



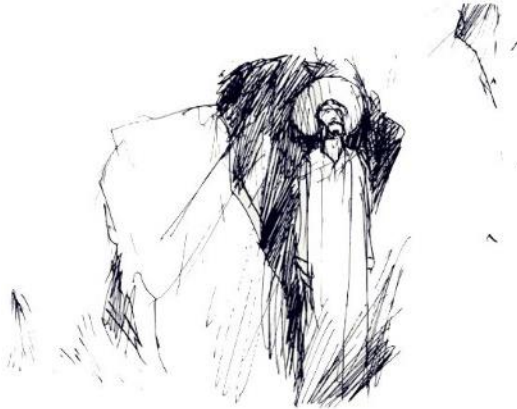
I AM ALIVE FOREVER AND EVER.

REVELATION 1:18 (NRSV)

# OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12 APRIL A.D. 2020

EASTER SUNDAY, THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



WE REJOICE TO HAVE YOU WITH US ON THIS EASTER DAY.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will bless you and your faith through Christ's ministry of His Word and His Sacraments to the glory of our Father in heaven.

## **REVERENCE IN WORSHIP**

The writer to the Hebrews urges, "Thus let us worship, with reverence and awe..." (12:28). Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 5, "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools..." (5:1). In part, Martin Luther defined "the sacrifice of fools" as irreverent conduct by those who show they will not listen to the Word of God (LW 15:76). In order to maintain reverence in the Lord's house, we ask that 1) men remove their hats, 2) mobile phones, tablets, and gaming devices be turned off and put away, and 3) with the exception of parents providing appropriate snacks for small children, please refrain from bringing food and/or drink into the holy spaces.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Divine Service, Setting One, in Lutheran Service Book (LSB), Pages 151 - 166

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

Stand

## Processional Hymn

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (LSB 457)



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 endured, 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 ye 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!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

- 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.



*Kneel/Stand*

## Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

## Absolution

- 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.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit



*He is risen! Alle- | luia!\**

*Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!*

*Remember how he told you, Alle- | luia,\**

*that the Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise. Alle- | luia!*

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!\***

**You have set your glory above the | heavens.**

**Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings\*  
and crowned him with glory and | honor.**

*You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;\*  
you have put all things under | his feet.*

*O | Lord, our Lord,\*  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!*

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

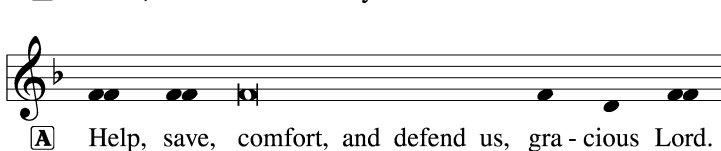
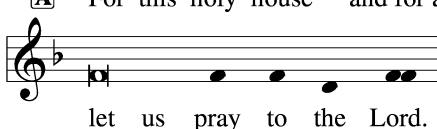
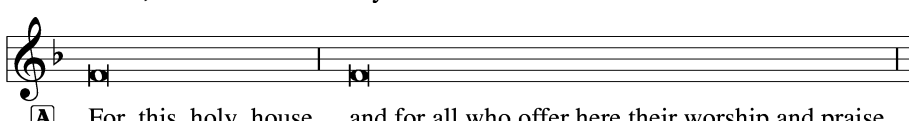
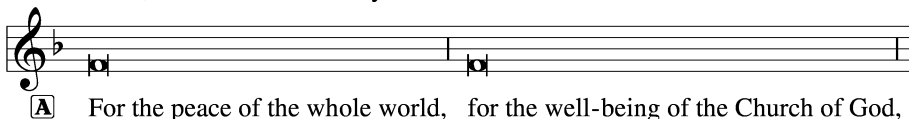
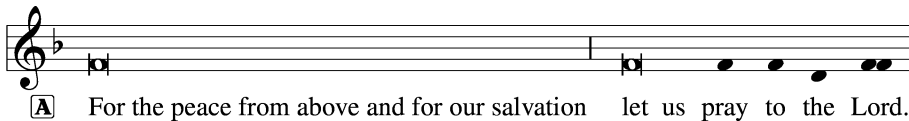
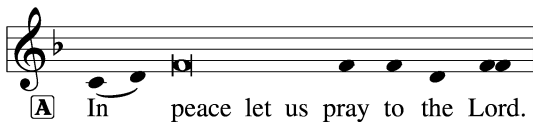
*He is risen! Alle- | luia!\**

