

Closed Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated today. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we follow the historic Christian practice of closed communion. According to the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11, only those who share the same outward confession of faith join us at the altar. Members of other LC-MS congregations are welcome, but we ask that you please see the pastor before communing. If you arrive too late to do this before the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor after the service.

Visitors

We welcome you. Please sign the guest book and introduce yourself to the Pastor. Also complete a blue attendance card located in the pews and put an X in the ( ) if you will be communing with us. We invite you to join us for Bible Study on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the school gym.

Passiontide

As the passion of Our Lord’s crucifixion and resurrection draws nearer, the church observes an even deeper reflection on the pain, suffering, and sacrifice of Jesus for our life and forgiveness. While the fourth Sunday in Lent (**Laetare**) gave a brief reprieve from the penitential nature of Lent, the fifth Sunday in Lent (**Judica**) brings even greater anticipation of Good Friday. Judica is sometimes called “Passion Sunday,” which is the beginning of Passiontide: Judica, Palmarum, and Holy Week. For that reason, on Judica, the crosses are veiled as Jesus hid himself and leaves the temple in humble expectation of the cross. The gauzy black material used to veil is black, like that of a widow’s mourning veil. Historically, paintings would be veiled also, and any artistic triptychs closed. During Passiontide, the lesser *Gloria Patri* (“Glory Be To the Father...”) is omitted when used with psalmody and canticles, just as the Alleluias and the greater *Gloria in Excelsis* are omitted during the Gesimatide (Pre-Lent) and Lent seasons. This means that the end of the *Nunc Dimittis* and *Magnificat* is removed until the joy of the resurrection in Easter Season. The next Sunday in Passiontide (**Palmarum**) continues with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem: Hosanna to the Son of David! Palm Sunday is part of Passiontide leading into Holy Week, hence its name, Palmarum. Thus, the Sunday before Easter includes both the festive waving of palm branches as well as the restrained reverence of the Passion of Our Lord. Palmarum often includes both the procession with palms and also the lengthy reading of the passion of Our Lord.

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion  
Palmarum

Thursday, April 10, 2025 – 6:30 PM  
Sunday, April 13, 2025 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

*Children are invited to participate in the palm procession today at the beginning of the service. They will follow pastor and the cross down the middle aisle and will then join their family in the pew.*

Divine Service Setting Three

Lutheran Service Book 184

Greeting

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** Hosanna to the Son of David.

Collect for Palm Sunday

Most merciful God, as the people of Jerusalem, with palms in their hands, gathered to greet Your dearly beloved Son when He came into His Holy City, grant that we may ever hail Him as our King and, when He comes again, may go forth to meet Him with trusting and steadfast hearts and follow Him in the way that leads to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Holy Gospel

*John 12:12-19*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

*After the Gospel reading:*

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.
- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of the Lord.

Processional Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor LSB 442

When all have arrived at their places, the procession concludes with the following:

- [P] Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- [C] Hosanna in the highest.

Collect for Sunday of the Passion

- [P] Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- [C] Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

- <sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- <sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations;  
his rule shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

- [P] This is the Word of the Lord.
- [C] Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

- <sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made

himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- [P] This is the Word of the Lord.
- [C] Thanks be to God.

Tract


Psalm 22:1, 4–5

- <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?\*
- Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- <sup>4</sup>In you our fathers | trusted;\*
- they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- <sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were | rescued;\*
- in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:1-27:66

- [P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.



[C] Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

During the reading of the Holy Gospel, we stand to recognize Christ speaking among us. This is a matter of the Gospel and faith which trusts this Christ in the Gospel. Due to the length of today’s Gospel, those who cannot remain standing may exercise their Gospel freedom and be seated.

