

A vertical photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright yellow circle just above the horizon, partially obscured by dark, silhouetted clouds. The sky is a mix of deep blue at the top and vibrant orange and yellow near the horizon. The ocean's surface is dark, with a shimmering reflection of the sun's light. The text is overlaid in a white, elegant script font.

*Jesus Christ  
is risen today  
Alleluia!*

# EASTER SUNDAY

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Setting Four*

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

## GATHERING

### WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

### EASTER LITANY

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

The grave is dark and never gives back.

**But God is stronger than all of death!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

In Christ, sorrow gives way to joy.

**The dead now rise to new life!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed, Alleluia!**

**GATHERING HYMN** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” **ELW 365**

### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 31:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines  
and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.

<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:

“Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel now declare,  
“God's mercy endures forever.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,**

**and declare the works<sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed pun-<sup>1</sup>ished me sorely,  
but did not hand me o-<sup>1</sup>ver to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the<sup>1</sup> gates of righteousness;**

**I will enter them and give thanks<sup>1</sup> to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
here the righ-<sup>1</sup>teous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have<sup>1</sup> answered me  
and you have become<sup>1</sup> my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the build-<sup>1</sup>ers rejected  
has become the chief<sup>1</sup> cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has<sup>1</sup> this been done;  
it is marvelous<sup>1</sup> in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the<sup>1</sup> LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be<sup>1</sup> glad in it.

**SOLO**

*Sylvia Reid*

**SECOND READING**

**Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**pg. 151**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 28th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For

fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*Please be seated*

## SERMON

*Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “This Joyful Eastertide” **ELW 391**

**NICENE CREED**

**pg. 104**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ’s victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus’ resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (especially). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**pg. 152**

**MEAL**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN** "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"  
(vs. 4) **ELW 367**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING** **pg. 152**

*Please kneel or sit*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** **pg. 154**

It is indeed right...

## **LORD'S PRAYER** **pg. 154**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*Please be seated*

## **LAMB OF GOD** **pg. 154**

*Please kneel or sit*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” **ELW 369**

“Now the Green Blade Rises” **ELW 379**

“Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus” **ELW 501**

*Please stand*

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BENEDICTION**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection  
dawn, now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”  
**ELW 367**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Postlude:*

## **Prayer List**

<b>For Health:</b>			<b>For Safety:</b>
Joyce G	Jessica A	Alexis R	Andrew C
Bill B	Charlotte D	Malynda A	Todd S
Cathy L	Jonathan A	Annamaria T	Michael C
Marion B	Pauline N	Brenda B	Tyler G
Lily V	Curt R	Lee T	Erik B
Holly N	Matthew S	Judi E	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Joan A	Liam S	Evan G
Lisa A	Diane E	Don R	David P
Aiden J	Dick C	David O	
Helen A	Karen R	Michael G	
Matthew A	Stacey T		
Bud J	Pat J		
Marjorie F	Lois B		
	Loee M		

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

We need volunteer to come to the **SYNOD Assembly**  
**June 4-6.**

If you are interested, please see Pastor Sara for details.

### **SERVING TODAY**

Chris Darby - Lector  
Michelle Schneider - Worship Assistant  
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg, - Ushers/Greeters  
Altar Guild Members - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist  
Sylvia Reid - Soloist

# WORK

# ZONE

**Notice:**

Work will continue through April on the outside of the building. This should not disrupt the flow of traffic, but occasionally, certain entrances will be closed and areas will be roped off and marked “No Parking” for safety reasons.

**Save the Date:**

*Italian*

*Night*



**Zion Lutheran Church  
Italian Night 2026**

Sunday, May 17th  
Social Hour: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 5:00 p.m.



**Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.**

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.



**RaiseRight**

**RaiseRight Gift Cards**

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.



**The Word in Season Daily Devotions for April, May and June** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

**VISION STATEMENT**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

**Today: April 5, 2026**

**Easter Sunday**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

**This Week:**

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Tuesday: **6:30 p.m.** Fife & Drum

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

**Next Sunday:**

**April 12, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:30 a.m.** Adult Education -

The Chosen Bible Study

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church



Attendance: Last week - 72; Last year - 52

Next weeks readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16;  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan**  
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**Portland, CT 06480**  
**860-342-2860**  
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## **Easter 2026 ~ Zion Lutheran Church**

The Lilies which decorate the church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

Bill and Agnes Petzold and George and Anna Cote given by Richard and Elaine Cote.

In loving memory of Rev. Clinton Chu and Sandra Chu Sponzo given by the Chu/Giardina family.

In loving memory of Nicholas Giardina given by the Chu Giardina family.

Our parents, Julius and Margaret Neumann, and Paul Edwards and Jean Josephs given by Dr. Louis, Pauline, Pamela Neumann and .

Dorthea and Milton Canzallerini given by Dr. Louis, Pauline, Pamela Neumann and Vincent and Jennifer Morey family.

