

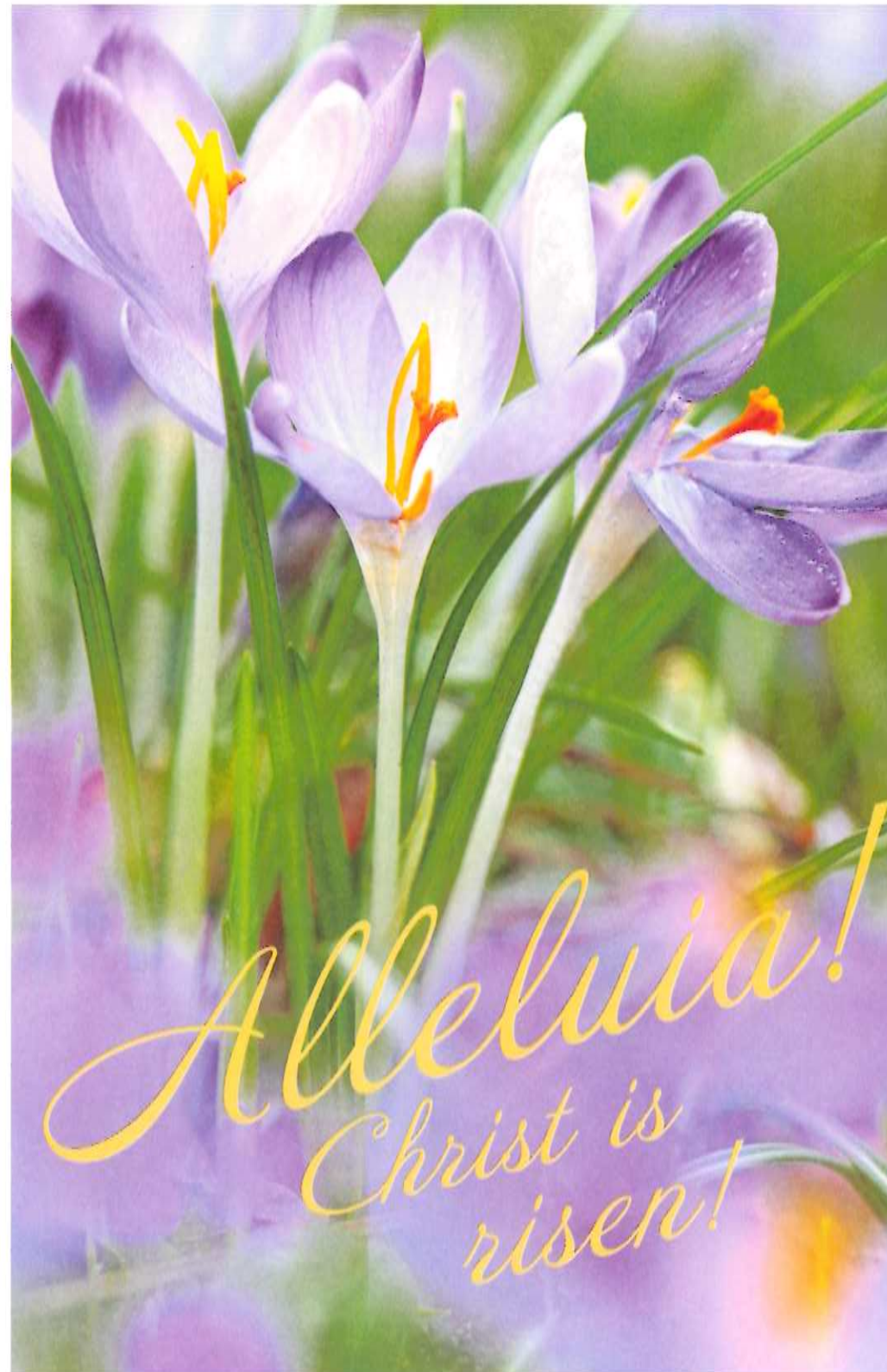
## It's Not Over Yet

When you think back over your favorite books, do you remember the endings? If the story leads to a satisfying conclusion, even if the plot twists and turns, the writer keeps our attention. When we commit to a book, we put a lot of faith in the author to tell a good story and to wrap up their tale in a way that makes sense. When the ending is unclear or unbelievable, we wish we hadn't invested so much time in their book.

When Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to Jesus' tomb, they thought they knew the ending of his story. Jesus' death on the cross brought his ministry to an abrupt conclusion. There was nothing left to do but show their devotion by anointing him with spices. How surprised the women must have been to hear that Jesus' story hadn't ended after all! He had been raised. He was going ahead of his followers to Galilee. They would see him again!

To us, this story of Jesus' resurrection is familiar, so we hear it as good news. For the women, though, it was terrifying. This wasn't how they expected Jesus' story to turn out. They had seen him die on the cross, and now they were being told he was alive? They didn't know what to make of this twist in Jesus' story. They were so afraid that they fled.

The women ran away because they were shocked when the story didn't turn out the way they expected. But soon they would learn that this was a *happy* ending: Where they had seen death, God made a way for new life! What seemed like the conclusion was actually a beginning. It was the dawn of a new day, a resurrection day. As followers of Jesus, we don't know what our future holds or how our stories will end, but we can trust that Jesus is alive. He goes ahead of us, leading us into a future full of God's love and grace.





Millcreek Lutheran Church  
The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday  
March 31, 2023  
9:00 A.M.

Welcome visitors! "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" We welcome you to our church family as we celebrate the risen Christ in our lives and in our world. We pray that you will meet the living Lord as you worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and believe that Christ is your Savior and present in the Sacrament, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. All children who have received Communion instruction and have been approved to receive Holy Communion either here or at another church are also welcome to commune with us. Any child may come forward for a blessing. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here.

Prayer: Eternal God, who revealed your victory over the grave through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus: Give us victory over all which destroys the fullness of life you have given us; that we may come alive with renewed faith, in the sure hope that we shall experience fullness of life forever in the presence of Christ our risen Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

**The Service**

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation:

Senior Choir: *Come to the Tomb*

\*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

\*Opening Hymn: **No. 151 LBW (green)**,

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

\*Greetings: Page 57, line 5

\*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6 & 7

\*Hymn of Praise: The Feast of Victory, Page 60

\*Prayer of the Day: (on the lesson insert, read in unison)

Children's Sermon

The First Reading:(on the lesson insert)

The Psalmody: (on the lesson insert, read responsively)

The Second Reading:(on the lesson insert)

\*The Gospel:(on the lesson insert)

\*The Gospel Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **No. 564 NCH (red)**, *Christ Arose*

\*The Prayers: Page 65, line 22

\*The Greeting of Peace: Page 66

\*The Great Thanksgiving: Pages 68-71, lines 28, 29 & 31

\*The Lord's Prayer: Page 71, (spoken)

Senior Choir Communion Anthem: *In Remembrance of Me*

Holy Communion (continuous)

\*Post Communion Prayer: Page 74, line 40

\*Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43

\*Departing Hymn: **No. 122 NCH (red)**, *Because He Lives*

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

**\*Please stand**

**Serving you this morning:**

**Pastor,**

The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

**Lay Leader,**

Scott Johnson

**Organist, Pianist**

Debra Tice

**Lay Reader,**

Linda Sheetz

**Ushers/Audio,**

Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

*The altar flowers and bulletins are presented to the honor and glory of God, and in memory of Joseph Hudak, Jr. (Uncle Joe) by Ann Marie and David Engle.*

*The Easter flowers in the windows are in memory of the Paul Bennett Family.*







# Today's Readings

Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day  
March 31, 2024

## 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.**

## First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

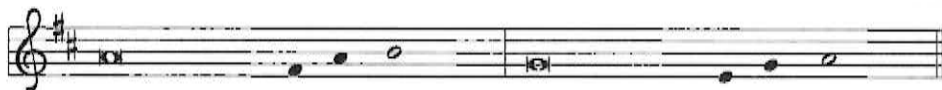
Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We

are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

or Isaiah 25:6-9 [not printed]

## Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; tone 1



Give thanks to the LORD,  
for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.  
<sup>3</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 of the LORD.  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.  
<sup>19</sup>Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them  
and give thanks to the LORD.  
<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."  
<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you,  
for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.

continued

Psalm, continued

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-1

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred

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

brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and my grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

or Acts 10:34-43 [printed on p. 1]

## Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe,

sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

or John 20:1-18 [not printed]

TODAY'S READINGS March 31, 2024

Volume 55, Number

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31.

