

# Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 2024 – 8:00 and 10:45 AM

**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.

✠ *In Nomine Iesu* ✠

## Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book 442  
*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

## Divine Service Setting Three

Lutheran Service Book pg. 184

## Introit

*Psalm 24:7-10; antiphon: Psalm 118:26*

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.**

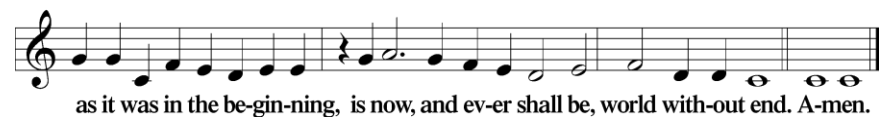
Who is this King of | glory?\*

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in | battle!

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of | glory!



Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

## Kyrie

pg. 186

## Salutation and Collect

## 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.**

## The Holy Gospel

John 12:20-43

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup>“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. <sup>34</sup>So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup>So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup>Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, <sup>38</sup>so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

<sup>39</sup>Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

<sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,

lest they see with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart, and turn,  
and I would heal them.”

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. <sup>42</sup>Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## The Nicene Creed

pg. 191

## Sermon Hymn

LSB 438

*A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*

## Sermon

*“My Death Glorifies the Father”*

John 12:20-43

## The Rite of Confirmation

*(The responses marked **R** are spoken by the confirmands).*

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His Apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

P: You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord’s bidding. Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

**R: Yes, I do.**

P: Do you renounce the devil?

**R: Yes, I renounce him.**

P: Do you renounce all his works?

**R: Yes, I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

**R: Yes, I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**R: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord?

**R: Yes, I believe 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.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**R: Yes, 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.**

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

**R: I do.**

P: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

**R: I do, by the grace of God.**

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

**R: I do, by the grace of God.**

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R: I do, by the grace of God.**

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

P: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

*The pastor then blesses each confirmand with a text of Holy Scripture. After all the catechumens have received the blessing and text of Holy Scripture, the pastor leads the congregation in prayer, saying:*

P: Let us pray. Lord, God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear their cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Peace + be with you.

**C: Amen.**

*The confirmands return to their places.*

<b>Offertory</b>	pg. 192
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>	pg. 193
<b>Liturgy of Holy Communion</b>	pg. 194
<b>Distribution Hymns</b>	LSB 444, 451, 429
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b>	pg. 199
<b>Collect</b>	
<b>Benediction</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn</b>	LSB 441 <i>Ride On, Ride on in Majesty</i>

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

### 2024 Confirmands

Elizabeth Rose Henke	John 5:24
Candace Grace Leflore	Isaiah 41:10
Gabriella Ruth Palazzo	Romans 10:9
Isabella Corinne Sievert	Psalm 73:28

*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.*

### **Special Services** **Lenten and Holy Week**

Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 24
Confirmation @ 10:45 service	8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 28
	4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
	4:00 p.m. ( <i>Passion account readings</i> )
	6:30 p.m. ( <i>Tenebrae-last 7 words of Christ readings</i> )
Easter	Sunday, March 31
	8:00 & 10:00 a.m.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Wednesday	3/13/24	4:00 p.m.	54
		6:30 p.m.	17
Thursday	3/14/24	6:30 p.m.	24
Sunday	3/17/24	8:00 a.m.	69
		10:45 a.m.	31

**FLOWERS** are given in memory of Rodney Riedel by his daughters, Sherrie Lane, Laurie Suehring, Valerie Wencka, and Julie Page.

**BULLETINS** are given by Dennis and Kathy Hanley in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**WE PRAY** for Joe Ananias (nephew of Lori Bolger), Michael Borchardt, Sr., Janet Brown, Melissa Brunner (daughter of Estes Grober and niece of the Gerloffs), Jennifer Chapel (niece of Linda Christian), Karen Christiansen, Kevin Coerper, Anna Rose Consigny, Sandy Damms, Harriet Davidson, Cheryl Fisher (sister of Lynn Hester), Daut Gaba, Gerald Garske, Carol Georgson, Glenn Georgson, Dale Grudzina (friend of the Wangs), Judy Hanson, Elaine Howe, Paul Howe, Michelle Johnson, Patricia Kattner (aunt of Amanda McGraw, sister of Pam Coerper), Marilyn Kolter, May Lindenberg, Barbara Linder, Rev. George Mrochen, Konnie Otto, Angeline Pence, Susan Sochowski (wife of Mark Sochowski), Sherri Syta, and Glen and Jeff Wolfersdorff (brothers of Donna Metzfeld).

**SERVICE CHANGE** In order to allow more opportunities for our parish family to intermingle, our Pastor and our Board of Elders have planned for a single Sunday Divine Service at 9:00 a.m. This will begin on Memorial Day weekend and end after Labor Day weekend. The Thursday 6:30 p.m. Divine Service will continue.

**CONFIRMANDS** We pray for our 2024 confirmands Elizabeth Rose Henke, Candace Grace Leflore, Gabriella Ruth Palazzo, and Isabella Corinne Sievert. May the Lord reign forever in their lives.

