



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Third Sunday of Easter **May 4, 2025**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Merciful Father, in Your great love You bestowed forgiveness upon Saul, and by Your Spirit, You brought him to faith in Your Son. Grant that we, too, may be rescued from unbelief and, by Your grace, be granted the favor of Your friendship and redemption to believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and to serve His purpose in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Today's Service: *Morning Praise, NPH; used with permission under the OneLicense.net copyright agreement #A-800156. The service is a revision of the historic Order of Matins. Matins (comes from the Latin matutinus meaning "of the morning") was the monastic service marking the beginning of the new day. In Morning Praise we sing back to God the message He has given us in His word.*

THEME FOR THE SERVICE

BECAUSE HE LIVES WE CAN SEE THINGS CLEARLY

A recent survey asked Americans which of the five senses they would least like to lose. 77% chose sight. Navigating life blind poses a plethora of challenges that the sighted do not face. This is why Scripture often uses the concept of blindness as a metaphor for how hard it is to navigate life without a correct understanding of Christ. Spiritual blindness can take many different forms. In some cases, it is hostile opposition to the message of Jesus. In others, spiritual blindness might be demonstrated in confusion about Jesus' true identity. In still others, spiritual blindness might be the inability to understand our spiritual condition.

No matter the form spiritual blindness takes, Easter has the power to replace it with sight. Easter allows us to see where we sinners stand with a holy God. It enables us to see the path through life that is worth pursuing (as opposed to those that lead to a dead end). Spiritual sight gives us the ability to see who holds our future in his hands and who is worth our eternal worship. Because he lives, we can see things clearly.

OPENING HYMN CW 445 “He’s Risen” (CW93 143)

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 30:5, 8*

P: To You, O Lord, I called,
C: **to the Lord I cried for mercy.**

P: For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime.
C: **Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.
C: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

P: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.
C: **Amen.**

DIALOGUE FOR MORNING PRAISE

P: O Lord, open my lips.
C: **And my mouth shall declare Your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.
C: **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

P: In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;
C: **in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation.**

P: I will exalt You, my God the King;
C: **I will praise Your name forever and ever.**

P: Every day I will praise You.
C: **and extol Your name forever and ever.**

(cont.)

P: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
C: **Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
C: **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

(We sing words from Psalm 95 in a song called the "Venite." Please sing whatever part / parts you are comfortable singing.)



Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!



Shout to the rock of our sal - va - tion!



Come, let us greet him with a song of praise, for



great is our God, the King of all kings!



Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Let us bow down and worship the Lord;
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
For this is our God whose people we are:
Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

Great is the Lord and worthy of praise:
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Sing to the Lord and bless His name:
Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

All that has life and breath shall rejoice:
Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!
The great and the small, all creatures of God:

Women: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Refrain

Heaven and earth, rejoice in His name:
Come let us sing with joy to the Lord!
He governs the world with justice and truth:

Women: Come let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Men: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Final Refrain

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Shout to the rock of our sal - va - tion!

Come, let us greet him with a song of praise, for
great is our God, the King of all kings!

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord!

LESSON FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 9:1-19 – To get his attention, Jesus struck Saul blind. Then he not only restored Saul's physical sight but also gave Saul spiritual sight. Saul was given faith in the One who had risen from the dead.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"⁵ "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied.⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
 joice and be glad! This is the day the
 Lord has made, let us re - joice and be glad!

Psalm tone

The LORD is my strength and my song;*
 he has become my salvation.

The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;*
 the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live,*
 and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
 you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

EPISTLE

Revelation 5:11-14 – While in exile on the island of Patmos, St. John was given special sight, the ability to see the sacrificial Lamb who is worthy of our worship and praise.

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Long Before the World Is Waking” (vs. 1-3 sung by the kids, vs. 4-5 sung by the congregation)

*Long before the world is waking, morning mist on Galilee.
From the shore as dawn is breaking, Jesus calls across the sea:
Hails the boat of weary men, bids them cast their nets again.*

*So they cast, and all their heaving cannot haul their catch aboard:
John in wonder turns perceiving, cries aloud “It is the Lord.”
Peter waits for nothing more, plunges in to swim ashore.*

*Charcoal embers brightly burning, bread and fish upon them laid:
Jesus stands at day returning in His risen life arrayed.
As of old His friends to greet, “Here is breakfast, come and eat.”*

