

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 9:15 AM



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Mosaic Community Sharing the Grace of Christ with All"

PRELUDE "O Sons and Daughters of the King" traditional French melody; arr. By Paul Davis
Bona Fide Brass Quartet

GATHERING LITANY

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gives us a new birth into a living hope, who raises us with Christ from death, who fills us with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Living God,

we confess before you and one another our futile ways, our pursuit of perishable things, our own part in crucifying the Lord Jesus. Forgive us, O God; renew the face of the earth; and give us the assurance that you have rescued us from the power of sin and made us alive in the Spirit forever. Amen.

Christ has set us free to live and love. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

EASTER PROCESSIONAL

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

Red Hymnal #365

Setting by S. Drummond Wolff

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER PROCLAMATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Cry aloud! Sing your welcome!

The Servant of the Lord is here!

Cry aloud! Tell the triumph!

The Savior of the world is real to us!

We are called to set our minds on things above.

We have been raised with Christ!

We are called to seek the eternal and heavenly world view.

Our lives are hidden in the eternal place of God!

We gather to lift up our heads and look to the holy one.

We gather to see Christ.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast”

Setting 3

Red Hymnal Page 140

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to them: "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." Word of God. Word of Hope. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

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

²**Let 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.

SECOND READING: Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. Word of God. Word of Hope **Thanks be to God.**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Red Hymnal #367

1. Now all the vault of heav'n resounds; in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;

set heart and will on things above that we conquer through your triumph;

grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

4. Adoring praises now we bring;
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"

Be to the Father, and our Lord, to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of grace,
Hear our prayer.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING Special Music "All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray"

arr. G.F Handel Bona Fide Brass Quartet

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the piano and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code

The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table. Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion.

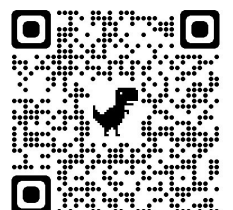


TABLE BLESSING

“This Is Christ’s Body”



This is Christ’s bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ’s bod - y,



bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore, meet us now in this meal. Nourish us to follow you, using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary, and all for your love’s sake.

Amen.

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion will be received up front. Please receive the wafer into your hand and take a cup from the communion assistant. The inner ring is grape juice and the outer rings are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like the individual prepared disposable communion, they are in a basket by the piano.

COMMUNION SONG

"Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen:

Red Hymnal #377

"I Am The Bread of Life"

Red Hymnal #485

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain: "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God, who have come into the world. *Refrain*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Living God, you have greeted us in brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

Amen.

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

2 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*

Instrumental Interlude

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

SENDING

Christ is risen

Christ is risen indeed.

Go in peace as a Mosaic community, sharing the grace of Christ with all.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "This Joyful Eastertide"

arr. By Charles Evans, Bona Fide Brass Quartet

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE MUSICIANS

Piano/Organ: Jodi Beach

BONA FIDE BRASS QUARTET

Trumpets: Wes Brabeck & Tim Schmidt

Trombones: Kyle Cauthorne & Ryan Earl Quartet

WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Connie Heden

Cross Bearer: Janice Forrest

Sound: Deangelo Brunson

Media: Cameron Kellermann

Usher: Charles Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

Reader: Denver Bitner

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel



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2025 Easter Spring Garden

Thank you to all those who contributed to our beautiful Easter Garden and with monetary donations:

Sponsors:

Torg & Margaret Hallin
Pastor Mike & Tammy Thomas

Happy Easter To:

All
Zion Lutheran Church Community

Sponsors:

Jim & Kathy Rasch
Angeles Polcher
Betty & Les Morgan
Ina Miller
Karen Kermgard
Sue Drilling
Ron Simmons
Allen Floyd

In Loving Memory Of:

Loved Ones
Egon Polcher
Loved Ones
Kenneth & Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Bill & Hazel Drilling
Shirley Simmons
Marsha Wurtlin

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK & UPCOMING

Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	Noon	Katie's Cup Conversation led by Pastor Bitner "You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right"
	5:00pm	Human Resource Committee
Wednesday	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting
	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship at Zion
	10:30am	Forum: Wabongo Leadership Council Joshua Patterson
April 28	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing
May 3	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford: Parking Lot across from Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
May 8	9:00am	Rachel's Circle - Fellowship Hall
	9:00am	<i>Embracing Differences for A Change: 2025 Summit on Racism</i> Rockford Sports Factory event (tickets available)
May 10	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
May 13	11:00am	Memorial Committee
	5:00pm	Katie's Cup Open Mic Night
May 14	11:00am	Mission's Team—Multipurpose Room
May 15	11:30am	WOZ Salad Luncheon—Fellowship Hall
May 17	8:30am	Church Council Retreat
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen by Youth Service Day
May 18	10:30am	Forum: Alzheimer Speaking on Nutrition
May 29	5:00pm	Ruthie's Garden Party; Patriots event dedicating Gardens
May 31	8:00am	Baha'i Temple Trip
June 1	10:30am	Forum led by Pastor Thomas - Christian Nationalism—Part 2
June 7		Rockford Pride Parade (join the Zion group)
June 8	10:30am	Forum led by Pastor Thomas - R.I.C. Synod Resolution
June 14	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford: Parking Lot across from Katie's Cup
June 15	9:15am	Juneteenth Worship at Zion