

RIVER OF LIFE



31 MARCH 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

The Festival of the Resurrection of our LORD

OUR PASTOR

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WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

After more than a month of humble repentance and prayer, God's people gather to celebrate the consumption of their prayers. Death has been defanged. The grave has been overhauled—no longer the end of life, but the beginning of eternal life. Why? Because Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Death is no longer the final word—the risen Christ is, now and forever. The one who a little while earlier said **I am the resurrection and the life!** did what he promised. He rose from the grave on the third day. He laid down his life, voluntarily, sacrificially, and joyfully. With the same power, the same selflessness, and the same joy, he took his life back again. He rose from the dead and is the firstfruits of the resurrection. When we see our local citrus trees bud and flourish, we know what will happen. There will be more fruit. When we see our Lord's grave empty and the angels announce he is not here, we know what will happen. We will rise, too!

The Festival of Christ's Resurrection

OPENING HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today | 438



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Easter Gathering



Minister: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Minister: This is the day the LORD has made.

Psalm 118

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Branches Band: *Praise the LORD, my soul; All my inmost being,
Praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul.*

Psalm 103

**People: Praise the LORD, my soul; All my inmost being,
Praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul.**

M: Our LORD commands us to be perfect,
as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5

However, all have sinned
and fallen short of the glory of God.

Romans 3

**P: Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

Psalm 51

M: The wages of sin is death.
Our LORD calls us to repent,
for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Romans 6

Matthew 4

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1

**P: We have sinned and done wrong.
We have been wicked and have rebelled.
We have turned away from your commands and laws.**

Daniel 9

M: Let us now confess our sins to our LORD, privately and silently.

–SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS–

Branches Band: *He forgives your sins and heals your diseases;
He redeems your life, crowning you with love.* Psalm 103

People: ***The Lord is gracious, abounding in his love.
He does not treat our sins according to what we deserve.*** Psalm 103

M: Our LORD wants all people to be saved
and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5

In him, we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1

P: **For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish,
but have eternal life.** John 3

Branches Band: *As high as the heavens, so great is his love for us;
As far as east is from west, he removed your sins.* Psalm 103

People: ***Praise the Lord, my soul; All my inmost being,
Praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul.*** Psalm 103

SALUTATION

M: The LORD be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through Baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise now and forever.

P: **Amen.**

The Word

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 19

²³ "Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
²⁷ I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the Branches Band will teach a song to the kids to sing their praises to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 1:18

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

M: Jesus says: I am alive for ever and ever!

P: And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL READING

John 20

M: The Gospel for the festival of Easter from St. John, chapter twenty:

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

GOSPEL READING

John 20

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

M: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord.

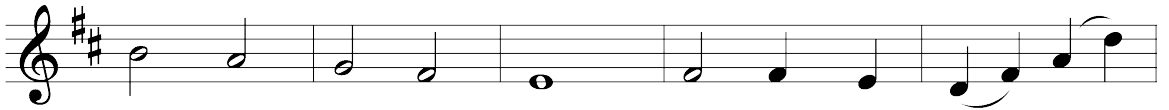
P: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Know That My Redeemer Lives! | **441 (1-4)**



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
in the sky; he lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

The Message

Job 19

See Him!

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: **We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.**

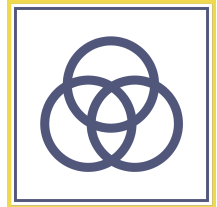
M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

APOSTLES' CREED ¹

**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.**



THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

¹ The Apostles' Creed first appeared in a letter written by Ambrose in 390 AD after a church council. This creed was written to confess the Bible's teachings in a simple way.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, God of grace, you have filled our hearts with resurrection joy by your victory over sin, death, and the grave.

P: You have conquered the darkness and given us comfort and hope.

M: With the Church of every age, we offer you unending praise, for you have crushed Satan's head and have removed our guilt. We who are weary and burdened come to you for rest, knowing that because of your perfect redemption there is now no condemnation for us.

P: Great is our joy in life through faith in your death and resurrection.

M: Holy Spirit, God of grace, you have called us by the gospel through Word and sacrament. All the praise goes to you for bringing us to saving faith in our risen Lord.

P: We glorify you for opening our eyes to see the light of life.

M: Triune God, keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the human urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose and peace that their eternal identity as your child is sealed.

P: Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for a godly life.

M: As we journey through life, make us yearn for the day when you will give eternal life to us and all believers in Christ. Hear, now, our private prayers.

A time for silent, personal prayer for God's people.

