



*February!*

# Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – Hamburg

8:30 a.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

10:15 a.m.



Easter  
Blessings

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding. Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a

church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

## RECEIVING THE HOLY SACRAMENT

In deep Christian love and commitment to the Word of God we continue to hold to the Biblical and Ancient practice of close communion. We believe that those who commune together must confess the same faith, and recognize the great power and real presence of the body and blood Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine. (1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-29; Romans 16:17). Likewise, since



one's membership helps promote that church's major teachings we ask that only those commune who are confirmed and communicant members of the LCMS, and who are not under church discipline. Thank you for respecting our beliefs and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around the Word of God. If you have any question please contact Pastor Love. *NOTE: Gluten free wafers are now available at the Lord's Table. Please let Pastor know before worship service that you would like the gluten free wafers.*"

## AS WE GATHER

**John 20:1** – *“Now on the first day of the week ...”* All is made new by the Resurrection of Jesus! Even the day of worship has transitioned from the Old Testament’s Saturday Sabbath to the Lord’s Day of the New Testament. For the Lord has made all things new. He has begun a new week for a new creation in rising from the dead as the New Adam. We are also made new in Him – a new heart, a new life, new desires, and a new outlook toward God. All this comes from our Risen Lord’s grace. Especially after the sort of year we’ve had since last Easter. It’s sure good news to hear that the Lord makes all things start afresh.

### **PRESERVICE CHORAL MUSIC** (*Faith*)

*“Christ Is Risen!”*

Jan Sanborn

### **THE ALLELUIA** (*Please Rise*)

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** Why do you seek the living among the dead?
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** He has risen, just as He said!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** Alleluia! Christ Jesus is alive!
- C** Heaven’s gates are opened wide.

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

*“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

LSB# 457

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- C** If we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (*John 1:7-8*)

**P** Let us draw near to God with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father.

**C** **Almighty God, heavenly Father we confess that we have not remained strong in faith. We have not always let the sure news of Your resurrection dispel the fear that wells up within us. We have thought, spoken, and acted in weakness. We have not loved You with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We deserve Your judgment in time and eternity. Forgive us, and renew us in love for You and all creation as we look forward to the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of the died and the life of the World to come. Amen.**

**P** By His suffering and death, our Lord has paid for our sins, and by His rising has destroyed the power of death. As a called and ordained servant of our risen and triumphant Lord Jesus 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. (*John 20:21-23*)

**C** **Amen.**

## **HYMN RESPONSE**

***"I Know that My Redeemer Lives"***

**LSB# 461 vs. 1-4**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with your spirit.**

**P** Almighty God, everlasting Father, through Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and the grave and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES US THROUGH THE HOLY BIBLE

- ☐ “And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus,
- ☐ **“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**  
*(2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV '84)*

### OLD TESTAMENT RESURRECTION PROMISES

**Job 19:25-27** “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!” (ESV)

**Isaiah 53:10-12** “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.” (ESV)

MY  
REDEEMER  
LIVES!

**Psalm 16:9-11** “Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (ESV)

**Psalm 49:15** “But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me.” (ESV)

**Psalm 71:20** “You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.” (ESV)

**Hosea 13:14** “I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?” (ESV)

**Isaiah 26:19** “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.” (ESV)

**Daniel 12:1b-3** (ESV) “But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

☐ “And we thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men,

☑ **“but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”** (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

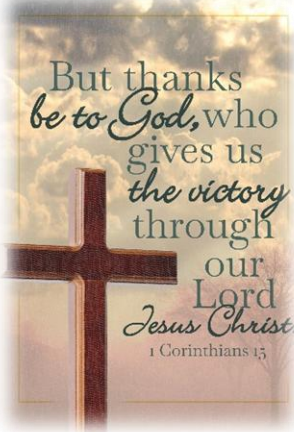
**CHORAL MUSICAL OFFERING** (*Faith*)

**“Antiphonal Alleluia for Easter”**

Michael Bradford

## EPISTLE LESSON *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried,



that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the

church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (ESV)

