



# Love of Christ Lutheran Church

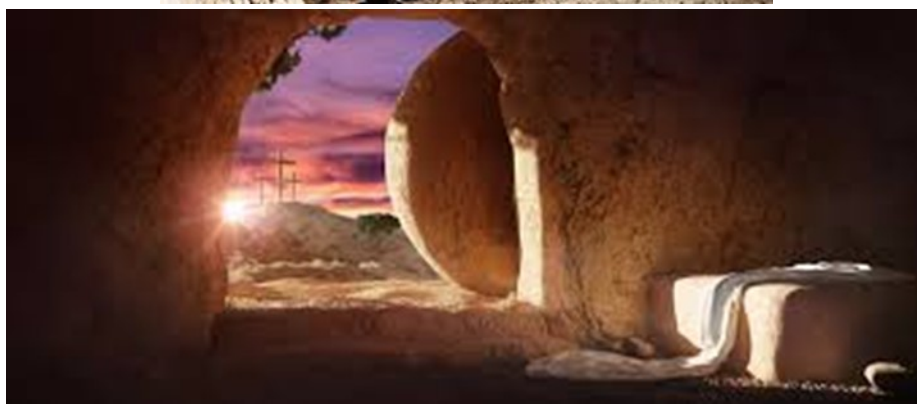
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## Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**



**Blessed Easter as we celebrate “Fear is Not Our Future”  
because of the glorious journey of Jesus!  
The Easter Season**

The season of Easter is a time when the lectionary texts (Sunday readings) highlight our connection to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism. In baptism our lives are transformed by the Easter good news, and we receive the gift of new life.

Nevertheless, this new life is not without questions, doubt, suffering and struggles. Proclamation during the season of Easter provides the opportunity to examine the juxtaposition of new life in Christ with the struggles and challenges of the Christian life.

The lectionary texts proclaim in our lives the power of the resurrection that gives strength in suffering, unity in diversity, consolation in sorrow, perseverance in adversity and faith in times of doubt. (Living Lutheran, 4/5/2013)

**Easter flowers are given by:**

- ✠ Larry Dray in loving memory of wife, Lynn and father, Fred.
- ✠ Sue Favero in loving memory of parents LaVerne and Elaine Toyce.
- ✠ Harvey & Kathy Huber in honor of Jung Lee.
- ✠ Kurt Kahlenbeck in loving memory of Ken & Dorothy Kahlenbeck.
- ✠ Marsi Keith in loving memory of father, Ivan Keith.
- ✠ Jacqueline LaTerra in loving memory of husband, Joseph.
- ✠ Carol Moseley to the glory of God.
- ✠ Kathy Philpott in loving memory of husband, Jerry.
- ✠ Clark & Elaine Wirthlin in loving memory of son-in-law, Jim.



Altar Flowers this Sunday are given in honor of Walter and Sona Scott's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Blessings to you on this special occasion.



**Monday, April 1 (No Joking) the Church Office  
will be closed!**



### **Holy Week Services at Love of Christ**

**Maundy Thursday, 3/28 Noon (Sanctuary) and 7PM Re-enactment of the Lord's Supper (Center of Compassion)**

**Good Friday, 3/29 Noon (Sanctuary) and 7PM (Center of Compassion)**

**Easter Sunday, 3/31 6:00AM (Center of Compassion Patio), 7:50AM (Sanctuary), 9:00AM and 10:45AM (Center of Compassion)**

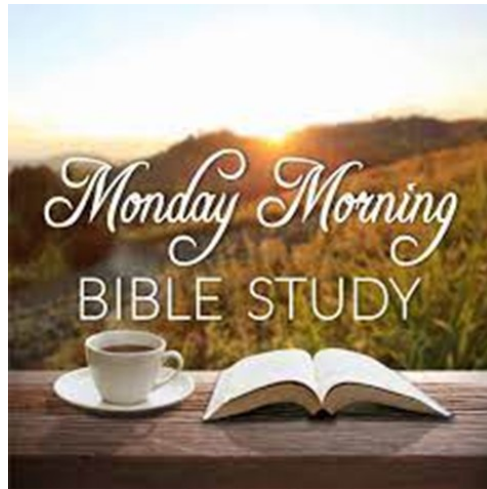


**Winter Friends, thank you for joining us for worship and fellowship this season.  
God-willing we see you again in the future at LoC!**

All regular winter friends are asked to provide your summer address to the church office. You are encouraged to participate in our livestream services at 9:00am or 10:30am each Sunday. You are appreciated for the time you are with us!



**Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who put in extra hours supporting our additional services, music, set-up, and clean-up.**



**No Monday AM Bible Study until Monday, April 8, 2024**



**Pastors' Online Video Lesson Introductions will resume the week of April 8.**

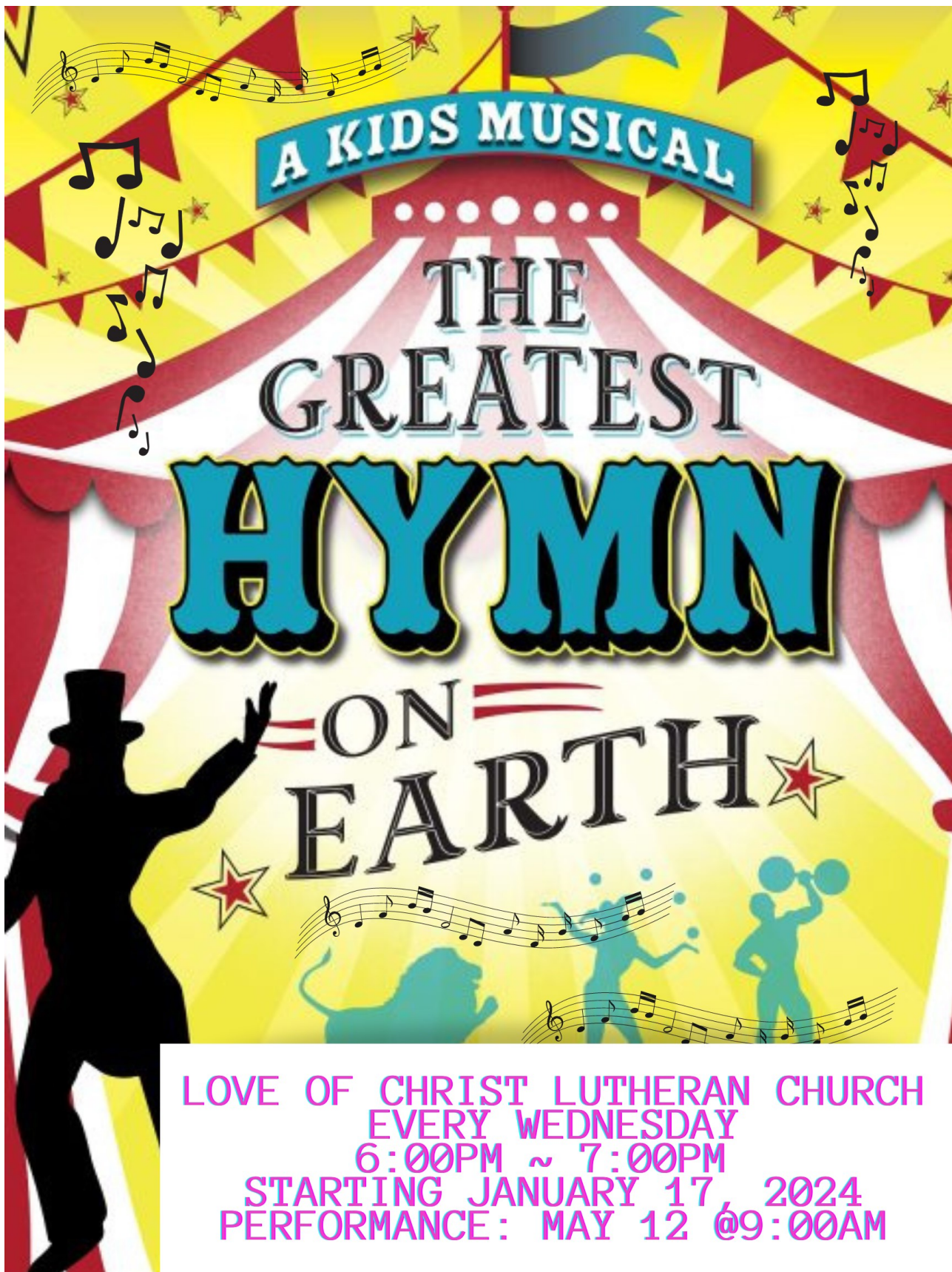


**Contact Dianne Oien ([dianneoien@locic.org](mailto:dianneoien@locic.org)) if you are interested in participating in our two-session membership orientation Sundays, April 14 and 21, 11:45AM-1:30 (includes lunch)**



WoW on Wednesdays at 6PM~7PM (dinner is at 5:30PM in the COC).