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

**FESTIVAL CHOIR** will rehearse every Sunday during Lent at 9:30 a.m. in the school music room as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Questions - please reach out to Stephen Johnson ([sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org](mailto:sjohnson@ourfatherslutheran.org))

**ML CONCERT** The Symphonic Band of Martin Luther High School, led by Director Jessica Kindschi Walter, will be performing a concert today, Sunday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. at Martin Luther High School as part of their seven-day concert tour to Florida and Georgia. You are cordially invited to attend. A free-will offering will be received to help the students defray the cost of the tour.

**ADULT BASKETBALL OPEN GYM** Any adults interested in playing pick-up basketball are invited to attend open gyms on select Mondays in March, 7:30-9:00 p.m. High school students are also welcome. The next date is March 25. Contact Ben Janetzke with any questions. [bjanetzke@ourfatherslutheran.org](mailto:bjanetzke@ourfatherslutheran.org)

**EASTER EGG HUNT** Bring your family out to the Our Father's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. Enjoy some beverages and snacks while you watch the 1 yr. olds through 4<sup>th</sup> graders hunt for their eggs. Details and a sign-up sheet are in the Narthex. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, March 26.

**THRIVENT MEMBERS** This is a reminder to all church and school families who have Thrivent Financial Contracts that Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2023 must be directed by March 31, 2024. You need to log into your Thrivent account information to do this. You have many choices where your Choice Dollars can be given; but just as a reminder, you can designate these dollars to be given to Our Father's Lutheran Church or Our Father's Lutheran School. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hojnacki at (414) 427-5949.

**THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE** will collect mite boxes *next week*, March 31.

**TROJAN HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK** The students enjoyed a week of Spring Break and are now poised to face the challenges of the 4th quarter of our school year. As always, we encourage your prayers on the behalf of the students, teachers, and staff.

**SCRIP** The next order due date is Sunday, **April 7**.

**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Sunday	3/24	<b>PALM SUNDAY DIVINE SERVICES</b> Confirmation at 10:45 a.m. service Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Festival Choir Rehearsal	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:45 a.m.</b>  9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Monday	3/25	Open Gym – Adult Basketball	7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3/27	<b>NO CHAPEL SERVICE</b> Morning Bible Study	 9:30 a.m.
Thursday	3/28	<b>CHAPEL SERVICE</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY DIVINE SERVICES</b>	<b>8:10 p.m.</b> <b>4:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b>
Friday	3/29	No School <b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES</b>	 <b>4:00 &amp; 6:30 p.m.</b>
Saturday	3/30	Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 a.m.
Sunday	3/31	<b>EASTER DIVINE SERVICES</b> <b>NO</b> Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	<b>8:00 &amp; 10:00 a.m.</b>

**THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER  
FOR THE WEEK OF  
PALM SUNDAY**

*“My Death Glorifies the Father”*  
March 24 through March 30, 2024

*Three sacred days (the Triduum in Latin) - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - commemorate the central events of the Christian faith. Although they are separated in time they are viewed as a continuous event in the Church. Maundy Thursday will close with the symbolic stripping of the altar while the words of Psalm 22 speak of the One who was stripped in preparation for His crucifixion. Good Friday continues where the worshippers left the night before as the Lord is crucified as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Easter morning is the culmination of the Church's new Passover commemorating our Passover Lamb, Christ. The service portrays the victory of Light over darkness, freedom from slavery, life out of death, forgiveness, and partaking in the feast of the resurrected Lord which is spread before the baptized.*

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

**THE CREED**

**VERSE:** Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! **Luke 11:28**

**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:** 118:19-29

---

**PSALMODY PRAYER:** O Lord, help me in my weakness of flesh for I often forsake Your mercy and trust in myself and my own works. Grant that I trust in Your unending mercy and be my strength and song. **AMEN.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Monday	Mark 15:16-32
Tuesday	Mark 15:33-47
Wednesday	John 19:1-24
Thursday	John 19:25-42
Friday	Luke 23:44-46
Saturday	Mark 16:1-8

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

**What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors**

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

*Hebrews 13:17*

**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 451* "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted" (stanza 1)



**LOOKING FORWARD TO  
THE WEEK OF  
EASTER SUNDAY  
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

March 31, 2024  
*"He Is Risen"*

**HYMNS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 457, 460, 458, 461, 467, 487, 490, 482

**READINGS**

Isaiah 25:6-9  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest Gospel and portrays the resurrection of Christ as the center of its message. When the Easter events are finally recorded, Mark is very brief and to the point. Christ is arisen! The tomb is vacant. Eyewitnesses are named because there are three witnesses which according to Old Testament regulations established the truthfulness of the account. How different than the trial of Christ where none of the false witnesses could agree! The resurrection occurs on the first day of the week, a reminder that the new creation has begun. Christ rested from His work on the cross and then rose that He might be the first fruits of the new creation. Every man born from Adam dies, but those born in Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism shall live. Adam led the way to death, but Christ leads the way to life. He must go first and then all those who put their trust in Him. He has vanquished death by His resurrection, but the last enemy to be destroyed is death. Only at the return of Christ will death be destroyed. It has already been swallowed up and you need not fear death, but it still continues to exist. At the end the Lord will serve His great banquet, but even now He spreads the feast of the resurrection, the Lord's Supper, for us Christians to eat and to drink. This is the feast of victory for those who await the final destruction of death. In this feast He offers the benefits of the resurrection so that we may be glad and rejoice in His salvation. The Lord is risen and bids you to feast on His risen body and blood that you, too, may rise.