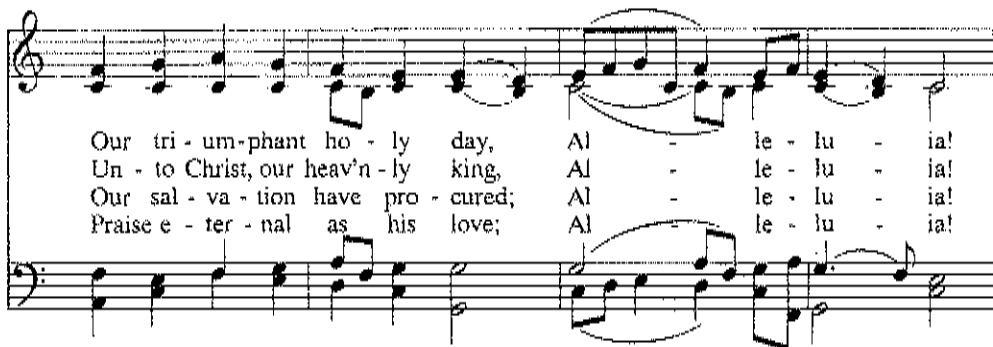
TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0186, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum on 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm 118 accompaniment is in Psalter for Worship, Year B (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year B.

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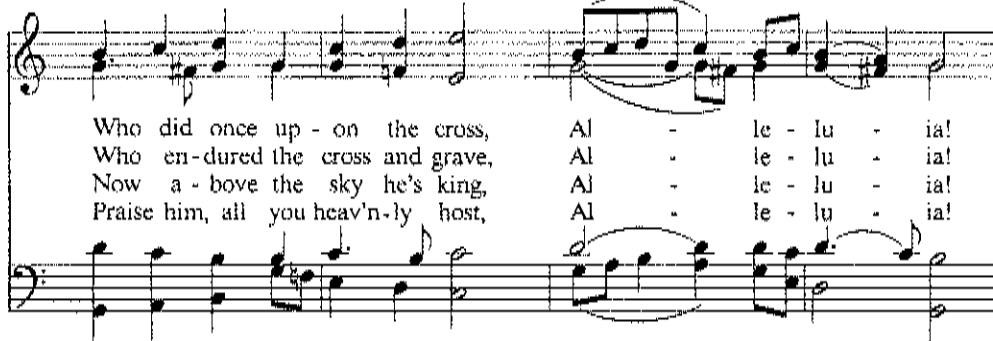
## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



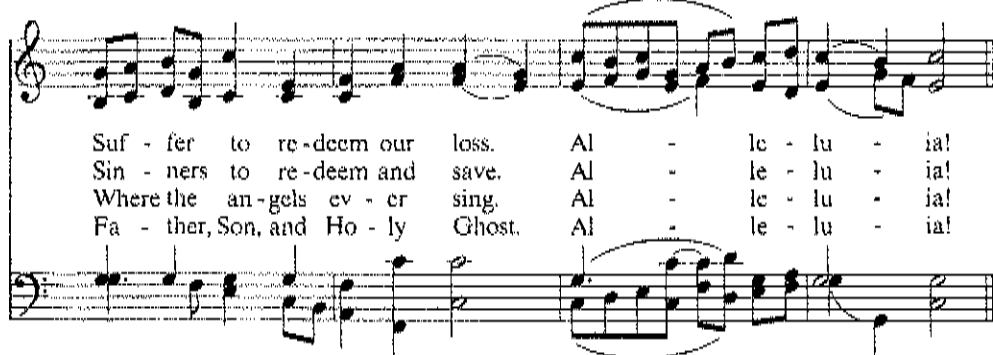
1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - umphant 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!

