!



## Tanzania Celebration Sunday Sunday, April 19, 2026

On **Sunday, April 19**, we mark **25 years of partnership** with our companion parishes, **Mtera and Migoli**, through Bega Kwa Bega and the Saint Paul Area Synod.

For a quarter century, this partnership has connected us across continents in prayer, shared ministry, mutual encouragement, and lasting friendship. What began as a relationship has become family in Christ. We are especially honored that **Pastor Joyce Ngandango**, Director of Huruma Orphanage in Iringa, Tanzania, and currently studying at Luther Seminary, will be with us in person that morning. We will also share pre-recorded video greetings from: **Pastor Agripa Mgaya** (Migoli) and **Pastor Neberth Lubawa** (Mtera).

Following worship, our Boy Scouts will host their **annual pancake breakfast** in the fellowship hall, a wonderful time for fellowship and celebration together.





## Celebrating 25 Years of Faithfulness

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

A Jubilee is a time of gratitude, freedom, and new beginnings, and that is exactly what we will celebrate together on **Sunday, April 26**.

This year marks the **25th anniversary of our “Expanding Our Horizons” building remodel and renovation**, dedicated on April 29, 2001. For fifty years our original church building has faithfully served this congregation, and for the past twenty-five years the renovated and expanded space has allowed our ministry to grow even more fully.

In 2025, we reached another historic milestone: the **early payoff of our \$1,037,000 mortgage**. What began as a bold step of faith became a testimony to long-term generosity and commitment. We now celebrate not just financial freedom, but renewed energy for mission.

We will also give thanks for the completion of our five-year **Synod Redevelopment journey**, a season of renewal, discernment, and strengthening for our congregation.

We are excited to welcome that day, **Pastor Justin Grimm**, Assistant to the Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, as our guest preacher. Former pastor **Jeff Beebe and his wife, Melissa**, who will share memories from the groundbreaking and dedication season, as well as a special pre-recorded greeting from former pastor **Jim Mericle and his wife, Sondra**.

**Mark your calendars and plan to join us!**

**An Easter Sabbath Poem (VII, 1982)**

*by Wendell Berry*

The clearing rests in song and shade.

It is a creature made

By old light held in soil and leaf,

By human joy and grief,

By human work,

Fidelity of sight and stroke,

By rain, by water on

The parent stone.

We join our work to Heaven's gift,

Our hope to what is left,

That field and woods at last agree

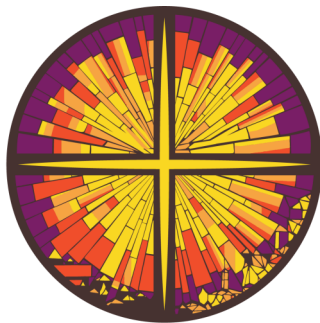
In an economy

Of widest worth.

High Heaven's Kingdom come on earth.

Imagine Paradise.

O Dust, arise!



**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH**

SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE WITH JOY!

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