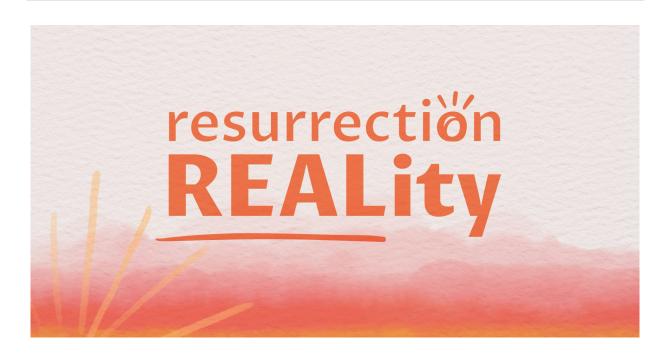
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 14, 2024





1755 QUACCO RD.
POOLER, GEORGIA
31322
912.925.9431
WWW.RISENSAVIORGEORGIA.COM
BRIAN PECHMAN, PASTOR



# IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Resurrection REALity: a meaningful message to share. A platitude is a statement aimed at helping sooth some sort of emotional unease. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Or "Life is a mystery." While platitudes may be well-intentioned...at best they come off as trite. And since platitudes provide no real help...they can actually make a situation worse. Tell the one whose heart is shattering, "Life is a mystery." They won't appreciate your platitude or you. The resurrection gives believers the ability to offer more than platitudes. We have a meaningful message to share...of repentance, of forgiveness, of peace, of power. The reality is we have something important to say to every single person that God brings into our sphere of influence. And our risen Savior gives us the courage and power to share that meaningful message.

**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship on this morning. At Risen Savior, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the *main message*—the unconditional love Jesus has for us—comes through clearly.

• **Connect cards** are available to you in this worship booklet and in the comment/chat box of whatever stream you are using. You may also directly fill out a <u>digital Connect Card</u>. Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have worshipped with us this morning.

**PARTICIPATE.** Many parts of our worship service are interactive. If you have downloaded the service folder to guide your worship, feel free to participate and sing along. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

**PARAMENTS.** In Lutheran churches you often see *paraments...* the colored cloths with symbols on them. These change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on his day of resurrection is the cause for your rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes your purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

**PERSONAL CONVENIENCES.** For your convenience, restrooms are located down the hall opposite the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. While we share the promises of God's Word with you, we encourage you to create community. Use the comment and chat areas to let others know you are worshipping with them. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

#### THE SEASON OF EASTER

Easter is the pinnacle of the Church Year...the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50<sup>th</sup> day, Pentecost.

The days between Easter and Pentecost are the most joyful of the year. You see it in what the Sundays are called. Normally, when there is a major festival in the Church Year...the succeeding Sundays are called *Sundays after* or *Sundays in*. For example, when you celebrate Pentecost, you will then have *First Sunday after Pentecost*, *Second Sunday after Pentecost*, and so on. But during Easter, you call it the *Second Sunday of Easter*, *Third Sunday of Easter*, etc. That's because the Sundays that follow Easter are meant to be sub-



# EASTERTIME

sequent celebrations of what began on Easter Sunday...recapturing the joy and hope of that great day. The greatest theologian of the early Church, Augustine, called the season of Easter "a joyful week of weeks"...seven wonderful weeks, each seven glorious days long. It was considered one long celebration. The large paschal candle...positioned near the altar...symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It further emphasizes the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). The paschal candle as a symbol of the resurrection, remains lit throughout the Easter season...and is also lit at all baptisms and at all funerals.

St. Paul writes, "Christ has *indeed* been raised from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Big word: *Indeed!* Paul is stressing that we must not think of Jesus' resurrection like a happy ending to another epic fable. The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be...the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. So...the reality is Jesus' resurrection proves that *"all will be made alive"* (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future...but the way we look at life now.

RESURRECTION REALITY		
Easter Sunday	March 31	Life Worth Living
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	April 7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	April 14	A Meaningful Message to Share
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	April 21	Providing Good Shepherding
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	April 28	Producing Active Faith
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	May 5	Jesus' Business is LoveSo Is Ours
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Ascension)	May 12	Christ Is Closer than Ever

# ORDER of WORSHIP

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Service of the Word offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word.

Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

#### OPENING HYMN

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION | 450

In the name of God the Father who raised his Son from the dead.

#### Alleluia!

In the name of God the Son, our Lord ♣ Jesus Christ, who rose triumphant from the grave and has conquered sin and death for us.

#### Alleluia!

In the name of God the Holy Spirit who has brought us to believe and to share in Christ's victory.

#### Alleluia!

# **CONFESSION OF SINS**

As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

Lord God, I humbly come before you.