## Christ Arose

Robert Lowry

Robert Lowry



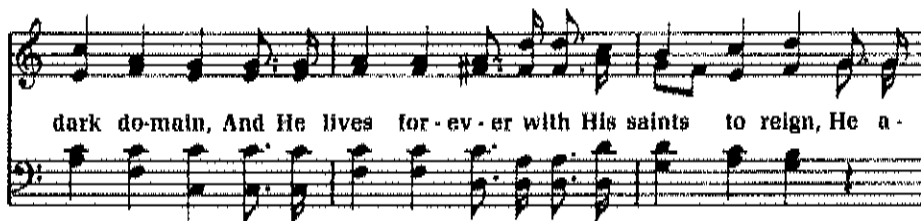
2. Low in the grave He lay Je - sus my Sav - iour! Wait - ing the com - ing day  
 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed Je - sus my Sav - iour! Vain - ly they seal the dead  
 3. Death can - not keep his prey Je - sus my Sav - iour! He tore the bars a - way



*Refrain Faster*  
 Je - sus my Lord! Up from the grave He a - rose, He a - rose, With a



might - y tri - umph o'er His foes; He a - rose a Vic - tor from the  
 He a - rose!



dark do - main, And He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign, He a -



rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!  
 He a - rose! He a - rose!



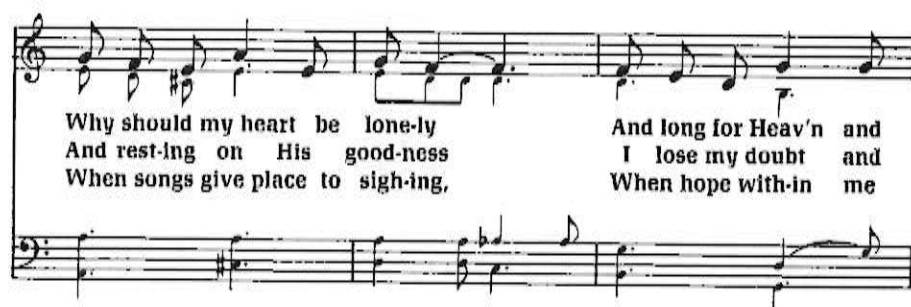
## His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Mrs. L.D. Martin  
*Unison or Solo*

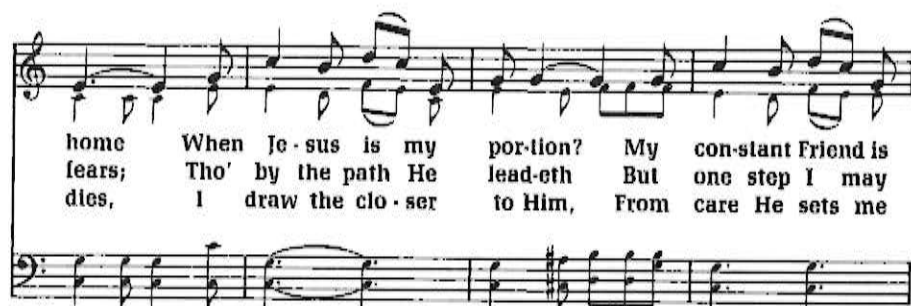
Charles H. Gabriel



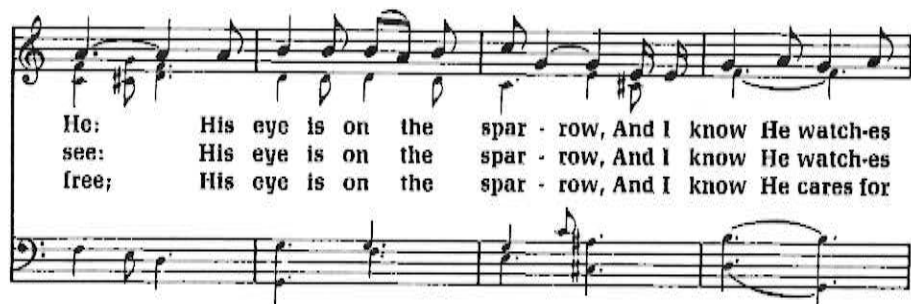
1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged,      Why should the sha-dows come,  
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled,"      His ten-der word I hear,  
3. When-ev-er I am temp-ted,      When-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly      And long for Heav'n and  
And rest-ing on His good-ness      I lose my doubt and  
When songs give place to sigh-ing,      When hope with-in me