The Kids Musical Performance is Sunday, May 12th at 9:00AM in the Center of Compassion.



## Faith in Action



**April 21-28 Family Promise**

**VBS- July 8-12 (9:00-11:30 am)**

### Upcoming Children's Events



**No Sunday School on Easter! Sunday School will resume next week.**

**Sunday School Information:** Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet for a Godly Play Lesson after the Children's Message and will return to church at communion. After Communion grades 3-6 will meet from 9:50-10:20 in the Godly Play room for their Sunday School lesson. (If you have any questions about Sunday School, please let Pastor Nanette know at [nanette@loccl.org](mailto:nanette@loccl.org)).

### **Word on Wednesday (WOW) NO WOW until April 3rd**

Every Wednesday at 5:30 pm dinner is served for all ages.

- **Children's Rehearsal for the Musical.**
- **Youth Group grades 7-12- 6:00-7:00** All youth in these grades are invited to come hang out, play games, and have a short Bible lesson. If you would like more information, please contact our **Youth Director Kevin Anderson** at [kevinanderson@loccl.org](mailto:kevinanderson@loccl.org).
- **Adult Bible Study will resume April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** The study for the next 6 weeks will be "The Chosen." The first session will be the introductory session. During the first session you will be given directions on where to find the first episode on our website. Pastor Nanette and Pastor Steve will be leading this study.



## Faith in Action



**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."**

1 PETER 4:10 (NIV)

### **Be On the Lookout for Generous People**

- Generous People have Empathy
- Generous People are Kind
- Generous People are not Image-Conscious
- Generous People are Quiet People and Don't Draw Attention to Themselves
- Generous People are able and willing to make Sacrifices
- Generous People keep an Open Mind
- Generous People Trust Others
- Generous People are Grateful People



See the LOC garden in bloom during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!



Here are opportunities to support the Sleep in Heavenly Peace non-profit to make sure that children in our community have a bed to sleep on.

There are over 3,500 children in the valley who are on a waiting list at Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and are currently sleeping on an air mattress, sofa or on the floor. Let's pitch in and make sure kids in our community have a place to lay their heads at night.

**Matthew 25:40**

**"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"**

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Sleep in Heavenly Peace now has 326 chapters in the US, as well as chapters in Canada and Bermuda. SHP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. (Federal ID: 46-4346568)

**"In Arizona, we have built and delivered more than 5,000 beds, while nationally, we expect to hit 50,000 this year," said Joe Genovese, SHP's chapter president in Phoenix.**

**"If a child needs a bed, we want to make sure they get one. No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!®"**

### **WAYS TO HELP:**

1. Join us in delivering beds to children: Mesa Hub Deliveries usually occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Upcoming delivery dates are: **January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15.** See our website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> to complete a waiver and sign-up.
  2. Join us in building beds—we welcome all ages, however we kindly ask that any youth under the age of 12 be accompanied and monitored by an adult. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has a new warehouse and workshop with everything set up for bed builds. Bring your family and friends. Check the website at <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/serve> for a waiver and to sign up for available dates.
  3. Provide twin size bedding—sheets, pillows, blankets, mattress protectors are all needed. (Collection boxes are in the COC and Sanctuary entries.)
  4. Join us in sewing twin sized flannel blankets for the beds. Simple and easy sew or non-sew patterns are available. See the website for a video of an easy blanket to sew.
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If you would like more information, please check the website under the serve page or contact Jack Grant 571-334-5030 by call or text or email Jack or JoAnn Grant at [jjjjgrant@verizon.net](mailto:jjjjgrant@verizon.net)





**The Hospitality Team** welcomes all and invites you to join them each Sunday as they serve coffee and snacks between services. Please take time to enjoy the hospitality and get to know others in our community. Coffee begins in the Outreach Room (or on the CoC patio) at 8:45 and continues until 10:30.

If you are interested in serving at the hospitality table, please contact Patti Delaney at [pattidelaney03@gmail.com](mailto:pattidelaney03@gmail.com).