I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed.

I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid.

Lord, I am sorry for my sins.

I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.

Upon this, your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life.

#### Amen!

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



Graphic Note: Animals that undergo a metamorphosis...such as a butterfly...are Easter symbols of great antiquity. Images of animals can be found carved into ancient tombs. On one sarcophagus, a frog is shown emerging from a pond...nearby are carved the words "in a twinkling of an eye". A reference to 1 Corinthians 15:52: "We will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet." Metamorphosis is a Greek word meaning "a transfiguration, a transformed body".

#### THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY

This song is based on Revelation 5. The congregation is invited to begin with the refrain...singing it after each verse...and singing the final refrain.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer comes from the *Gelasian Sacramentary* ( $ca_{750 AD}$ ). It has long been tied to the Third Sunday of Easter and is appointed for use in all three years of this hymnal's lectionary. Christ's resurrection opens our eyes to see the joy and hope we are guaranteed in him.

Let us pray.

O God,
by the humiliation of your Son
you lifted up this fallen world
from the despair of death.
By his resurrection to life,
grant your faithful people
gladness of heart and
the hope of eternal joys;
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.



# THE WORD

FIRST READING ACTS 3:11-20

In the readings today...we see the risen Savior preparing his witnesses to carry his message of repentance by casting away doubt and showing how he fulfilled the promise of Scripture. At the end of the Gospel...he calls his disciples his witnesses. Peter demonstrates how that witnessing happens. Having healed the crippled beggar (Acts 3:1-10), attention is drawn and a crowd gathers. Peter takes the opportunity to be Christ's witness. The power in this scene was not from Peter and John. "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers" (verse 13) demonstrated who Jesus is by achieving this miracle through his name. The temple-going crowd could see proof of the miracle. Now the one who performed the miracle testifies that it was done by Jesus' power. In this miracle...God was saying something to them about his Son. Peter is painfully plain in proclaiming God's message for them. They handed over and disowned the Holy and Righteous One. Peter speaks the harsh truth of the law. There was much to repent of. But then he comforts with the full strength of the gospel. God undid what they had done. "God raised him from the dead" (verse 15). Peter calls himself a witness of that. The risen Jesus has power and just demonstrated it for that man. He also has power for all who hear his message. Verses 17-20 show that all of this was God's plan and promise and Jesus fulfilled his promises and is their Messiah.

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

<sup>17</sup> "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY PSALM 150

The Church sings this psalm in services that encourage God's people to proclaim his message. The Psalter ends with an exuberant doxology.



Sing praise to the LORD, you people of grace; fill heav'n with the songs that sound from this place; since you are God's servants and meet in his name, his wonders declare and his glory proclaim.

#### Refrain

His greatness exceeds what words can explain, and his is the pow'r no force can restrain; with fanfares of horns and crescendos of strings, raise anthems to honor the King of all kings.

#### Refrain

Where music is made, let rhythms abound: let cymbals and drums add weight to the sound: with dance that is graceful and words that are clear, bring joy to the God you adore and revere.

#### Refrain

Yield all that you are to worship the LORD—see life as a psalm, each moment a chord; let harmonies flourish and melodies soar—let all that has breathe praise the LORD evermore.

Refrain 9

SECOND READING 1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

God is light. If we walk in the darkness...we don't have fellowship with him. Many people speak warmly of God and his place in their lives...but their thoughts, words, and actions betray both the fact that they are lying and they are not practicing the truth in the way they conduct themselves. They need to hear his call to repent. A genuine life in the light with God (verse 7), by contrast, is marked not by mere words but by behavior in harmony with the light of God's revelation and the cleansing blood of Christ that purifies us of everything dark within us. The promise of the cleansing blood resolves the contradiction the honest believer recognizes between his actual way of life and that which God's light commands. It relieves our guilt when God's light exposes the flaws in the life we live. It shows us where to turn in repentance. However, if we claim to be sinless...we show that the truth is not in us. His call to repent gives us power to do it. When we turn from that lie, from that darkness, and confess our sins...Jesus forgives because of who he is (faithful and just). In addition, he acts as our paraclete (verse 1)...our legal advocate. After all...he has paid the price. This defender is also the "atoning sacrifice for our sins" (verse 2), the payment of our debt that satisfies God's anger at sin...for us and the world.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The young children are invited to come forward to the front stairs of the sanctuary for a brief children's message.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The cantor will sing the refrain and the verse...the assembly may join in the final refrain.