**P** “The grass withers and the flowers fall,

**C** “**but the Word of God stands forever.**” (*1 Peter 1:24b*)

### THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

*While the organist plays, the Crucifer moves to the center of the congregation. The congregation rises and faces the cross.*

*The Gospel is read from among the people to symbolize God’s living presence among us.*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**“Lift High the Cross”**

**LSB #837 vs. 1-2**



## THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10

**P** The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, the twentieth-eighth chapter.

**C** Thanks be to You,  
O Lord!

### The Resurrection

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel

of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**P** "Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who hear the word of God  
**C** "and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

**THE SERMON**

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**RESPONSIVE HYMN**

*“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”*

LSB# 461 vs 5-8

***We Bring Our First Fruits to the Lord***

**THE FAMILY OF GOD PRAYS TOGETHER**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Let us pray for all who do not know that Christ has destroyed death, for

all who have no hope, for all who face this day with inconsolable tears.

**C** **Open their ears, O Holy Spirit, to the joyful news of our Lord's resurrection. Open their eyes to see the joy He has prepared for all people who rest their hope in Him. Use us to invite them to the feast already prepared.**

**P** Let us pray for all who are in danger from hostile neighbors or oppressive regimes, from unsanitary living conditions, or natural calamities.

**C** **Come to their aid, heavenly Father. Restore in them complete reliance on You. Be their source of refuge, a stronghold against the forces arrayed against them. Lift up wise and compassionate leaders, so that peace and justice may prevail among the nations of the world.**

**P** Let us pray for the Church, we who are here this day and wherever the faithful gather around Word and Sacrament.

**C** **On this day of days, strengthen our faith, Lord Jesus, to see in Your resurrection the bedrock of our salvation, the central focus of our hope and joy. Whenever we stray from it, restore us. Whenever the Church is in error, reform it. And whoever is in conflict, renew within them the confidence that forgiveness is freely available because of Your sacrifice for us and our salvation.**

**P** Let us pray for those people near and dear to us.

**C** **Almighty God, author of life and health, shine the light of Your love, so that these beloved family members and friends may enjoy healing, comfort, and relief from their various ailments.**

**P** Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

**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.

## DISTRIBUTION

**CHORAL ANTHEM** (*Faith*)      *"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*"This Joyful Eastertide"*      LSB #482

*"The Day of Resurrection"*      LSB #478

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"*      LSB #475

## THANK THE LORD

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what  
He has done.

Let all who seek 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.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**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 in 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.

## LITANY

**P** Christ is risen,

**C** and you, O death, are annihilated.

**P** Christ is risen,

**C** and the evil ones are cast down.

**P** Christ is risen,

**C** and the angels rejoice.

**P** Christ is risen,

**C** and life is celebrated.

**P** Christ is risen,

**C** and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power forever and ever.

## THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN *“He’s Risen, He’s Risen”*      LSB # 480

## THE ALLELUIA

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

♪♪ *SPECIAL MUSIC* today with *Chris Emmerich and John Uttech* on the trumpets. Thank you, Chris and John, for adding to our celebration. ♪♪

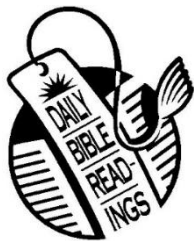


*Christ* <sup>the</sup> *Lord*  
is risen today!

...Fear not ye: for I know that you seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:5-6





## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Exodus 14:10-31;

Hebrews 7:23 – 8:13

**Monday:** Exodus 15:1-18;

Hebrews 9:1-28

**Tuesday:** Exodus 15:19 – 16:12;

Hebrews 10:1-18

**Wednesday:** Exodus 16:13-35; Hebrews 10:19-39

**Thursday:** Exodus 17:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-29

**Friday:** Exodus 18:5-27; Hebrews 12:1-24

**Saturday:** Exodus 19:1-25; Hebrews 13:1-21



## CHURCH CALENDAR

ST. JOHN'S and FAITH

**Sunday, April 5** *Easter Sunday*

**8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at St. John's**

**10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion at Faith**

**Monday, April 6**

NO MONDAY SERVICE AT FAITH

**Tuesday, April 7**

1:00 p.m. Women of Faith

**Wednesday, April 8**

10:00 a.m. Ablelight

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class at Faith

**Thursday, April 9**

10:30 a.m. Community Bible Study at St. John's

**Sunday, April 12**

**8:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's**

**10:15 a.m. Worship at Faith**

11:15 a.m. Bible Study at Faith

11:15 a.m. Stewardship and Evangelism at Faith

12:15 p.m. Inspired Singles at Faith *"Pizza and Prayer"*

**Monday, April 13**

5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**6:30 p.m. Worship at Faith**