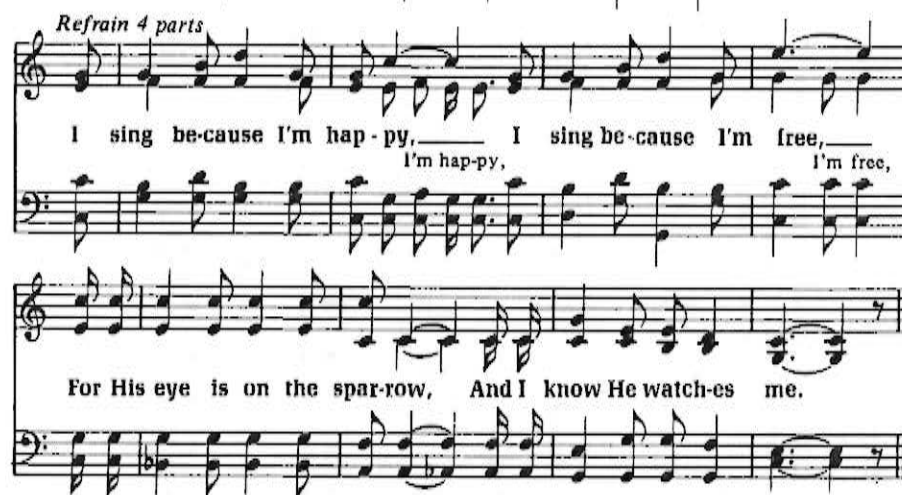
home      When Je-sus is my      por-tion?      My con-stant Friend is  
fears;      Tho' by the path He      lead-eth      But one step I may  
dies,      I draw the clo-ser      to Him,      From care He sets me



He:      His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es  
see:      His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es  
free;      His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He cares for



me; His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watches me.  
me; His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watches me.  
me; His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He cares for me.



*Refrain 4 parts*  
I sing be-cause I'm hap-py,      I sing be-cause I'm free,  
I'm hap-py,      I'm free,  
For His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.



"The Church on the Hill"

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Home: (717) 628-1241  
Cell: (540) 335-1693  
[pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsscottparadise@gmail.com)

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### Our Mission

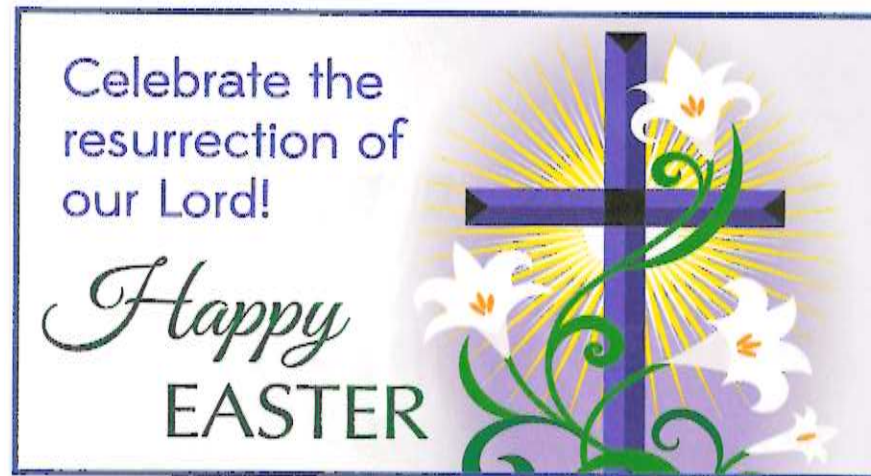
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Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

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**Sunday March 31, 2024**

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You can **listen to the Easter worship service** over the phone patch at 9:00 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

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## Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

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**HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS DURING LENT:** The Sharing Cupboard food pantry has been a local food resource since 2008. It was started at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren for people living in the ELCO School District who experience food insecurity. Since then, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of families needing help. Now they serve approximately 100 families monthly.