#### Refrain



The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.—Luke 24:46,47

# Refrain

GOSPEL LUKE 24:36-49

This Gospel again takes place on the first Easter evening but from Luke's perspective. The two disciples who had traveled to Emmaus that afternoon, returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem. As they were sharing the exciting news of Jesus' resurrection...Jesus himself appeared in their midst. Before they had even had an opportunity to react...Jesus gave them the gift of his peace. The disciples had a hard time believing what they were seeing. The disciples were startled and terrified...thinking they were seeing a ghost. Jesus knew their doubts. Yet he did not rebuke them for their lack of faith. Instead...he gently encouraged them and provided them with proof that he was truly alive. "Look at my hands and my feet... Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you can see I have" (verse 39). When that wasn't enough...Jesus asked them for something to eat. He truly was physically alive...and the disciples had no reason to doubt. In reinforcing the proof...Jesus was preparing them to go with the message with which he would send them. Then he demonstrated that what they were seeing was what God had promised. Scripture was their proof. Through his Word...Jesus strengthened the faith of the disciples and enabled them to believe. Then he gave them a job to do. Now that they knew the good news that Jesus had died and risen again in fulfillment of all those Old Testament promises...they were to go and tell everyone else. They were God's witnesses to all the nations...beginning in Jerusalem. Jesus did not send them out alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen them and give them all they needed to serve as his witnesses in the world.

<sup>36</sup> While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup> They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

<sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. <sup>41</sup> And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate it in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

After the gospel, the congregation sings:



### HYMN OF THE DAY

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN AGAIN | 459

An ancient Christian practice is the Paschal Greeting. Throughout the 50 days of Easter...whenever the pastor says... "Christ is risen!" the people respond, "He is risen indeed!" Connecting ourselves with the believers who have gone before us, you are asked to join in the Paschal greeting each time you hear "Christ is risen!"

SERMON LUKE 24:36-49

"RESURRECTION REALITY SPECTRUM"



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.



#### CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a <u>Connect Card</u> now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, you may also find a digital Connect Card link in the chat and comment boxes. What will be the "next steps" you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

#### **OFFERING**

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

#### **Giving Options:**

- download the "Church Center" app. Search "Risen Savior Lutheran—Pooler".
- give your gift online.
- via text message: text any dollar amount to 84321 to give and follow the text instructions.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshippers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.



# **Announcements**

**"FOUNDATIONS" CLASS:** Our "Foundations of Faith" class is our path to membership here at Risen Savior or for people looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. A new session of this class is being held on Tuesdays. Class runs from 6:30-8:00p. Sign up at: <a href="www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/foundations-of-faith">www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/foundations-of-faith</a>. Everyone is welcome! You are invited to serve your community by providing childcare for families.

**THUNDER GOLF CLASSIC:** The Thunder Classic benefitting RSCA will be held at Savannah Quarters on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Shotgun start @ 9:00a. Registration is open for golfers, those wanting to attend the awards lunch, and volunteers. For those golfing, you may register as a single or as a golf foursome (preferred) for the tournament. Golfers, your dinner cost is included in the green fee. You can register for the Thunder Classic at: <a href="www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/thunder-classic">www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/thunder-classic</a>. Here you will find instructions and payment options.

**CAMP SOUTH:** Camp South convenes July 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Covington, Georgia...Grades 4-8 (rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders included)...a Survivor-themed camp with multiple challenges daily...cost: \$350. The most fun you'll have this summer. Incredible activities (tough mudder, zip line, inflatables, massive group competitions), next-level worship, and more new friends than you can count. Registration closes at the end of April.

**MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITIES:** Matching gifts have been designated for both mortgage principal reduction and for RSCA scholarships. These will match every gift given to reduce Risen Savior's mortgage principal or given to RSCA tuition scholarships...dollar for dollar. These matching gifts will be available until June 2024. Please be encouraged to view these as "over-and-above-your-regular-offering" opportunities. Collectively, our regular envelope offerings allow us to take care of our ongoing responsibilities. When making your gift, please mark it according to the area you are giving to. May the Lord bless these gift opportunities as he determines to be best.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flower arrangement today is given by Dick & Gloria Tracey in thanksgiving for their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thank you for beautifying our worship space this morning.

# SERVING @ RISEN SAVIOR

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Snacks	Livestream
Today	Aberson	J. Spengler E. Lucas	A. Spengler	S. Smalley volunteer	G. Lucas
04.21	Jensen	J. Wong Z. Hefti	K. Vandenhouten	M. LeBlanc C. Lucas	B. Rife
04.28	Keyes	S. Baehman And. Schmidt	A. Thiesfeldt	W. McCauley J. Thiesfeldt	M. Schultz
05.05	Deines	B. Wethington B. Byrd	A. Pechman	K. Wellman J. Wray	E. Lucas



www.risensaviorgeorgia.com