**Prayer Share Care Bible Study meets again on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

This Women's Bible Study meets weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the Leadership Room. Our study for the next 6 weeks will be focused on "The Chosen" season 1. The first season will be on our Website under Bible Studies. Each participant can watch the episode at home or come early on Thursdays at noon in the Leadership Room and watch it there. The study will be centered around Scripture that is told through the video. These shows are designed to bring forth discussion on the Biblical readings. The videos as well as the Scripture readings are to be a jumping off point for our time of discussion. For the first week, please watch Season One Episode 1 "You Are Called." Pastor Nanette Christofferson will be facilitating the study. Each session is not dependent upon the past session, so please join us whenever you can. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at [nanette@loccl.org](mailto:nanette@loccl.org).



Deadline to use Thrivent Choice Dollars from 2023 is March 31, 2024!

All Thrivent members are reminded to use the Thrivent Choice Dollars their membership has earned before the March deadline. You can designate these dollars to charities of your choice, as well as Love of Christ Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, contact Dick Beckman ([dickbeckman@loccl.org](mailto:dickbeckman@loccl.org)).



YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST  
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

Happy Easter!

Sunday Hangout will not meet on Easter.  
We will resume our hangout time on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday Youth Group will meet this Wednesday at 6PM!

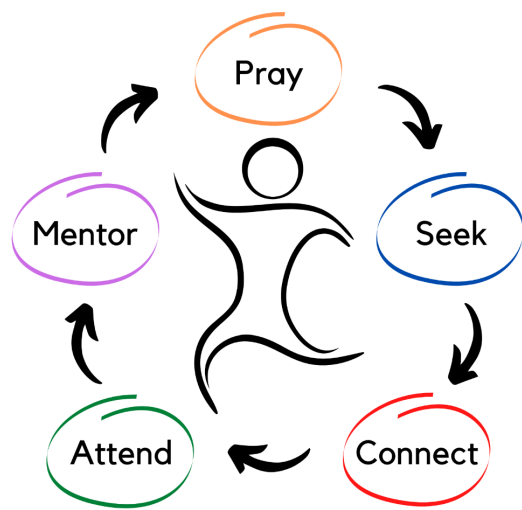
Confirmation will meet again on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 12PM.

Registration for summer Campformation is open.  
Please contact Kevin Anderson for more information.

Our next National Youth Gathering meeting for students will be Sunday, April 14th at 10AM in the Youth Room.

### How are you making connections with our Youth?

Our Youth are living in a busy, busy world. Families involved in our ministries have to make decisions about where they will spend their time. This means they have to choose between attending church events and other important activities in their lives. When we reflect on our faith stories, we can likely identify individuals or communities that we had a relationship with throughout the development of our faith. It is as important as ever for our young people and their families to have connections with caring individuals from our congregation. This can be as simple as saying hello to our young people when you see them on campus. Below are a few more examples of what making connections with our young people may look like.



**Pray:** Simply praying for our youth and their families is a great way to begin showing support.

**Seek:** You can be intentional about seeking the youth out on campus and saying “Hello”.

**Connect:** You can regularly say “hello”, learn the names of our students, and check-in with them when you see them on campus.

**Attend:** You can join others in attending Youth events at Love of Christ or extracurricular events like band concerts, dance recitals, plays, or sports games.

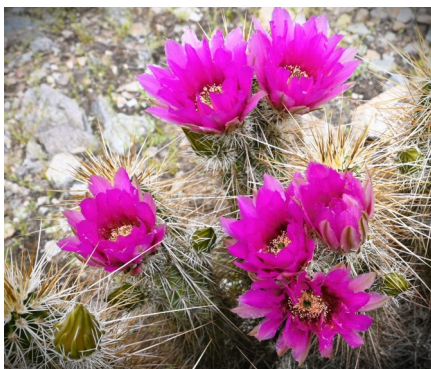
**Mentor:** This is the ‘ground level’ of Youth Ministry. A mentor would meet regularly with a student or group of students to talk about life and faith.

If you feel you have a gift or passion for connecting with our young people, please reach out ([kevinanderson@locic.org](mailto:kevinanderson@locic.org)) and we can talk about how your gifts may be used in Youth Ministry.