**THE SHARING CUPBOARD** asked area churches if they'd be willing to choose a month during the year to have a food drive. The Evangelism Committee at Millcreek Lutheran decided to take on this challenge and chose the month of March. Coincidentally, Lent and Easter are in March this year. The Committee will have an area in our church narthex for you to place your donations. **Please pick up a list of foods at that display that the pantry is saying they need.** This project will begin March 1 and end **March 31.** Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness..."

*On behalf of the Sharing Cupboard at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren, we thank you kindly for the donation of groceries to our Sharing Cupboard. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for thinking of the less fortunate in our ELCO Community. If you know of an individual or family that is in need, please let them know of our services. They only need to reside in the ELCO Community. God Bless you all! The Volunteers at the Sharing Cupboard*

**CAMP KIRCHENWALD SUMMER CAMP:** Pamphlets for camp registration are in the wall rack in the narthex.

**THE FRIENDS OF SPANG CREST** 2024 annual membership drive is presently going on and will continue till **March 31.** By donating towards this membership drive Friends of Spang Crest help provide special activities and projects for the Spang Crest residents. In the last year Millcreek has lost two of its longtime faithful givers to this wonderful cause and we need some additional new faces to step in with any donation certainly appreciated. Last year Millcreek helped this cause by having 23 contributors and raising \$456 - please consider stepping forward this year if you didn't already. Please see Margie to contribute.

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## Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

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**Our Easter Sunday Worship Service** on March 31st will start at 9:00 AM (one service). *We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. There will be a special activity time for the children.*

Pastor Scott will be on vacation from Saturday, April 6 through Saturday, April 13. If you have a pastoral emergency during the time Pastor Scott is away, please contact Pastor Angie Hammer (717.682.6580). Pastor Scott will be at Millcreek for worship on Sunday, April 14.





The guest pastor for **Sunday, April 7** is **Chaplain Michael Yesenko**. He is serving as Chaplain to Spang Crest, a Luthercare Community, in Lebanon and provides pastoral care to residents, families and staff. Michael completed a Chaplain Residency at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. His Lutheran Studies were completed at United Lutheran Seminary. He worked in the Federal and private non-profit sectors after he received his Master of Divinity at Vanderbilt University and Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychology at Concordia College. Michael grew up on a farm in central North Dakota and now calls Pennsylvania home. His hobbies include hiking and kayaking.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: March 24, 2024**-Current Offerings-\$2,050.00, Plate-193.00, Easter Offering-300.00, Flowers-30.00, Building Rental-150.00, Coffee-12.00. **Total-\$2,735.00.** Attendance-75, Sunday School-21

**EASTER FLOWERS:** If you ordered Easter Flowers, they will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. Contact Carol Sova at 717-507-4721 with questions or concerns.

**THE NURSERY** will not be staffed by myself on Easter Sunday, but you may take your child into the nursery if you stay with them. Stephanie Sheetz

**2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS** are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

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### Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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*Hello Millcreek Family,  
I just wanted to say thank you to the congregation for the Subway gift card and fun submarine craft! I really appreciate you thinking of me. There is a Subway right on the corner of my campus, so it's very convenient for me. Thanks again, Abbie Keath*

*Dear MLC,  
Thank you for the Subway gift card and thinking of me at Shippensburg. Your gift was so generous. Every time I go to Subway I will think of our church family. Thank you again! Devon Rosengrant*

**THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:** Kathryn Zerbe, Genesis Sinking Spring Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3000 Windmill Rd., Sinking Spring, PA 19608



IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. [secretary@millcreeklutheran.com](mailto:secretary@millcreeklutheran.com) or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Julie Strickler, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Tina Kale, and Stacy Negron (friends of Linda Hable)