After the Gospel reading:

- [P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



[C] Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| The Nicene Creed           | LSB 191   |
| Sermon Hymn                | <i>A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth</i> LSB 438    |
| Sermon                     | <i>His Blood Be On Us and Our Children</i>        |
| Offertory                  | LSB 192   |
| Prayer of the Church       | LSB 193   |
| Liturgy of Holy Communion  | LSB 194   |
| Distribution Hymns         | LSB 602, 422, 624, 622, 620                       |
| Nunc Dimittis              | LSB 199   |
| Salutation and Benedicamus | LSB 201   |
| Benediction                | LSB 202   |
| Closing Hymn               | <i>Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness</i> LSB 563 |

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

|                       |           |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| The Instrumentalists: | Trumpet   | Gabriel Beversdorf<br>Henry Gottschalk<br>Dean Sievert      |
|                       | Trombone  | Sebastian Beversdorf<br>Matthew Fabrizio<br>Dave Gottschalk |
|                       | Euphonium | Everett Gottschalk<br>Dennis Hanley                         |

**Special Services Lenten and Holy Week**

|          |                              |                   |
|----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| April 13 | Palm Sunday                  | 8:00 & 10:45 a.m. |
| April 17 | Maundy Thursday              | 4:00 & 6:30 p.m.  |
| April 18 | Good Friday Tre Ore          | 1:00 p.m.         |
|          | Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers | 6:30 p.m.         |
| April 19 | Easter Vigil at Mt. Zion     | 8:00 p.m.         |
| April 20 | The Resurrection of Our Lord | 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Wednesday  | 4/2/25      | 4:00 p.m.   | 40                |
|            |             | 6:30 p.m.   | 22                |
| Thursday   | 4/3/25      | 6:30 p.m.   | 28                |
| Sunday     | 4/6/25      | 8:00 a.m.   | 98                |
|            |             | 10:45 a.m.  | 38                |

**WE PRAY** for Mary Ankerberg, Michael Borchardt, Tom Domagalski, Daut Gaba, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, William Moore (husband of Barbara Moore), Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Jan Wicks, and Barbara Wieting.

**FLOWERS** are given by the Gerloff family in memory of Betty Gerloff.

**PRAYER OF COMFORT** for the Gerloff family in the loss of their friend, Donna Howarth, who passed away on March 30 at the age of 58. Blessed are those who die in the Lord for they shall inherit eternal life.

**VOTERS MEETING** There will be a Voter’s Assembly meeting in the church today Sunday, April 13 immediately following the 8:00 a.m. service. The main purpose of the meeting is to call teachers for the next school year. Please plan to attend.

**OFLC PASTORAL CALL** The voters assembly of Our Father’s Lutheran Church voted to extend a divine call to Pastor Dan Greg, who is currently serving in Elk Grove, Illinois, at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Please keep Pastor Greg in your prayers as he considers the call to serve as our pastor!

**CALL DECISION - PASTOR CHRISTIANSEN** Pastor Christiansen has returned the divine call to serve as our pastor. In this Lent alone, Pastor Christiansen had received four divine calls in four sequential weeks, along with receiving offers into two PhD programs. After much prayerful deliberation, Pastor Christiansen returned all four calls and chose to pursue his longtime goal of doctoral studies at the University of Dallas. It is his hope for the opportunity to serve a local congregation somewhere in Dallas while he does his studies. He says "The Church needs more pastors and teachers. If God would grant it, I would serve the church by preparing young men and women to do the very thing you called me to do: preaching, catechizing, and teaching children in partnership with parents." We pray for him and his family as they move to Dallas this summer.

**TROJAN HIGHLIGHT** The students in grades 3-8 shared their trio of delightful plays on Friday night. While some may agree that performing on stage can be a bit scary, they also know that acting can help build confidence for public speaking. They thank you for your continued support.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Bring your family to the Our Father’s Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy some hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies while the kids hunt for Easter Eggs. See the forms in the narthex for further details.

**BOILER PROJECT MATCH OPPORTUNITY** Our current income for this project is \$ 119,054.98. This includes both \$30,000 match gifts, although we are still \$486.25 away from realizing the second match. The total cost for the project is \$122,000. If you would like to contribute, please put it in a separate envelope, mark it “Boiler Project,” and either place in offering basket or bring to the church office.

**RE-ENROLLMENT** is now open for all returning students in any of the School Choice programs (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or Racine) for the 2025-26 school year. The next deadline for the Milwaukee and Racine programs enrollment is *April 20*. The Wisconsin program deadline is *April 17*. Our Father's Enrollment is also now open. Please share this information with any school aged families who are looking for a Lutheran School to attend. Contact Mr. Cahill or Mrs. Wang at 414-282-7500 with any questions.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Our Father’s and Mt. Zion will be hosting a joint Vacation Bible School here at Our Father’s June 23-27 from 9-11:30 a.m. each day. All children ages 3 through 4th grade are encouraged to attend. We are also looking for 5-12th grade student volunteers. Please see the flyer in the narthex to either register your child or volunteer to help. We look forward to a wonderful week!