M: Work through us, as we proclaim the saving message of the crucified and risen Jesus near and far, so that many others may hear your call and receive your gift of salvation that is in Christ Jesus.

P: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SUNG BY THE BRANCHES BAND

HYMN

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word | 461

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled is
 God, my Lord; the gates of heav'n are o - pen.
 My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, and Sa - tan's ar - rows
 bro - ken lie, de - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.
 O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, ris - ing glo - rious,
 life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

*2 Our Lord is risen from the dead,
 And rays of glory crown his head;
 new hope has come to mortals.
 He rose in pow'r to smite his foes;
 He lives to free us from our woes
 and open heaven's portals.
 O hear, what cheer!
 Christ is risen! Come and listen
 to the story
 Christ the Lord is risen in glory!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Lord, you give us excitement and wonder as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service and bring us to the full glory of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

SUNG BY THE BRANCHES BAND

SONG OF DEPARTURE

I Know That My Redeemer Lives | **441 (5-8)**



5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to
6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'n - ly friend; he lives and
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; he lives, and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my



wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my
loves me to the end; he lives, and while he
I shall con - quer death; he lives my man - sion
Je - sus, still the same. Oh, the sweet joy this



trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.
lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King.
to pre - pare; he lives to bring me safe - ly there.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside this Easter morning to be with us in God's house. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. Speak with Pastor Albrecht after worship and let him know that you'd be interested in this study.

RIVER KIDS

APRIL 13TH (10AM)

Do you have little ones at home? Are you looking for encouragement and friendship? Would you like a fun place for your kids to learn new skills—all outside your home? Join us on April 13th for River Kids! It's a morning filled with arts, crafts, and learning tasks for kids ages 6 months & up. Gather together with other caregivers and enjoy adult conversation while your little ones learn and play!

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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Hymn #149 **Christ the Lord Is Risen Today** Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

Hymn #162 **He Is Arisen! Glorious Word** Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742-1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.

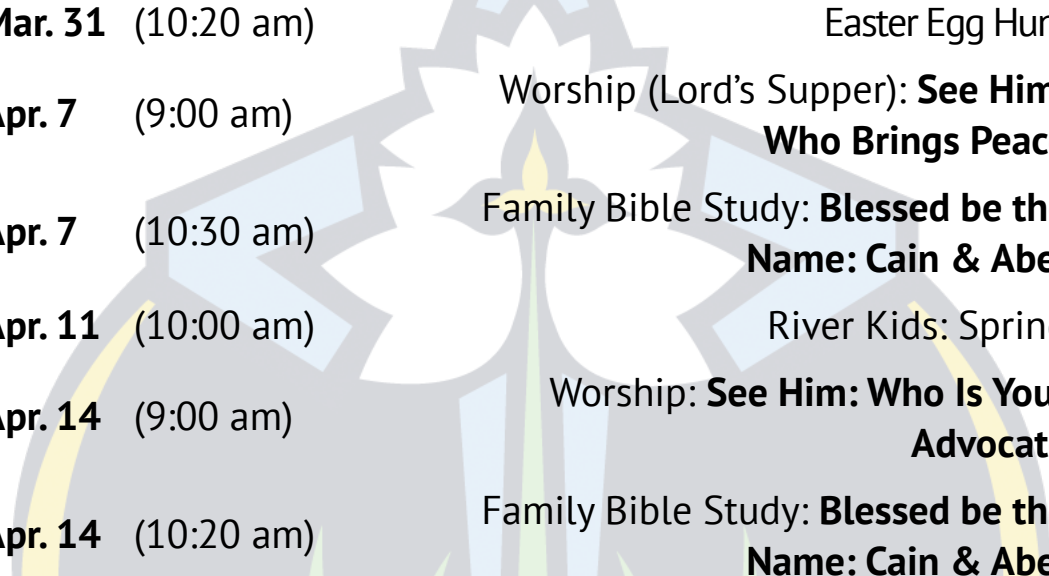
Hymn #157 **Jesus Christ Is Risen Today** Text: Latin hymn, 14th century, st. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707-88, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, st. 1-3, alt.

Hymn #152 **I Know That My Redeemer Lives** Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.

Hymn #461 **He Is Arisen! Glorious Word** Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.; Birgitte K. Boye, 1742-1824 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Mar. 31** (10:20 am) Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr. 7** (9:00 am) Worship (Lord's Supper): **See Him: Who Brings Peace**
- Apr. 7** (10:30 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Cain & Abel**
- Apr. 11** (10:00 am) River Kids: Spring
- Apr. 14** (9:00 am) Worship: **See Him: Who Is Your Advocate**
- Apr. 14** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Cain & Abel**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you