

He Lives!



Easter SONrise Worship

April 20 , 2025

Celebrating Our Lord's Resurrection!

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield
21434 East Hardy Road, Houston, Texas 77073

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A Warm Welcome to You from your Friends in Christ here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church

In the name of Jesus we extend a sincere and warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. We pray your spiritual life will be strengthened through our Lord's Word. We ask that all families present in worship – both our members and our guests – please fill out the Record of Fellowship book laying at the end of the row where you are sitting. We are happy you joined us for worship today and invite you to return real soon.

An Invitation

If you are not actively involved in a church home or have recently moved into our area, we invite you to become a part of our family. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Matthew, you may note your wishes on the Record of Fellowship book or call the church office (281-443-2304). We will be happy to answer your questions and make whatever arrangements are necessary.

Sunday Schedule

Fellowship	8:30 am
Sunday School & Bible Class	8:45 am
Sunday Divine Service	10:00 am

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday and at other special services. **Here at St. Matthew we lovingly practice closed communion. Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask you to read our complete communion statement on our website stmatthewlcms.com under "What We Believe" and speak to a pastor or elder. Thank you.**

The Gathering of First Fruits, Tithes & Offerings

Our *First Fruits & Tithes* are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our *Offerings* are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

A Service of Praise for the Resurrection

Pastor: He is Risen!

Congregation: He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The Opening Hymn

#477—Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

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.

Δ 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!

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The Introit

Ex. 15:2a, 6, 13, 17–18; antiphon: Ex. 15:1b

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider He has thrown in- | to the sea.

The LORD is my strength | and my song,*

and He has become my sal- | vation;

Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*

Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.

You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*

the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,

the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*

The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider He has thrown in- | to the sea.

Kyrie

LSB 152

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

♩ C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

♫ **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

♫ **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

♫ **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

♫ **C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

The Collect of The Day

P: The Lord be with you.

♫ **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♫ **C: Amen.**

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 15:1—11

¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

“I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

³The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is His name.

⁴“Pharaoh’s chariots and his host He cast into the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

⁷In the greatness of Your majesty You overthrow Your adversaries;
You send out Your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

⁸At the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.’

¹⁰You blew with Your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹“Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and | honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*
He has put all things un- | der His feet.

The Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

^{6b}Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

LSB 156

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the twentieth chapter.

♫ **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb.



⁴Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that He had said these things to her."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♫ **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

#474 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has insight!

Refrain:

Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*

Jesus the vine, We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*

City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

The Sermon

Jesus Is Risen

Text: Mark 16:1-6

The Apostles' Creed

**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**

First Fruits, Tithes, & Offerings

Hymn of Response

#466—Christ Has Risen, Alleluia

Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,
Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain:

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed
He who gives life did death undergo,
And in its conquest His might did show. *Refrain*

The angel said to them, "Do not fear!
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare;
Only the grave cloths are lying there." *Refrain*

"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done;
Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

Christ has arisen; He sets us free;
Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. *Refrain*

The Prayers

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition . . . P: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 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 His peace.

♫ **C: Amen.**

The Closing Hymn #463—*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife, Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

✠ **To God Be the Glory** ✠

He is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!

**Please join us for breakfast in the fellowship hall
immediately following this service.**

**Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 8:45 am.
Adult Bible Class will be meeting in the sanctuary.**

Divine Service with the Lord's Supper will begin at 10:00 am.



When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 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 back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He has risen: He is not here.

See the place where they laid Him.

~ Mark 16:1-6