**Christ is risen, grief and sighing, sins and sorrows fall behind;
Fear and failure, doubt denying, full and free forgiveness find.
All the soul’s dark night is past. Morning breaks in joy at last.**

**Morning breaks and Jesus meets us, feeds and comforts, pardons still;
As His faithful friends He greets us, partners of His work and will.
All our days on ev’ry shore, Christ is our forevermore.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 21:1-14 – Many of the disciples first met Jesus while fishing near the Sea of Galilee. At the time they were spiritually blind, not realizing who Jesus was. The resurrected Jesus now appears again to these disciples while they are fishing, and this time they see Him clearly through eyes of faith.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Afterward Jesus appeared again to His disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY CW 453 "The Tomb is Empty"

THE SERMON

(After the sermon, we sing the "Te Deum," an ancient and majestic canticle of the Christian church, a confession of faith, a mighty hymn of praise to God. Luther loved the Te Deum and referred to it as a fine creed.)

TE DEUM CANTICLE



1 We praise You and ac - knowl - edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a - pos - tles in glo - ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo - ry, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
4 You sit in splen - did glo - ry, en - throned at God's right hand,



The Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, by all the earth a - dored.
The fel - low - ship of proph - ets their death - less voic - es raise.
Yet You, with bound - less love, sought to res - cue ev - 'ry - one:
Up - hold - ing earth and heav - en by forc - es You com - mand.



To You all an - gel pow - ers cry a - loud, the heav - ens sing,
The mar - tyrs of Your king - dom, a great and no - ble throng,
You laid a - side Your glo - ry, were born of vir - gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi - nal day,



The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring:
Sing with the ho - ly Church through - out all the world this song:
Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb;
So help Your ser - vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
"O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son,
Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re - priev - e—
May we with saints be num - bered where prais - es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav - ens and the earth!"
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com - fort - er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
You o - pened heav - en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

OFFERINGS

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



THE KYRIE

P: In the morning, O Lord, I call to You; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Emboldened by Your mercy, we come before You, O Lord, with the prayers and petitions of our hearts and with confidence in Your good and gracious will to answer our prayers.

Blessed Lord, You forgave Peter his betrayal and appointed him to feed Your sheep. Forgive our sins, restore us to Your service, and bless all that we do that it may be to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: By Your grace, O Lord, You turned Saul from an enemy of Your kingdom into Your servant and sent him as an apostle to the Gentiles. Turn the hearts of our own rebellion, and by Your Spirit wear down our resistance to Your Word, that we also may be bold witnesses to Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: As You have willed, O Lord, Your Son established the church. Continue to set apart pastors to feed the people of Your pasture upon the food of Your Word and Sacraments. Bless our synod president, our district president; our pastors and all church workers that their service may be fruitful and faithful. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: By Your power, O Lord, You order the nations of the earth and hold our leaders accountable for justice, for the promotion of virtue, and for peace. Bless us with good and honest leaders who will hear and heed Your voice that we may live peaceful and quiet lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: According to Your will, O Lord, You heal the sick. Hear us on behalf of all who suffer any ill of body or mind and grant them strength for the day and keep them in Your grace to everlasting life. Guard us against despair and keep us in the day of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: By Your grace, O Lord, You have named us as Your own in the baptismal water and joined us to Christ's death and resurrection. Grant that by Your grace we may live holy, upright, and godly lives, displaying in our life and conduct the goodness of Your love and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: By Your love You have provided us with a great company of witnesses through time and history and encouraged us through their witness. Deliver the grieving from their sorrows, [especially . . .], and bring us all together with Your servant Paul to behold You face to face in the life that death cannot overcome. Lord, in Your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

P: I nto Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us praise the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

THE BLESSING

P: The Lord bless and keep you.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord's face ever shine upon you.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord grant you peace for all your days.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN CW 467 "With High Delight Let Us Unite" (CW 93 168)

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Sarvady

Today—Third Sunday of Easter Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Adopt-a-Highway at noon

Confirmation Class at 4:00 PM

Monday—Circuit Meeting in Palatine at 9:30 AM

Tuesday—Preschool Open House from 5:00 to 6:30 PM

Thursday—Green Team from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM (Pine Car Derby)

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Sunday—Mother's Day Breakfast at 8:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and adult Bible class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted to provide something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers March 2025 through June 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 21-25. Please mark your calendar.

