

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

Sunday
April 14, 2024
Easter 3

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Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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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

Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book - begins on page 184

Church Announcements

Moment of Prayer

Opening Hymn

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" - Hymn 477

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

**Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat
See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat
Once He died, and once was buried; Now He lives forevermore.
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, sts. 1, 3; rev. The Jubilate Group, st. 2

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867

Text (sts. 1, 3) and music: Public domain; (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group; admin. Hope Publishing Co.

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 - page 184

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-evaluation

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

 **Kyrie** - page 186

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

 **Gloria in Excelsis**

P: Glory be to God on high:
**C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost
Art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and 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 be to Thee, O Lord.**

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 **C: Praise be to Thee, 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.

Hymn of the Day

“The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done” - Hymn 464

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o’er, the battle done;
Now is the victor’s triumph won
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow’rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the age bound chains of hell
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by stripes which wounded Thee
From death’s dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909, alt.

Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525–94, adapt.; setting: *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Text and music: Public domain

Sermon

 **Offertory** - page 192

A: Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

 **P:** The Lord be with you.

 **C:** **And with thy spirit.**

 **P:** Lift up your hearts.

 **C:** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 **P:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

 **C:** **It is meet and right so to do.**

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.**

 **Sanctus** - page 195

A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

**Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

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.

The Words of Our Lord - spoken, page 197

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.

Pax Domini - page 197

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

C: Amen.

 **Agnus Dei** - page 198

**A: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

Dismissal

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.

 **Nunc Dimittis** - page 198-199

A: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
According to Thy word
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Thanksgiving - page 200

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: and His mercy endureth forever.

P: Let us pray: 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.

Salutation and Benedicamus - page 202

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction - page 202

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

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

 **C:** Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn

“Make Songs of Joy” - Hymn 484

**Make songs of joy to Christ, our head: Alleluia!
He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia!**

**Our life was purchased by His loss: Alleluia!
He died our death upon the cross. Alleluia!**

**O death, where is your deadly sting? Alleluia!
Assumed by our triumphant King! Alleluia!**

**And where your victory, O grave! Alleluia!
When one like Christ has come to save? Alleluia!**

**Behold, the tyrants, one and all, Alleluia!
Before our mighty Savior fall! Alleluia!**

**For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
The Father and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!**

Text: Juraj Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Music: Velká Partitúra, 1936, ed. Juraj Chorvát

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: Public domain

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

P: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

: **Thanks be to God.**