

# TODAY'S BULLETIN

## **As We Gather:** More Amazing Than a Miracle

“Amazing” is a commonly used word in the English that has a rich history. It came into common usage in the 14th century as a variant of the older root word “amasod,” which meant stupefied or confounded or overwhelmed with sudden surprise or wonder. The word “amazing” shows up several times in hymns that we sing—from describing the action of God in the birth of Jesus as “love amazing” (LSB 375:1) to bringing to our hearts and minds that in His suffering to pay the price of our sins, our Lord showed “amazing pity” (LSB 437:2). Two other hymns refer to the “amazing grace” of God (LSB 744:1; 558:2), and in another hymn, the author of the text rejoices that God “has done amazing things to me” (LSB 934:2). The season of Easter is a time for us to be truly amazed and filled with the praise of our amazing Lord!

**Serving in Our Church Service Today:** Jody Wangerin

**Serving Next Sunday:** Ed Geiger

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:** Our verse is taken from 1 John 3:1a

**See what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God; and so we  
are.**

**THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS:** Join us this coming Thursday for our noontime Bible Class as we will begin a new Bible study focus. As always, please bring your lunch. See you there!

### **READINGS FOR EASTER 4:**

- Acts 4:1–12 (Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)
- 1 John 3:16–24 (Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)
- John 10:11–18 (Jesus prays for and about His disciples.)

### **HYMNS FOR NEXT WEEKEND:**

- “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” - Hymn 904
- “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” - Hymn 709
- “Beautiful Savior” - Hymn 537



## **Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church**

New Milford, NJ  
LCMS — New Jersey District

**Saturday  
April 13, 2024  
Easter 3**

**Saint Matthew's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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Thomas Williams  
**Congregational Treasurer**

Stephanie Coppola  
**Elder**



**ASCENSION DAY CHURCH SERVICE:** Circuits One and Two of the New Jersey District, LCMS invite you to come worship our risen and ascended Lord Jesus at an indoor Ascension Day Service.

The service will take place on Thursday, May 9 at 7 PM in the sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood (155 Second Ave., Westwood NJ 07675).

An Ascension Day choir will sing in the service (led by Joan Holsten). If you or the members of your church choir would like to participate, please contact Rev. Robert Holsten at 551 206-8872.

An Ascension Day Choir Rehearsal will take place in Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood on Saturday, May 4 from 10 AM to Noon. The Ascension Day Choir will also rehearse before the Ascension Day Service on 5/9 at 6:15 at Zion, Westwood.

Rev. Peter DeMik, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood will serve as Preacher at our Ascension Day Service.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:**

A food pantry needs update is available on the table in the back of the church. Take one along with you today!

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**NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP SERVICES**

- **Saint Matthew’s** Saturday, April 20 @ 5:00 pm
- **Saint Matthew’s** Sunday, April 21 @ 9:30 am
- **Holy Trinity** Sunday, April 21 @ 11:30 am

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# Third Sunday of Easter

Blended Church Service - Divine Services 3, 4, and Creative Worship

## Welcome & Church Announcements

## Moment of Prayer

### Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Confession and Absolution

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C: **Amen.**

### Salutation and the Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Living Lord, You have commanded us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. To fulfill this command, we ask You to clothe us with

the power from on high, Your Holy Spirit, that we may carry the amazing message of Your resurrection to the ends of the earth; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **First Reading**

Acts 3:11–21

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

L: The First Reading for the 3rd Sunday of Easter is taken from Acts, Chapter 3:

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle Reading**

1 John 3:1–7

(We are God's children now.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 1st John, Chapters 3:

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is

no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel Reading**

Luke 24:36–49

(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter:

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**And 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.**

**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. Amen.**

## **Today's Sermon**

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

#### **Preface**

**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, Lord, our God, for You have refreshed us in the forgiveness of Christ. Pour out upon us the gift of Your spirit that with true thanksgiving we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

#### **The Words of Our Lord**

**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  $\mp$  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  $\mp$  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:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

A: **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**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### **Distribution**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us so that we may continue to proclaim Your love to all the world and keep us to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

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.**

### **Moment of Prayer**