**THANK YOU** to the Heritage Funeral Home for the donation of palms for the Palm Sunday and Easter Services.

**ACCREDITATION** This Monday and Tuesday, a group of educators from the South Wisconsin District of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) will be visiting our school. They are the Visitation Team representing the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) program and will spend those days observing classrooms and talking to students and adults about Our Father's. The staff has been preparing since August for their visit by completing a self-study report. It is the task of the Visiting Team to validate that the information prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual conditions that are present at the school. This accreditation process takes place every five years. Please keep this event in your prayers.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

|                    |               |   |  |
|--------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Sunday             | 4/13          | <b>PALM SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICES</b><br>Sunday School/Adult Bible Class<br>Voters’ Assembly Meeting in Church | <b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b><br>9:30 a.m.<br>9:15 a.m. |
| Monday-<br>Tuesday | 4/14-<br>4/15 | National Lutheran School Accreditation  |  |
| Wednesday          | 4/16          | <b>NO CHAPEL SERVICE</b><br>Morning Bible Study   | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Thursday           | 4/17          | <b>CHAPEL SERVICE</b><br><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICES</b>   | <b>8:10 p.m.</b><br><b>4:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b>        |
| Friday             | 4/18          | No School<br><b>GOOD FRIDAY TRE ORE</b><br><b>GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE VESPERS</b>                              | <b>1:00 p.m.</b><br><b>6:30 p.m.</b>                   |
| Saturday           | 4/19          | Easter Egg Hunt<br><b>EASTER VIGIL SERVICE at MT. ZION</b>  | 10:00 a.m.<br><b>8:00 p.m.</b>                         |
| Sunday             | 4/20          | <b>EASTER DIVINE SERVICES</b><br>NO Sunday School/Adult Bible Class   | <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 a.m.</b>                           |



**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION  
PALMARUM**

*“His Blood Be On Us and Our Children”*  
April 13 through April 19, 2025

*Palmarum simply means Sunday of the Palms. The palms become part of the proclamation of the Gospel. In the Old Testament, Jericho was the City of Palms. The city was destroyed completely by God when He brought Israel into the land of Canaan. Yet, in the midst of the destruction, there were those who were saved by faith. Rahab confessed the God of Israel to be the true God, and she and her household were spared. In faith, she marked her window with a scarlet cord, even as Christ’s blood marks us His people today. Branches were also used to mark the doors of houses with the blood of the lamb for Passover. So, on this day, the branches were cast before the Lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world by the shedding of His blood upon the cross. In Christ, we have our new Passover. There is to be no return to our Jewish roots or odd Jewish celebrations around the Passover. We need no such reminders or experiences. Christ is our Passover, and in the Supper, we eat of the Lamb that death might pass us by.*

**INVOCATION:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

**THE CREED**

**VERSE:** <sup>38</sup> I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 8:38-39**

**COLLECT FOR THE WEEK:** Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

**PSALM OF THE WEEK:** 77

**PSALMODY PRAYER:** O Lord, do not cast me off forever for I remember Your works and Your wondrous deeds of old. As You redeemed Israel of old, come now and deliver Your flock from all harm and lead us in Your way. **AMEN.**

| READINGS FOR THE WEEK |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Monday                | John 18:1-27  |
| Tuesday               | John 18:28-40 |
| Wednesday             | John 19:1-24  |
| Thursday              | John 19:25-42 |
| Friday                | Isaiah 52-53  |
| Saturday              | Mark 16:1-8   |

