

 <h1 style="text-align: right;">Redeemer Lutheran Church</h1> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>          Thursday, April 22, 2021 – 6:00 pm          Sunday, April 25, 2021 – 8:00 am          Sunday, April 25, 2021 – 10:45 am</p> <p><b>Family of Believers</b>  <small>HEBREWS 12:1-3</small> <b>Eyes ON Jesus</b></p>
<p><b>Grow In Christ</b> ♦ <b>SHARE HIS LOVE</b> ♦ <b>Encourage</b></p>
<p><b>Our Mission Statement:</b> <i>“As Christians based on the solid foundation of God’s Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit we strive to live out, lift up, and share our faith in Jesus Christ – welcoming all into our Family of Believers.”</i></p> <p><b>Values:</b>          Truth, Prayer, Family of Believers, Teaching, Community Engagement, Healing/Caring, Joy</p>

**OUR THEME FOR TODAY:** How can the tomb be empty? Fantastical delusions, persistent denial, desperate grave robbing? These have all been levied as questions or accusations against the confession of faith that “Jesus is risen” and the tomb is empty. How do we answer these questions? What does it matter for us today?

**CONNECT CARDS:** During this COVID time, we ask that EVERYONE who worships to please fill out the Connect Card and drop it into the little house located in the Narthex as you leave. Thank you.

**MASKS:** Please remember that masks are to be worn over your nose and mouth at all times while you are in the building. Thank you!

**SINGING:** As we sing in praise of our Savior, and in love and care for our neighbor, please refrain from singing loudly. We ask that those worshipping in person sing along on the **bold stanzas**. We encourage those worshipping at home to sing all verses!

(\*) Those who are able are asked to stand during these parts of the Service.

**+ We Come Into God's Presence +**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING HYMN**      “If Christ Had Not Been Raised From Death” .....LSB 486

- 1      *If Christ had not been raised from death  
Our faith would be in vain,  
Our preaching but a waste of breath,  
Our sin and guilt remain.  
But now the Lord is ris'n indeed;  
He rules in earth and heav'n:  
His Gospel meets a world of need—  
In Christ we are forgiv'n.*
- 2      **If Christ still lay within the tomb  
Then death would be the end,  
And we should face our final doom  
With neither guide nor friend.  
But now the Savior is raised up,  
So when a Christian dies  
We mourn, yet look to God in hope—  
In Christ the saints arise!**
- 3      **If Christ had not been truly raised  
His Church would live a lie;  
His name should nevermore be praised,  
His words deserve to die.  
But now our great Redeemer lives;  
Through Him we are restored;  
His Word endures, His Church revives  
In Christ, our risen Lord.**

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**(\*) CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *(Please stand.)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** *(Please be seated.)*

**+ God Speaks to Us +**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

L: The First Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is from the fourth chapter of Acts.

<sup>1</sup> The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. <sup>2</sup> They were greatly disturbed because the apostles

were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the

message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of

the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." <sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:1-12 NIV*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The Second Reading is from the third chapter of 1 John.

<sup>16</sup> This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is

greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. *1 John 3:16-24 NIV*

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.** *(Please stand.)*

**(\*) GOSPEL READING**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we

were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

*Matthew 28:11-15 NIV*

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** *(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN** "Christ The Lord, Is Risen Today" (He's Not Dead)

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, alleluia;  
Sons of men and angels say, alleluia.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, alleluia;  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply, alleluia.**

**Lives again our glorious King, alleluia;  
Where oh death is now thy sting,  
alleluia.  
Dying once He all doth save, alleluia;  
Where thy victory, oh grave, alleluia.**

*Chorus:* **He is not dead, He is alive;  
We have this hope, in Jesus  
Christ.**

**Love's redeeming work is done, alleluia;  
Fought the fight, the battle won, alleluia.  
Death, in vain, forbids Him rise, alleluia;  
Christ has opened paradise, alleluia.**

*Chorus*

**Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia  
Foll'wing our exalted Head, alleluia.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, alleluia;  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,  
alleluia. *Chorus***

*Chorus*

**SERMON MEDITATION**

"Empty Tomb" – Matthew 28:11-15

**+ We Respond To God's Word +**

**(\*) 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.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**      "I Am Jesus Little Lamb" – Kaylee Mueller

**(\*) OFFERTORY**

**P:**      As you received their praises, accept the gifts we bring, O source of every blessing, our good and gracious King!

