

The Resurrection of Our Lord – March 31, 2024

Divine Service Setting One *LSB pg. 151*

Confession and Absolution

457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

LSB 457

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

G Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

G Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Ex. 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: Ex. 15:1b

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed | gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown in- | to the sea.
The LORD is my strength | and my song,
and He has become my sal- | vation.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.
You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.
You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have es- | tablished.
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed | gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown in- | to the sea.

Kyrie

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P 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.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

- C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And He will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for Him;
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.

God the Father has crowned Him with glory and | honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;
He has put all things un- | der His feet.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, 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 at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 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, unworthy 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 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Choir sings: Crown Him Lord This Easter Day!

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Common Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

G Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

478 The Day of Resurrection

LSB 478

- 1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness,
The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over
With hymns of victory.
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light
And, list'ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,

Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end!

4 All praise to God the Father,
All praise to God the Son,
All praise to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne
And honor, pow'r, and glory
Ascribe to God alone!

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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

- 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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

- 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- 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

LSB 162

- 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:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

**C 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

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**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.**

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.
C Amen.

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

LSB 461

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

3 He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His piercèd side.
Alleluia!

2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!

- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!
- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

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475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

LSB 475

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Stand

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

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

A 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 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.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

LSB 465

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! Christ has triumphed!"
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 O 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 heavn'ly 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!

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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In Our Prayers

Health concerns:

Joyce Wolfe	Dan Brackett	Theresa Clark	Anita Reinertsen
Mitch Jacobs	Bob Donley	Deb Lescallett	Ethan Meeker
Rodney Koch	Rebecca Smith	Mason Carlson	Owen Wolfe
Brenda Christensen	Janalee Gutierrez	Jim Lipe	Guy Hood
Fern Harding			

Lucille, Deb Thompson's mom	Dave, Mitch Jacobs dad
Aiden Meeker, grandson Mark & Shari	Gabe's nephew
Fred Concepcion, Nelly Clark's father	Sharon, Pastor's friend
Kathy, in a coma, Rose's cousin	Nancy, Rose's sister

Others:

Gerald & Terri Clark, at the passing of Gerald's mother
Pastor Meeker, Deaconess Lorna and the Kenya Mission
Pastor Omolo and Hope for the Destitute
Our Armed Forces: Sgt Kaleb Karssen

Easter flowers adorn our altar this morning

Stewardship Corner

TIME- ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK Worship Services 94

TREASURE Gifts received for budget: Mar 24, 2024 \$2,853.13 (Envelope/plate)

** Monthly amount needed for operating budget: \$18,550- for March that is \$3,710 weekly in giving.

** Currently our Building Renovation Fund has \$80,680.36

Announcements

To the best of our ability, all Worship Services and Bible Studies will be recorded and placed online on our Facebook page, our You-tube page and on our website.

A blessed Easter to you and your family! We pray God's blessings on you today and throughout this Easter season, and we thank God for the eternal life He has granted us through our baptism - we die with Christ and will rise again with him on the last day!

IF YOU HAVE A KEY(S) TO THE CHURCH BUILDING please talk to Leah and let her know your key numbers. We are trying to update our list. Thanks.

Pastor and family will be going to his mom's after church today and will be returning on Tuesday. Thank you to everyone for cards, and kindness to our family. God bless your celebration of the Risen Lord.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, April 9th at 10am. Come and join! It is also posted on our Mt Calvary Facebook page and our website.

Life Quote for March 31 "The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

Thank you to the choir for adding beautiful music to our Holy Week services. We are grateful for the talents God has given to each of you!

Portals of Prayer for April-June on entryway table

Preschool fundraiser Our preschool is currently selling Little Caesars Pizza Kits as their spring fundraiser. We receive \$6 from each kit. Flyers are on the entryway table... or talk to Leah in the office. Orders and payment due by April 14th!

Thank you to all who helped prepare, serve and clean up the Easter breakfast! We are thankful for your service and it was delicious!



Our Easter Flowers this year were given by:

- Julie Donnelly– To the Glory of God
- Missy Montgomery– In Loving Memory of my mom & dad
- Marc & Lori Kugler- To the Glory of God
- JoAnn Wing– In Loving Memory of my sister, Mina
- Tim & Janet Laugesen– In celebration of our families
- Robert & Laura Nichols– In celebration of our family
- Julie Jordan-Brandt– To the Glory of God
- Dale & Donna Bolin– In Thanksgiving for our family
- Mike & Kayla Bird– In thanksgiving for our family
- Randy & Kim Noe– To the Glory of God, for the gift of spring
- Sharon Gonzalez– To the Glory of God


**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**


**If all Jesus had to do was die,
then why is Easter such a big deal?**

Easter is a very important day. Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were very sad. It seemed like their God and friend had been defeated and killed. They had forgotten that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead. They must have thought Mary Magdelene was crazy when she told them that Jesus had appeared to her at the tomb where He was buried. But her story was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead!

Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to prove it. And that's just what He did, *He proved it!* By His resurrection, He proved to the world that He was victorious over death and paid for our sins completely. Now, the first words you hear in church on Easter Sunday are: "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"





Parents: Help your children to recognize the different places in our worship service which speak of Jesus' resurrection (the Creed is a good example). Point out some of the symbols in the church that might aid in their understanding of the resurrection. Remind them that we join in His resurrection through our Baptism!

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Bieri Bulletin – March 2024

Left to right: Josh, Isaac, Chrystal, and Jake after coming out of church on Palm Sunday.

The spring quarter is 2 weeks into full swing here in Fort Wayne! The Bieri's thoroughly took advantage of the 2 week break between quarters. They enjoyed a relaxing first week together as a family in Fort Wayne before Jake and Josh left the area for the second week. Since Josh's choir tour started and ended in their home area, Jake was able to be a stowaway and spend a week in the Quad City area with friends and family while Josh was touring around Iowa. Chrystal and Isaac spent quality time together while they were away without any interruptions. Now that things are settling back into the rhythm of the seminary schedule, they are looking forward to Holy Week. Their field work congregation will be observing Maundy Thursday, complete with a stripping of the altar ceremony, Good Friday, and also an Easter Vigil Service on Saturday evening. This is the first time they will have the pleasure of taking part in all of these services together as a family. It will be capped with a Sunrise service, breakfast, and Divine Service on Easter Sunday. It will certainly be a busy week of readings for Josh as well since he will be taking a major role in all of the services. It is an exciting time as we look forward to the death and resurrection of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Josh has had quite a few milestone events as well. He had the honor of delivering his first public sermon on the Sunday of Lent 5 on March 17 for his fieldwork. He preached on John 8: 42-59, honing in on, "if you know the Son, you know the Father." The next day, the firsts kept coming. He was the liturgist for the 10:00 morning chapel for the first time and led the seminary congregation in Morning Prayer. This will be a very busy quarter for Josh academically as well. He is taking the most credits that he has taken at the seminary to date. He will be quite busy balancing papers and family time as he pushes through the last 8 weeks of the school year.

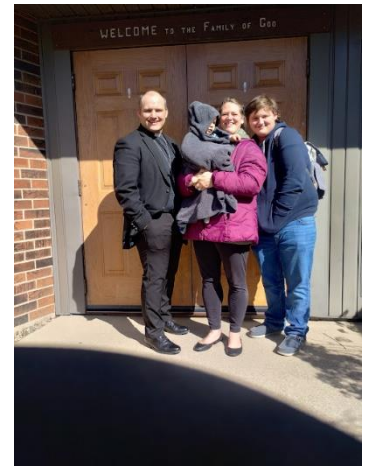
Chrystal is enjoying her new role with the Seminary Wives Association. It is a great opportunity to get to know her sisterhood here on a deeper level and help plan events for further community fellowship. She has also been able to attend more chapel services and events during the day so far this quarter. With Isaac getting older it has been easier for her to work nap times around chapel schedule. It has been a great way for the family to spend more time together around God's word daily. She is enjoying the time together with all of the other wives and children as well during coffee hour after chapel.

Jake had the opportunity to sing with a youth ensemble made up of teenage children of seminarians during a spring recital on March 23rd. It was a wonderful evening of music put on by many members of the seminary community. Jake also assisted with the stage crew and helped get things set up between performances. He is also starting a new chapter in his schooling. He was struggling with some of his studies and the family decided to switch curriculum as he progresses through the high school grades. He is beginning with Christian Liberty Homeschool. It is accredited as well and he will receive a diploma upon completion of course work. He is ready to get to work on the next stage of his education, at least as much as a 15 year old boy can be.

Isaac is officially fully walking now. The full mobility has certainly increased his ornery levels, if that were possible. He is a lot of fun and it is amazing watching him grow and learn. He is soaking everything in and becoming increasingly curious about figuring everything out. He continues to voice his opinion every chance he gets as well. He certainly knows what he is saying, even if no one else does, and he makes sure to let everyone know what is on his mind. He is a happy little ball of energy that doesn't seem to have an off switch. LORD have mercy on Chrystal!

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support. The body of Christ at work in all of you has truly been a blessing to us as we continue our preparation here in Fort Wayne. When things get tough, God continues to sustain our bodies, minds, and souls through you all, as you embody the love of Christ. We can't thank you enough for all that you have done for us over the past year. We pray that God would continue to bless you all through our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ. Have a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Eastertide!

In Christ, Josh, Chrystal, Jake, and Isaac Bieri



All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6