**CATECHISM FOR THE WEEK: Table of Duties**

**To Husbands**

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. *1 Peter 3:7*

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. *Colossians 3:19*

**Luther, Lectures on Galatians 6:14 (1535):** Here Paul shows what true Christian boasting is, namely, to boast, rejoice, and be proud in suffering, shame, weakness, etc. The world not only regards Christians as the most despicable of men; but with vehemence and what it regards as righteous zeal, it hates, persecutes, condemns, and kills them as a dangerous menace to both the spiritual and the earthly realm, in other words, as heretics and revolutionaries. But because they are not suffering on account of murder, stealing, and other such crimes, but on account of Christ, whose blessings and glory they proclaim, they glory in their afflictions and in the cross of Christ.... Our boasting increases and is confirmed by two facts: (1) that we are sure that we have the pure and divine doctrine, (2) that our cross or suffering is the suffering of Christ. When the world persecutes and slays us, therefore, we do not have any reason to complain and lament, but only to rejoice and exult. The world regards us as miserable and abominable; but Christ, who is greater than the world and for whose sake we are suffering, pronounces us blessed and commands us to rejoice.... (Matt. 5:11-12)... Therefore, our boasting is far different from that of the world, which does not glory in its affliction, shame, persecution, death, etc., but in its power, wealth, peace, honor, wisdom, and righteousness. But sorrow and confusion lie at the end of such glory and rejoicing. “The cross of Christ” does not mean, of course, the wood that Christ carried on His shoulders and to which He then was nailed. No, it refers, in general, to all the afflictions of all the faithful, whose sufferings are the sufferings of Christ.... Therefore, “the cross of Christ” refers, in general, to all the afflictions which the church suffers on Christ’s account, as Christ Himself testifies when He says in Acts 9:4: “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?” Saul had not done any violence to Christ, but only to His church.... Christ, our Head, makes our afflictions His own so that when we, who are His

body, suffer, He is affected as though the evils were His own. It is helpful to know this so that we are not overly sad or even completely desperate when we see our enemies persecuting, excommunicating, and murdering us, or when we see the heretics hating us so bitterly.... When we consider the sufferings we receive only so far as we ourselves are involved in them, they become not only troubling but intolerable.... Now it is evident that the only reason we must endure the hate and persecution of our opponents today is that we preach Christ purely. If we were to deny Him and to accept their wicked errors and godless forms of worship, they would not only stop hating and persecuting us but would even offer us honors, riches, etc. Because we suffer all this on Christ’s account, we can most certainly glory with Paul in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, that is, not in power, the goodwill of men, riches, etc., but in trouble, weakness, sorrow, fightings of body and fears of spirit (2 Corinthians 7:5), persecution, and every evil. (LW 27:133-135, St. Louis: Concordia, 1964)

**PRAYER:** Each day a different aspect of Christian life is covered.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | Our Baptism, calling, and daily work                      |
| Tuesday   | Deliverance from sin and temptation                       |
| Wednesday | Marriage, family, and schools                             |
| Thursday  | The Lord’s Supper, the Church, and Her Pastors            |
| Friday    | The Preaching of the Cross, the persecuted, and missions  |
| Saturday  | True repentance and restoration of the withering          |
| Sunday    | The Hope of the resurrection and faithfulness to the Word |

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

OR

**LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the Evil Foe may have no power over me. **AMEN.**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** *LSB 450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”* (stanza 7)

7 Be Thou my consolation,  
My shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy passion  
When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,  
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee.  
Who dieth thus dies well.