**C:**      **All glory laud and honor to you Redeemer, King! To whom the lips of Children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**(\*) PRAYERS**

**P:**      Lord in your mercy,

**C:**      **Hear our prayer.**

**(\*) LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:**    **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.**

**+ God Sends Us Forth to Serve and Proclaim +**

**(\*) BENEDICTION**

- P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
- C: **The tomb is empty! Alleluia!**
- P: Death no longer has any power over Him.
- C: **Our faith is not in vain! Alleluia!**
- P: Fear no longer has any hold over us
- C: **He is with us as we share His love and victory over death and hell. Alleluia!**
- P: Go into your life and see Jesus at work.
- C: **Just as He said. Alleluia**

**CLOSING MEDITATION**      “The King Of Love My Shepherd Is” ..... LSB 709

- |  |  |
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| <p>1 <i>The King of love my shepherd is,<br/>Whose goodness faileth never;<br/>I nothing lack if I am His<br/>And He is mine forever.</i></p> <p>2 <i>Where streams of living water flow,<br/>My ransomed soul He leadeth<br/>And, where the verdant pastures<br/>grow,<br/>With food celestial feedeth.</i></p> <p>3 <i>Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,<br/>But yet in love He sought me<br/>And on His shoulder gently laid<br/>And home rejoicing brought me.</i></p> | <p>4 <i>In death’s dark vale I fear no ill<br/>With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,<br/>Thy rod and staff my comfort still,<br/>Thy cross before to guide me.</i></p> <p>5 <i>Thou spreadst a table in my sight;<br/>Thine unction grace bestoweth;<br/>And, oh, what transport of delight<br/>From Thy pure chalice floweth!</i></p> <p>6 <i>And so through all the length of days<br/>Thy goodness faileth never;<br/>Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise<br/>Within Thy house forever!</i></p> |
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*(The Ushers will dismiss you. We encourage you to socialize outside following social distance guidelines.)*

# Redeemer Lutheran Church

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY!

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

**Live Stream Worship Sundays at 8 am on:**

**Facebook page:** Redeemer Lutheran Church - Rochester, MN

**YouTube:** RLC - Family of Believers

**Indoor Worship:** (*Sanctuary*)

**Thursdays** at 6 pm and **Sundays** at 8:00 & 10:45 am

### DIGGING DEEPER

✚ Join a Life Group or use materials located on the website under the Life Group heading.

✚ Adult Education—watch live (or later) on Sundays at 9:30 am via our Facebook and YouTube channels.

## Weekly Announcements and Highlights

### Special Prayer Opportunities:

#### Health Concerns:

✚ Sharon Thede, Elaine Gittus, Jennifer Pralle, Kathy Voight, Marcia Hass, Gloria Nihart, Mary Frances Burton, Tom Burton

#### Receiving Hospice Care:

✚ Eldora Krueger  
✚ Doug Koepsell

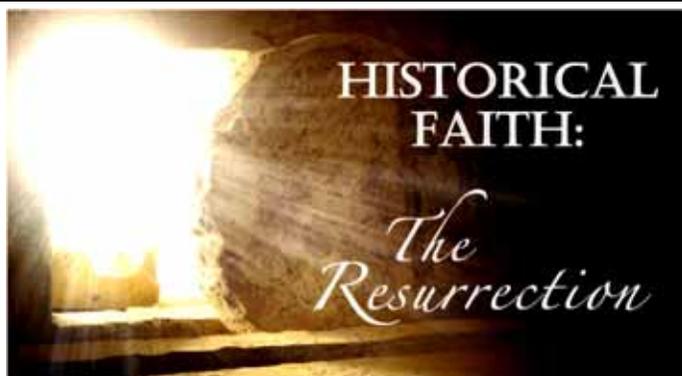
#### Faith:

✚ For our Confirmands as they publicly proclaim their faith.  
✚ For missionaries of the Gospel both near and far.

### Praying for our Family of Believers:

✚ Roger and Karen Wrase  
✚ John and Elaine Grudem  
✚ John Brandt  
✚ Eric and Kate Brown, Jace, Ryan, Rory and Bode

**PRAYER CHAINS** – If you have a prayer request, call Gail Sim (289-2087), the church office (289-5147), or send an email to Lori Hameister at [littlebitmoo@gmail.com](mailto:littlebitmoo@gmail.com).



### Historical Faith: The Resurrection Beginning April 25

Throughout this series we will look at 5 historical reasons why we can be confident that Jesus truly did what the Scriptures say and our faith believes—He rose from the dead. In each case, we can stop and with Thomas confess Jesus as, “My Lord and My God!”

