



resurrection
REALity



RISEN SAVIOR
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IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Resurrection REALity: producing active faith. Generally...our actions are shaped by our beliefs. This is true of Christians' belief in the resurrection. We believe that Christ's resurrection means our resurrection to a glorious eternal life is guaranteed. That inevitably shapes how we will act now. However...it is not simply the facts of the resurrection that shape our behavior. It is the person of the resurrection. Jesus is not some wise, dead sage whose advice is contained in dusty books. Jesus lives! Therefore, through his Word, he is able to work on our minds and hearts...molding them to his perfect will. Here is a resurrection reality. Jesus fills us with his Spirit, not only so that we have faith...but also so that we produce the fruits of faith he seeks.

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 [digital Connect Card](#). 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 50th 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 subsequent 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.



EASERTIME

RESURRECTION REALITY

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

THE
ORDER *of* WORSHIP
DIVINE SERVICE

The *Divine Service* is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church where the Lord serves the Church with his Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN | 454

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.



Christian symbolism: The peacock has been used in Christian art to symbolize the resurrection. A peacock's tail feathers will molt...turning ugly and "dead." But then fresh feathers emerge...and they are glorious. Thus, the peacock reminds you that in eternity...your ugly and "dead" bodies will rise to new glory.

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing...

NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAV'N RESOUNDS



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
heart and will on things a - bove that we
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer thro' your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God,
you form the minds of
your faithful people into a single will.
Make us love what you command
and desire what you promise,
that among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may ever yearn
for the lasting joys of heaven;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**



FIRST READING

ACTS 4:32-37

The congregation in Jerusalem had become a multitude. If the number of males was five thousand (Acts 4:4)...the total number of people must have been at least two to three times that number. There were challenges in leading and administering an organization of this size. This becomes clear in subsequent chapters of Acts, where we see the congregation call deacons to administer the charitable efforts of the church (Acts 6) and, later, to deal with questions over outreach to non-Jews (Acts 11,15). Nonetheless...the congregation enjoyed impressive unity. Their heart and mind were one. What stands behind this great inner unit is the term Luke chooses to describe the people involved. They are believers. The connection to Christ that each individual had by faith bore the fruit of this single heart and mind among them. Luke describes two fruits of the congregation's faith-born unity. He gives a majority of his attention to the generous sharing practiced in the church. Faith exerted a formidable influence on them to loosen the grip with which people ordinarily cling to their possessions. The other visible fruit of the congregation's faith comes in the testimony of the apostles. That is notable in light of the fact that they had been arrested for preaching just this message (Acts 4:2). They were not discouraged or dissuaded by the opposition of the Jewish leaders. On the contrary, they preached with great power...likely a reference not only to the courage with which they preached but also to the inherent power of the message itself to change hearts and win more converts.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 63

The Church sings this psalm in services that emphasize the a saving connection to God as the most important aspect of life. The early church used this psalm in daily public prayers.

Refrain

Refrain

Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for
you, your love is fin - er than life.

As a dry and weary desert land,
so my soul is thirsting for my God,
and my flesh is faint for the God I seek;
for your love is more to me than life.

Refrain

I think of you when at night I rest,
I reflect upon your steadfast love.
I will cling to you, oh Lord my God,
in the shadow of your wings I sing.

Refrain

I will bless your name all the days I live,
I will raise my hands and call on you.
My joyful lips shall sing your praise,
you alone have filled my hungry soul.

Refrain

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3:18-24

How can we know whether we are truly connected to Jesus as a branch is connected to the vine? In today's Second Reading, John encourages us to look at the fruit we produce, that is, the love we show through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. John commands us not to let our displays of love be a matter of words only. Rather...we should show our love for others in actions. As we put our love into action, we will have evidence of faith that we can look to whenever our hearts condemn us and make us feel as if we are not connected to Jesus. God has told us that only those who belong to him can truly produce love in their lives as a fruit of faith. Therefore, if we see evidence of faith-produced love in our lives...we can take comfort that God-created faith is also there. This evidence is trustworthy...because God knows all things and his Word holds vastly more weight than anything our hearts may say to us. We see proof of our connection to Jesus when we keep God's commands. John defines God's commands as *"to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us"* (verse 23). No one can believe in Jesus as the Son of God except those who are connected to him through faith. In the same way...no one can love his neighbor as God has commanded except those who are connected to Jesus through faith. This evidence of God's working in our hearts gives us confidence that we are connected to Jesus, just as branches are in the vine.

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the refrain. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit.—*John 15:5*

Refrain

GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8

In this Gospel, Jesus shows us how the resurrection produces active faith. He calls himself the true vine. Israel had been described as a vineyard by the prophets (Psalm 80, Isaiah 5, Jeremiah 12). Jesus is the true vine that nourishes every believer. Notice the cutting happens on both kinds of branches. For unbelievers...it cuts them off from Jesus so that fruitful branches can be nourished. For believers...the pruning shears allow the branch to bear even more fruit. Verse 3 helps us to differentiate between justification and sanctification. Jesus says, *"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you."* God made Jesus' disciples his and washed them clean in justification through the power of the Word. Now he prunes his branches and they grow so that their fruit follows. Jesus repeats that thought several times in the negative and the positive...making clear the necessity of the connection to him and his Word. The implications of not having that connection are given in stronger and stronger pictures...from *"bears no fruit"* to *"you can do nothing"* to *"thrown away and withers"* to *"thrown into the fire and burned."* The positive pictures similarly progress from *"bear much fruit"* to *"ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON

JOHN 15:1-8

“MORE FRUITFUL PRODUCTION”

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 [Connect Card](#) 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.
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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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen!

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

FRUITFUL TREES, THE SPIRIT'S SOWING | 595

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The Greek IC XC NIKA means: "Jesus Christ...Victor"



Announcements

THUNDER GOLF CLASSIC: The Thunder Classic benefitting RSCA will be held at Savannah Quarters on Monday, May 20th. 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: www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/thunder-classic. Here you will find instructions and payment options.

DIVINE CALL: Pastor has received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Howards Grove, Wisconsin. He is taking some time to decide where he can serve and grow best in God's Kingdom. For more details, please read the recent call email. There will be a Q&A session during Power Hour next Sunday. Your prayers for Pastor's deliberation are asked for, and feel free to share your input with him.

CAMP SOUTH: Camp South convenes July 22nd-26th in Covington, Georgia...Grades 4-8 (rising 9th 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 May.

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.

YOUR KINGDOM COME: Our world has its power-wielders. Wielding power has the potential to accomplish great good or great abuse. It was into this world...our world...that Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to establish an eternal, spiritual kingdom. In his kingdom, Jesus rules with grace and peace and righteousness only by the power of his Word. Through believing in Jesus, you are a member of his kingdom. And it is by your King, Jesus that you pray, “Your kingdom come. May your saving rule be strengthened in my heart and spread to the hearts of many others.” A new “*Meditations*” booklet is available and begins June 2nd. You are invited to take home your own booklet from the information table in the entryway. In an effort to help defray the cost of these devotions, please drop \$4/booklet (\$5/large print) in the basket. May you find comfort and strength from the Lord who promises to be with you.

SERVING @ RISEN SAVIOR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Snacks</i>	<i>Livestream</i>
Today	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
05.12 <i>(Ascension/ Graduation)</i>	Mula	C. Zimmerman D. Zimmerman	B. Smalley	<i>Graduation Reception</i>	M. Lopez
05.19 <i>(Pentecost/ Confirmation)</i>	Wray	M. Deines B. Duggar	S. Miller	<i>Confirmation Reception</i>	Hefti



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