

Behold! The Hidden Glory of the Cross

Western Koshkonong Ev. Lutheran Church

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☞ WELCOME ☞

Today is Easter Sunday, the day on which we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord from the dead. On this day Christians throughout the world join their voices in praise and proclamation of the most central fact of their faith – that Jesus suffered on the cross, died, was buried, and rose on the third day. The book of Acts records the earliest sermons of the Church testifying to the resurrection of our Lord.

Welcome to all in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit! If you are a guest today, we welcome you and invite you to worship with us again. Please sign our guest register.

We celebrate Holy Communion in our service today. *Guests and visitors, please read the information on the last page of this bulletin for important information about our communion practice.*

☞ ORDER OF WORSHIP ☞

OPENING PRAYER

P: Jesus, you are alive today and forever! We thank you that because you live, we also will live. Your resurrection proved that your sacrifice on the cross has taken away our sin. Help us to live everyday in the new life you have given us, and help us to eagerly await the eternal life in heaven that you alone have won for us. Amen.

HYMN 352:

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

INVOCATION AND EASTER ACCAMATION

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

C: Amen.

P: This is the day the Lord has made.

C: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

P: For the angel said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

C: He is not here; He is risen.

P: The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

P: For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,

C: to bring you to God.

P: God commands all people everywhere to repent. Almighty God,

C: please save us for we have sinned against You by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P: Because Jesus lives, you shall live also. Through Him, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN 340:

Alleluia! Jesus Lives

THE SALUTATION

P: The LORD be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT (*Prayer of the Day*)

P: Let us pray. Almighty God the Father, through your one and only Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us.

C: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be rescued from sin and death by your life-giving Spirit;

P: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONCLUSION TO THE PASSION HISTORY ACCORDING TO ST. MARK— *Mark 16:1–8*

And when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.

And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He said to you.'" And they went

out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

HYMN 350:

He's Risen, He's Risen

SERMON THEME

The Glory of the Cross – Hidden Even in the Savior's Triumph

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 28:1–10

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."

HYMN 345, vv. 1–4:

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

EPISTLE READING — *Colossians 2:6–14; 3:1–4*

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in your transgressions and the

uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."

THE CREED

P: Having heard God's Word, we confess our Christian faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,
Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
By Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the Prophets.**

**And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead
and the Life of the world to come.**

C: [sing, p. 47] Amen.

HYMN 351, vv 1–3, 7, 8:

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

HYMN VERSE

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

✠ THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

Guests and visitors, please read the information on the last page of this bulletin for important information about our communion practice.

THE PREFACE

P: The LORD be with you.

C: [sing, p. 50] **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts unto the LORD.

C: [sing, p. 50] **We lift up our hearts unto the LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the LORD our God.

C: [sing, p. 50] **It is good and right so to do.**

THE GENERAL PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: [sing, pp. 50, 51] **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EXHORTATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

[sing, p. 53] **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My † Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My † blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

C: [sing, p. 55] O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 286:

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING, 325

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with Your gifts of our Savior's Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and wine. We pray that You, in mercy, would strengthen us through this Sacrament in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: [sing, p. 56] Amen.

THE APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

HYMN:

In Christ Alone (Choir v.1, Congregation, vv. 2–4)

1 *In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

2 In Christ alone—who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Chr

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!

CLOSING PRAYER

Organist: Darek Hartwig

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

Bible Study Please join us for Bible study at 11:00 AM.

Thrivent Choice Dollars If you are a member of Thrivent, your *Choice Dollars* must be designated to a charitable organization or your church before March 31st. Please consider Western Koshkonong as a recipient for that designation. If you have questions, contact Mike Niedfeldt.

☞ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE ☛

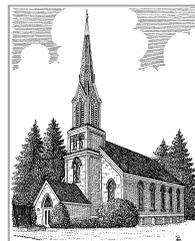
Today	<i>No Sunday School</i> Bible Study, Book of Job	11:00 AM
Next Sunday	Divine Service (Holy Communion afterwards) Sunday School <i>No Bible Study</i>	9:30 AM 10:20 AM

☞ GOD'S WORD TO MEMORIZE ☛

“Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.”

— *Matthew 28:5, 6*

Our mission is to proclaim the gospel of Christ through the pure word and sacraments, witnessing to the lost, and nurturing fellow believers so that they may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. This we do through worship, education, service, and fellowship.



From the March 2016 Outreach Newsletter —

Spring Cleaning

In the northern hemisphere, the season of spring is upon us. Not only are we likely to be done with cold weather and snow for a while, grass is beginning to turn from brown to green. Trees are budding. Annual flowers are popping up and some beginning to bloom. Certain species of birds are returning from their trek south. We usually associate spring with new life.

Some might also associate spring with cleaning. The house has been closed up tight all winter, and so we feel the urge to open the windows and let some fresh air and sunlight pour in. But when we do, maybe we notice all the dirt and grime that has built up over the winter. Windows are cloudy with a dull haze. Dust bunnies have been multiplying in corners that haven't seen much light for a while. The floors of our garages (at least for those "up north") are caked with salt residue from our cars. Seeing all this dirt we feel the need to clean!

A famous man from Old Testament times once asked God to help him with his cleaning. "Create in me a clean heart, O God," King David prayed in Psalm 51. David was not asking God to help him live a more healthful life so that he could avoid clogged arteries. The heart disease he wanted to avoid is caused by the dirt that all of us have in our lives, the dirt of sin. This filth is in us all and eventually, if it is not cleaned out, it will kill us. Forever. In hell.



But God does not want us to die forever. He sent his Son Jesus to clean out our sin. That's why Jesus died on the cross—to take our sin away. In baptism, God washes us clean of our sin and gives us a new start. He creates trust in us, trust in him to keep taking our sin away, trust in him that he will bring us to heaven someday.

"Spring cleaning" may give us a new outlook on life, but God's cleaning gives us life itself. Come and hear more about this good news *every* Sunday.

✠ MEMBER COMMUNION ✠

A special note to ALL our worshipers about our communion practice —

On the basis of God’s Holy Word, our Lutheran congregation continues to practice the ancient, Biblical and confessional practice of *member communion*. **This means that members of this congregation and guests from ELS or WELS congregations (which are united with us in their doctrines) may commune with us today. Visitors from other congregations or denominations are requested to refrain from communing until they have spoken with the pastor.**

More information on this practice —

Acts 2: 42, 44 remind us: “They [the first Christians] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . All the believers were together and had everything in common.” Fellowship for the early Christians resulted from unity in the apostles’ teachings. That unity was then expressed in their uniting together into a congregation and then communing together as members of that congregation.

Our participation in the Lord’s Supper is a *public* profession that we are not only in fellowship with Christ, but that we also are in fellowship with those who commune with us at the Lord’s Table. Fellowship means more than that we are fellow Christians. It means that we are united in the doctrines which we believe and teach. Agreement on these teachings is what binds us together as members of our congregation. Our practice of member communion is an important way in which we express our agreement in doctrine and practice.

For more information on this or other teachings, please speak with the pastor.

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- PASTORAL INFORMATION -

Please fill out info, detach, and put in offering plate or give to pastor

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New to area | <input type="checkbox"/> New Address / Phone Number |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wish Pastor to Call | <input type="checkbox"/> Illness in Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Want Offering Envelopes | <input type="checkbox"/> New Baby in Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in Volunteer Opportunities | |