The Perez family given by Rosa Perez and Geri Ristow.

The Ristow family given by Rosa Perez and Geri Ristow.

Norma and Robert Helming given by their loving family.

Teddy Johnson (Bumpie) given by Beth and Tom Keser and family.

Marie Keser (Grandma, GG) given by Beth and Tom Keser and family.

Nancy Godwin , beloved cousin, given by Beth and Tom Keser and family.

Carolyn Grant given by the Burney family.

Robert Dunfield given by the Burney family.

Robert Burney given by the Burney family.

Nancy Christina Godwin given by her loving husband, children and grandchildren.

James Dovali given by Jay and Diana Huntington.

Dan Dovali given by Jay and Diana Huntington.

In loving memory of Phyllis and Ernest Peterson, and William Raymond Peterson given by Martha and Jay Swanson and family.

In loving memory of William R. and Clara Emelia Peterson, and Raymond and Amy Schroll Smith given Martha and Jay Swanson and family.

In loving memory of Patricia and J. Elmer Swanson, given by Martha and Jay Swanson and family.

Barb Peuse given by Jerry Peuse and Shannon Backhaus.

Grace and Billy Olson, given by their family.

Debby Olson, given by her children, Kelsey and Erik Brown.

Helen and Mike Pasquarelli, given by Donny and Cheryl Pasquarelli.

Tommy Kuzina, given by Donny and Cheryl Pasquarelli.

Brendan Flannery, given by Karen, Caitlin, Jeff, and Kellen.

Winnie and Tony Flannery, given by Karen, Caitlin Jeff and Kellen.

Mickey and Rod Backman given by Bruce, Janice, Travis, Ashley and Brittany and Brian.

Dean and Darren Anderson, and Elizabeth, Douglas, Curt and Rose Allen given by Sue Anderson and family.

Edward and Olive Marlow given by Dill, Donna and Olivia Marlow.

Alan A. Anderson given by Dill, Donna and Olivia Marlow.

Dick Murphy and loved ones given by Carol Murphy.

Robert and Mary Pedersen given by Conny Bower, Amanda Riley, Estelle, Alexa and Kyla Riley.

Janet Bower given by Conny Bower, Amanda Riley, Estelle, Alexa and Kyla Riley.

Milton and Mary Bloomquist given by Charles Bloomquist.

Howard and Mary Jane Helveston given by Charles Bloomquist.

Robert (Skip) and Mary Wagner given by Charles Bloomquist.

Lori Peterson given by Charles Bloomquist.

Joseph, Sr. and Alice Degraff, Joseph, Jr. and Barbara Degraff, Jessica DeGraff, Richard, Sr. and Joan Dickinson, Richard Dickinson, Jr., Michael Dickinson, Karl and Helene Vogt, Ernst Vogt, Sr. Ernst Vogt, Jr., Denise Corder Cindy Bennett, Cheryl Ranno, and Leo DeGraff given by Marie DeGraff and family.

Walter and Carol Tacke given by Donna, Chris, Danielle, Courtney and Bryce Cote and Bill Tacke.

Scott and Todd Tacke given by Bill Tacke and Donna Cote.

Our grandparents given by Donna and Chris Cote.

Charles and Lucille Anderson given by the family.

Arvid, Hilda and Louise Anderson given by the family.

Ella and George Zuerlein and Elisabeth Krech given by Diane Zuerlein.

Charles and Ruth Johnson, Sr., Ronald J. Chiasson, Sr., Carl Fitzgibbons, Darlene Johnson and Elaine Bennett Andrews given by Sandra Chiasson, Charles (Bud) Johnson, Jr., Marjorie Fitzgibbons, Philip Johnson and their families.

Given by Craig, Paula and Rachel Brown in loving memory of our parents, sister, brother, aunts, uncles and cousins and in honor of Rachel's natal ancestors.

In loving memory of Marie and Karl Gustafson, Margaret Tester, Gertrude and Helen Reimer and our brother and friend to all, Jim Gustafson, who left us too soon and is so greatly missed. Given by Joan and Ted Tester.

Bill Perruccio, Clarence and Elsie Johnson and Salvatore and Louise Perruccio given by Gini Perruccio.

Our parents and grandparents, Loraine and Robert Taylor and other departed loved ones given by Virginia and Steve Duffy and Bonnine and Vin Labbadia and their families.

David L. Werner and his parents, The Reverend and Mrs. Oscar V. Werner, Missionaries to India, given by their family.

In loving memory of my husband, Wilhelm Kutz and my daughter, Christina Kutz given by Roselies Kutz.

In memory of our parents George and Helen Hanson given by Shirley, Barbara, Carole and Robert.

In memory of Mack and Pearl Epperson and Ted and Phinetta Needham, beloved grandparents and great-grandparents given by Chris and Kerry Darby.

In memory of Bill and Marlene Darby and Michael Darby, beloved grandparents given by Chris and Kerry Darby.