# LOOKING FORWARD TO EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

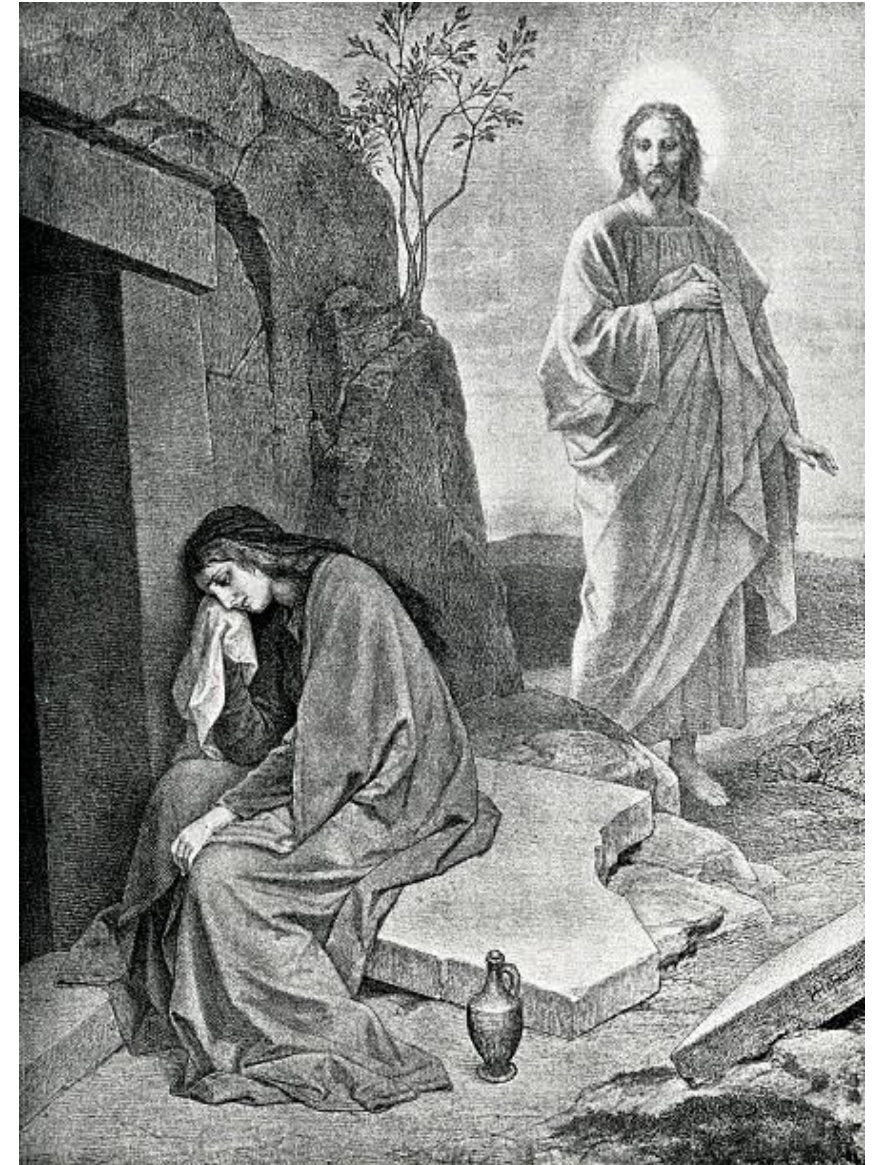
*April 20, 2025*  
“He Is Risen!”

**HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 457, 450, 458, 461, 633, 478, 486, 467

## READINGS

Job 19:23-27  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8  
Mark 16:1-8

The Sabbath is past, but a truly new week is beginning. After the first Sabbath in Genesis, man quickly fell into sin and death. Now Christ has kept the Sabbath that He might begin the week which will lead to the final Sabbath rest of heaven. The Sun of Righteousness has risen to bring light to our sin- and death-filled existence. The question on the lips of the ladies is the very one which haunts all men: How will we be set free from the horrible curse of death for we cannot free ourselves? Like Jacob who rolled the stone off the spring that Rachel might water her flocks, our Lord rolls away the stone that the life-giving water of His Spirit in the waters of Holy Baptism might bring true life to His sheep. His dear Rachel, the Church, has been purchased through the bloody work of the cross and we are Her. As Job foresaw, my Redeemer lives and at the end I shall see Him with these eyes in this flesh even though it has rotted away in the tomb. Christ has become our Passover who feeds us with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth as we gather at His altar. There the sincere love of Christ and the bonding truth of His forgiveness are freely given to us in His body and blood. Here His blood now marks our door, faith points to it, death passes o'er.



## **Our Father's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Childcare**

*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

[www.ofls.org](http://www.ofls.org)

Rev. Brennick Christiansen  
Vacancy Pastor

Church (414) 282-8220

Mr. Bob Cahill  
Principal

School (414) 282-7500

Mrs. Amanda McGraw  
Mrs. Michelle Sroka  
Childcare Co-Directors

Childcare (414) 282-9057

Stephen Johnson  
Ben Culli  
Organists

[sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org](mailto:sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org)

April 13, 2025



Palm Sunday

**About the Cover:** While the crowds, with palm branches in their hands, praised Jesus, the chief priests planned to deliver Jesus into the hands of sinful men. Christ would soon have nails in His hands upon the cross. However, in all of this, the hand of the Lord was at work to bring redemption to His people. Christ, with His nail-pierced hands, has brought us salvation through the forgiveness of our sins.