### GRIEF AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP STARTING SOON

Please consider joining our May-June Grief and Loss Support Group, starting the week of May 3rd-the week of June 7th. Please call the church office or Kathy Zarling, Parish Nurse (507-398-7036), if you would like to be a part of this group.

### FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL

Are in honor of Doris Moore’s 93rd birthday on April 24.

### CONFIRMATION SERVICE SUNDAY APRIL 25 — 1 PM Redeemer Parking Lot

Celebrate with your Family of Believers as 11 of our Youth publicly proclaim their faith in the Rite of Confirmation. All are welcome to come and support these young people on their faith journey.

# This Week At Redeemer

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Spring Clean Up Day—8:00 am to Noon

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25

**WORSHIP—Livestream/In-Person—8 am**

Sunday School—In Person—9:15 am

SS Virtual (3 and 4 yrs.—9:30 am)

SS Virtual (Kindergarten/Grades 1 & 2 ) - 10:00 am

**WORSHIP—Indoor—10:45 am**

SS Virtual (Grades 3-6) - 11:30 am

SS Virtual (Grades 7-12) - 11:30 am

Pre-Marital Class—SFH—Noon

Alleluia Singers—1:00 pm

Confirmation—Outdoors—1:00 pm

## MONDAY, APRIL 26

Quilters—NFH—8 am

Emmanuel CC—Upper Rm—4 pm

Friendship Team—Library—7 pm

## TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Men's Bible Study—Zoom - 9:00 am

Faithfully Fit Exercise—SFH—9:30 am

Staff Meeting—Sanctuary—9:30 am

Couples in Christ CC—6 pm

Stephen Ministry Supervision—Zoom—7 pm

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Cherub Choir—6:00 pm

1st Year Confirmation—Choir Rm—6:15 pm

2nd Year Confirmation—SFH—6:15 pm

3rd Year Confirmation—NFH—6:15 pm

Sounds of Praise—7:00 pm

Distance Confirmation—ZOOM—7:30 pm

## THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Endowment Meeting—Zoom—9 am

Faithfully Fit Exercise—SFH—9:30 am

Private Indoor Communion—Sanctuary—10-11:30 am

Private Indoor Communion—Sanctuary—4-5:30 pm

**WORSHIP—In Person—6:00 pm**

Malachi CC— NFH—6:30 pm

## FRIDAY, APRIL 30

May Basket Assembly—FH—10 am

## SATURDAY, MAY 1

LWML Rally—Fellowship Hall—9 am

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

**WORSHIP—Livestream/In-Person—8 am**

Sunday School—In Person—9:15 am

SS Virtual (3 and 4 yrs.—9:30 am)

SS Virtual (Kindergarten/Grades 1 & 2 ) - 10:00 am

**WORSHIP—Indoor—10:45 am**

SS Virtual (Grades 3-6) - 11:30 am

SS Virtual (Grades 7-12) - 11:30 am

Alleluia Singers—1:00 pm

Youth Bonfire - Parking lot—6 pm

## Blessed to Serve

**Preaching** ..... Pastor Ben Loos

**Organist**..... April Beckman, DPM

**Children's Message**..... Michael Harvey, DFF

**Elder:** 6:00 pm ..... Jeff Ihrke

8:00 am..... Scott Kleppe

10:45 am..... Aaron Peter

1:00 pm ..... Tim Rossman

**Lector:** 6:00 pm ..... Julie Gehrking

8:00 am ..... Kurt Rump

10:45 am..... Beth Hanson

**Technology:**

6:00 pm ..... Tom Werle

8:00 am..... Megan Grudem

10:45 am..... Dan Kluge

**Ushers:**

6:00 pm ..... Jim Bronk

8:00 AM ..... Ric Thieke/Damien Chaloner

10:45 am..... Mark Fister/Carole Sorenson

1:00 pm Jeff Lee/Dawn Shelstad/Paul Lewis

## LWML ROCHESTER ZONE SPRING RALLY

Will take place at Redeemer on Saturday, May 1, from 9 am to Noon. COVID protocols will be followed. Rev. James Heining will share a Bible Study base on Ephesians 2:7 entitled "The incomparable Riches of His Grace." Coral Rose will share her insights of her missionary work in Africa. There will also be a "Gifts From The Heart" and free will offering collection. Join us for fellowship, music, and Bible study!

# Redeemer Lutheran Church

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<b>WELCOME VISITORS</b>	<b>Check the Redeemer Website for worship times and locations.</b> <a href="http://www.redeemer-rochester.com">http://www.redeemer-rochester.com</a>
<b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
<b>CHILDREN</b>	
<b>WORSHIP CDs</b>	
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
<b>SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	

## STAFF

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