7:30 p.m. Church Council at Faith

**Tuesday, April 14**

6:00 p.m. Church Council at St. John's

7:15 p.m. Elders Meeting at St. John's



**FAITH and ST.  
JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCHES**

*Please remember the  
following in your  
prayers:*

Gary Baumann  
Lisa Burish

Joe Calmes    David Czech    Doris Dahlke  
Rodney Dahlke    Alice Fromm    Christopher Emmerich  
Wallace Emmerich    Duane Grunenwald  
Gerhard Hannemann    Angie Harkner    Dale Janisch  
Cecelia & Lucille Klade    Jordan Knoble    Rob Koebe  
Jim Koebe    Hugo Koppa    Karen Love    Bob Meyer  
Gene Mootz    Debbie Olson    Sarah Piel    Mark Pester  
Bob Porath    Marge Radenz    Karen Rajek    Jo Schedler  
MiKenzie Schultz    Audrey Steckling    Lorraine Steckling  
Carl Uttech    Deb Wiederhoef    Florence Williamson  
Laurie Young    Susie and Ellie Zastrow

**NOTE: CONFIRMATION CLASS** resumes at Faith at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Also **COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY** at St. John's returns to the morning gathering at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank You for your generous sacrificial offerings to the Lord, to help us keep our ministry going. You can also mail your offerings to Our Churches at**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

15425 County Road K South, Merrill, WI 54452 or

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

134058 County Road L, Athens, WI 54411

*(Please do not send hard cash through the mail)*

**Please help us spread the Word. Visit us online at Pastor's (Don Love) Facebook Page, or Faith Lutheran Church, or on the church website at**

[www.faithlutheranmerrill.com](http://www.faithlutheranmerrill.com)

# *Easter Devotion*

Easter offers us the opportunity to consider the deep love our heavenly Father has for us as we remember our Lord Jesus' suffering and death. There is no greater expression of His love and commitment to us. As we prepare to gather in worship and praise for His great gift, we also are confronted with the ultimate goal our Lord has for us and for all people – the blessing of eternal life. Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter is the foundation for this blessing, and our confession of this truth directs our attention to the eternal hope we have in Him.

John records the following conversation between Jesus and His disciples the night before He died for us in John 14:1-7: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”* Thomas said to him, *“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”* Jesus answered, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”*

There are times when we wonder along with Thomas – Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way? The immediate unfolding of His plan is often hidden from our eyes. We can sense Thomas' desperation and anxiety in not knowing, and we feel it, too. It's then that Jesus' words ring out loudly to our troubled spirits – I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.


As God's people, brought to faith by the Holy Spirit and baptized members of the family of God, we know where to look for Him. He is not on the cross – it is empty. He is not in the tomb – it, too, is empty. Jesus lives. He draws near to us in His Word, in the waters of baptism, and in the Lord's Supper. He speaks to us as we care for, support, and pray for one another. We see Him moving among those who experience suffering and trials in this life, and we see other people as He does... people of ultimate worth and value... people worth dying for.

This Easter remember the history of God's saving action through our Lord, Jesus. But do not stop there. Because Jesus lives, we and all the people around us have the promise of eternal life before them. Because He lives, we have an everlasting hope of life forever with Him. Because He lives, sadness and separation never have the last word. Our loving God has the last word, and the Word He speaks to His creation lasts forever.

*“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* — Revelation 21:3-4

God bless you with this gift of new life in the Savior, and may this life and His light so shine in you that the world will know it is for them.  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*From the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*



*Because I live,*

YE SHALL LIVE ALSO.

JOHN 14:19