BRANCH CONNECTION

The Branch Connection, the lady's group of New Life, will have their next meeting on Tuesday, May 13 at noon.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, April 27th we have received \$200,358 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$3,404 ahead of the budget, which is \$3,041 worse than the previous week. In total we have received \$12,821 in gifts for the sign fund to date.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, the Sunday School will learn the story, "The Gift of the Holy Spirit," and the adult Bible class will take a look at the Apostle Peter.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

You are invited to join with members in cleaning up our stretch of Long Grove Road today at noon.

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE WIND SYMPHONY

An MLC Wind Symphony concert will be held in our area on Thursday, May 22 at Jerusalem in Morton Grove at 11:00 AM.

TESLA CYBERTRUCK DERBY

The Green Team pine car derby will happen this Thursday at the Green Team meeting.

DIGITAL SIGN UPDATE (Updated)

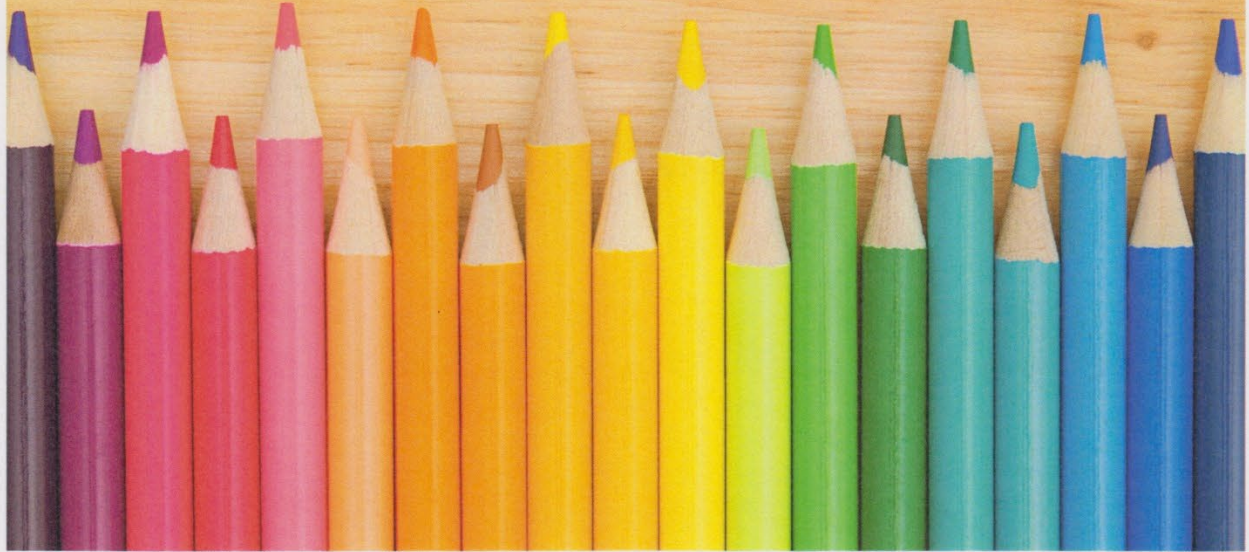
In April the church council reviewed multiple bids to refurbish and upgrade our existing church sign to incorporate digital LED color message boards. The project involves removing our sign temporarily to facilitate the refurbishment and upgrade. Internal florescent lighting will be replaced with white LED lighting behind new polycarbonate church name and logo panels, and the current message area of the sign will be replaced with 3'x8' LED color panels. DG DeSignGroup in Des Plaines was selected to do the work. The cost is \$17,801 plus permits and electrical work, approximately \$18,000-\$19,000 when complete. This is substantially less than the \$35,000 of the original bids.

The lower bid was accomplished through reduction of the LED panel size and rebidding the project. Currently, we have \$12,821 in gifts that have been given towards the project. The balance of the cost will come from our reserves. Members who wish to contribute to the project are invited to do so. Please mark sign fund on your check or envelope. Gifts given will be used for the sign project and further reduce any amounts we would otherwise have to spend from our reserves.

The council thanks John Lester for leading this effort, finding vendors, and obtaining quotes, and Patrick Dexter for helping secure the winning bid. If members have questions regarding the project, please speak with a council member.



Open House



Tree of Life Lutheran Preschool Little Sprouts Toddler Program Open House

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

The open house is an opportunity to tour the facility and meet the staff.

Enrollment in our early childhood program comes primarily through word of mouth. If you know of someone who has a preschool aged child, please invite them to attend the open house.

