

Advent Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.)

1416 Vernon Road. LaGrange, GA 30240. 706-882-0130.

April 5, 2026 — Easter Sunday

(Gathering music, church announcements, lighting of candles, and words of welcome may precede the following liturgy.)

(The congregation stands.)

Gathering

[P] “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death “by hanging him on a tree.” Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear “to us who were chosen by God as witnesses” in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. **Alleluia!**

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

[P] Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

(Please kneel if you are able.)

[P] God of grace and glory,

you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus’ resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God.

Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

[P] Rejoice with all creation around God’s throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ✠ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! **Amen.**

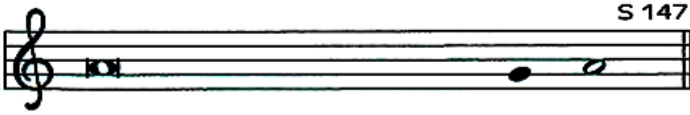
(Please stand.)

[P] Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

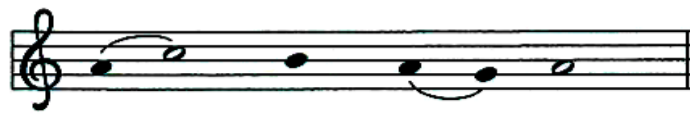
Hymn of Praise: Red Book #365 — “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Kyrie—Setting Four.

[P]  S 147
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] 
Lord, have mer - cy.

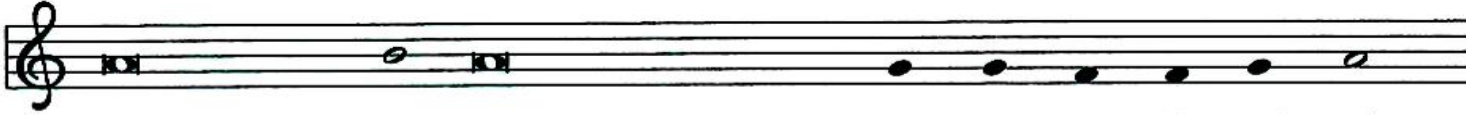
[P] 
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] 
Lord, have mer - cy.


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.


Lord, have mer - cy.


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,


let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.


Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

S 149

[P] This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

[C] *All*
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Let us pray: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

(Please be seated for today's readings.)

A reading from the Book of Acts:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (10:34-43).

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Let us read psalm 118 responsively.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you;
for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected;
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (3:1-4)

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Please stand to sing the gospel acclamation.)

Gospel Acclamation:



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (28:1-10)

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(Please be seated.)*

THE SERMON

(Please stand to sing the Hymn of the Day...)

Hymn of the Day: Red Book #367 — “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

(Let us confess our faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

[Assisting minister (AM):] With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation [...] Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Presiding minister (PM):] The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(We share greetings of God's peace, and we offer our gifts to God.)

(Please stand to sing the offertory response.)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is truly right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks and praise to you, the Prince of Peace. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your plentiful grace. We receive your countless blessings, and are nourished with your eternal love. Jesus Christ, our strength, we joyfully sing:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy...



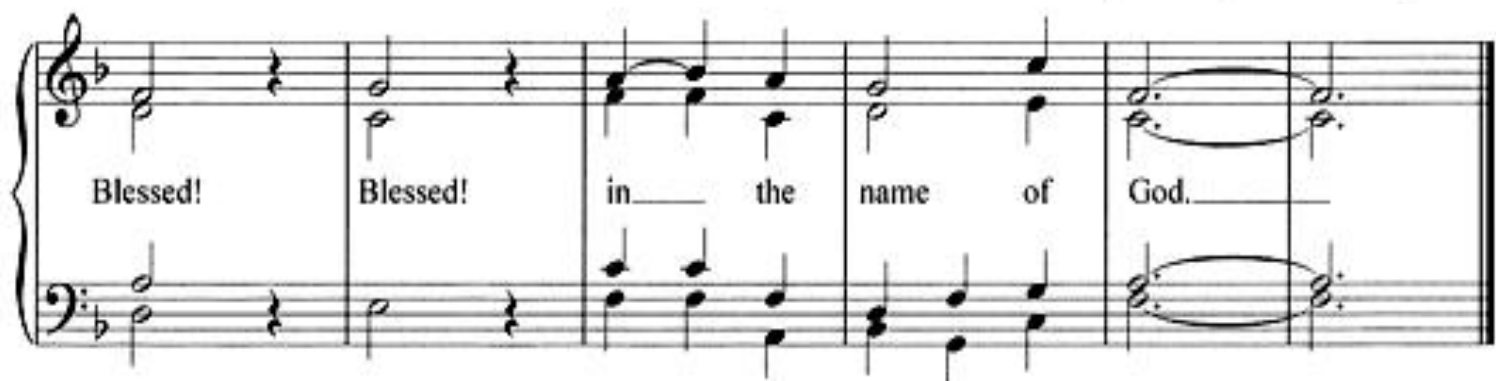
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes.



Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Agnes Dei: Lamb of God.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready at this the table of Jesus Christ. The table is prepared for those who love Him, and for those who long to love Him more.

So, come—you have much faith, and you who have little; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed. Come, because Christ Himself invites you to meet Him here, in person.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

[A] Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

[PM] The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Red Book #389 — “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

AM: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

(We gather for food and fellowship.)

Today's scripture readings are appointed by the *Revised Common Lectionary*, an ecumenical resource first published in 1992 and summarized in pages 18-53 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006. For more information about the *Revised Common Lectionary*, please visit lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq/

Today's communion preface is composed based upon the lectionary readings.

All other material is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.