Christ-centered yoga **Thursdays, 9am in the Outreach Rooms 13 & 14 (next to playground).** For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or email: [nonnagg51@gmail.com](mailto:nonnagg51@gmail.com) .

**Naomi Circle Spring luncheon** is held in the Fellowship Hall Monday, April 8, 11:30 am followed with our Bible study.  
 Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith--session 4 on p.34 in the Gather Magazine.  
 view Sara Olson-Smith on YouTube (Author)  
[https://youtube/aHH\\_0zu9VoU?si=GyFTtK5GVz1dO9Md](https://youtube/aHH_0zu9VoU?si=GyFTtK5GVz1dO9Md)  
 or [gathermagazine.org/biblestudy](http://gathermagazine.org/biblestudy)



**The LOC Women's Hiking Group** will be traveling to **Sedona on April 20th** to hike the **3.3 mile** in-and-out **Transept Trail**. Starting with our first step on the trail, we'll be greeted with beautiful views of the Red Rocks that Sedona is famous for. The hike will have just enough uphill to make it interesting. We will meet at the north parking lot by **COC at 7:00**. Contact Pat Shaw if interested, [patomshaw@cox.net](mailto:patomshaw@cox.net), 480 981-1325, or 480 334-9123 (text).





Did you know that we have a very active book club at Love of Christ? This is a picture of our March group. Our next meeting is on May 5th. If you like to read and enjoy discussing what you read with others, please join us in May.



The next meeting of the LOC Book Club will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 in the Leadership Room at 10:15 am (located just to the left of the church offices).

We will be reviewing A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline. Here is a synopsis of the book:

This is a stunning novel of friendship, passion and art inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting "Christina's World." Christina Olson lived in the small Maine town of Cushing. Increasingly affected by illness she was the inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the 20th century. Fact and fiction merge as the author brings to life the little known woman behind the portrait.

Please join us for a lively discussion of A Piece of the World. Make sure to pick up a cup of coffee and a treat and meet us at 10:15 am on May 4th.

If you have any questions about our Book Club, please contact Barbara Hummel at [otemporium@aol.com](mailto:otemporium@aol.com).

Happy Reading!



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**Pastor Steve's sermon title: "Thank Goodness Fear did not rule the Day"**

### **Acts 10: 34-43**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not 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. <sup>42</sup>He 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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### **1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

Now 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, <sup>2</sup>through 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. <sup>3</sup>For 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, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to

Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But 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. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

### **Mark 16: 1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But 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. <sup>7</sup>But 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." <sup>8</sup>So 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.



MARCH 31, 2024  
EASTER SUNDAY



*Christ is risen. Alleluia!*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-5	In the beginning was the Word
Friday	Romans 5:1-5	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Living God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death for us through his death and resurrection. Amen. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for this gift of food and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ we give you thanks for your steadfast love that endures forever! Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the risen Christ bless you with hope and joy.



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MARCH 31, 2024

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for but wonder if it will ever happen?
- What makes Easter important to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:1-18.

Mary came to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. The darkness versus light theme is found from the beginning of the Gospel of John, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5) When we gather in worship on Easter Sunday, we expect light and beauty to fill the sanctuary. That is not the story of the first Easter in the Gospel of John. It includes more references to death and the tomb than the other three Gospels. Death and darkness are realities, even on Easter. There is confusion and misunderstanding, including Mary not recognizing Jesus and two of the disciples not understanding that Jesus *"must rise from the dead"* (v. 9). Perhaps John wants us to dwell a little longer on the reality of death and darkness that surrounds us, even today. A closer look at the frailty and sorrows of life and our own misunderstandings makes the message of Christ's resurrection stand out all the more. It might just make Easter even brighter, our hearts even warmer, and our hope even stronger: Christ is risen! Alleluia.

*Discuss:* What is hard for you to understand about the resurrection?

*Pray:* **Almighty and everlasting God, for your glory and power over sin and death we sing your praises now and forever through Jesus Christ, the one who died so that we may live forevermore. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone going through a tough time?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Alleluia means "praise the Lord." The word Alleluia is traditionally not used and is "buried" during Lent. It is resurrected on Easter. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Consider using the candles as a centerpiece for Easter dinner. Write the word Alleluia on post-it notes or index cards. Place them around the candle cross.

*Say:* Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

*Then pray:* **This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.** (Psalm 118:24)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)