*Why do you seek the living among the dead? Alle- | luia!*

*Remember how he told you, Alle- | luia,\**

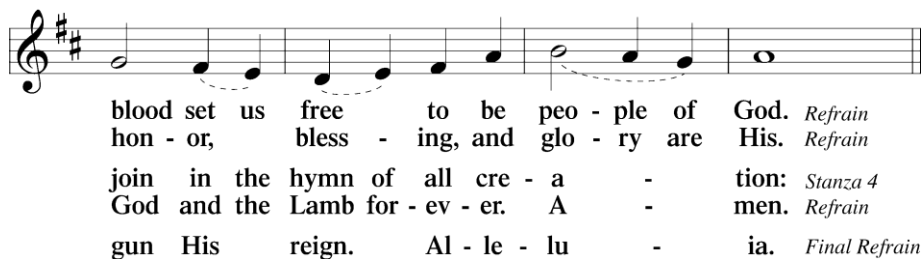
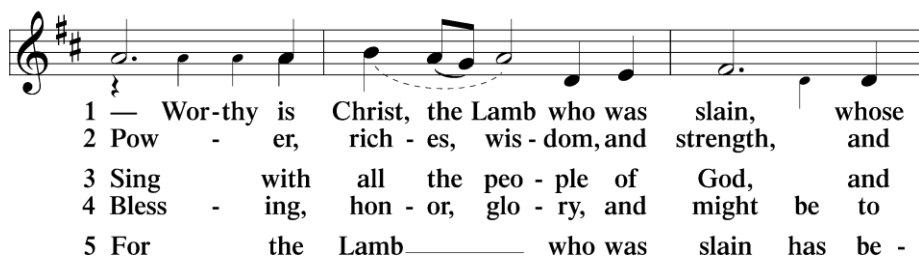
*that the Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise. Alle- | luia!*

## Kyrie





## This Is the Feast



## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

Job 19:23-27

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Sequence

## "Christians, to the Paschal Victim"

*The Word of the Gospel is read from the center of the nave, symbolic of our commission to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world, to the ends of the earth.*

**[L]** *Christians, to the Paschal Victim, offer your thankful praises! The Lamb the sheep has ransomed: Christ, who only is sinless, reconciling sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.*

*Congregation*

1 Christ is a - ris - en From the grave's dark  
pris - on. So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

**[L]** *"Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw when wayfaring." "The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus' resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. My Lord, my hope, is arisen; to Galilee He goes before you."*

*Congregation*

2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, Then death were still  
our pris - on. Now, with Him to life re - stored,  
We praise the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

**[L]** *Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!*

*Congregation*

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia! Now let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!



## Holy Gospel

Saint Mark 16:1-8

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

## Alleluia and Verse

“Festival Alleluia” J. Chepponis

*Choir: Alleluia Refrain; Congregation: Refrain*



*Kantor: Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Congregation: Refrain*

*(Please remain standing for the Hymn of the Day.)*

## Hymn of the Day

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (LSB 458)



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens -  
3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, His peo - ple to  
5 Here our true Pas - chal Lamb we see, Whom God so free -  
6 So let us keep the fes - ti - val To which the Lord



es - giv - en; But now at God's right hand He stands  
de - liv - er; De - stroy - ing sin, He took the crown  
ly gave us; He died on the ac - curs - ed tree—  
in - vites us; Christ is Him - self the joy of all,



And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us  
From death's pale brow for - ev - er: Stripped of pow'r, no  
So strong His love— to save us. See, His blood now  
The sun that warms and lights us. Now His grace to



joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly  
more it reigns; An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;  
marks our door; Faith points to it; death pass - es o'er,  
us im - parts E - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



Loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!  
And Sa - tan can - not harm us. Al - le - lu - ia!  
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Tune and text: Public domain

*Sit*

## Sermon

*Stand*

## Apostles' Creed

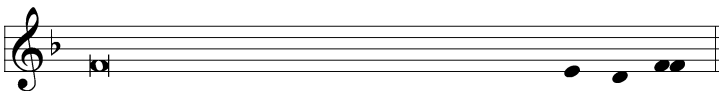
**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

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  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

### Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✝}$  give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Hymn at the Retiring Procession

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB 461)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort  
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
 5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to  
 7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and  
 8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
 wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my  
 I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion  
 Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
 trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.  
 to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.  
 sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Tune and text: Public domain

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

**BLESSED AND JOYOUS EASTER TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR VICTORIOUS SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST! MAY THE GOSPEL OF HIS RESURRECTION ESTABLISH YOU IN THE FAITH. MAY THE CERTAIN HOPE OF SALVATION IN HIM ENLIGHTEN YOUR HEARTS THAT YOU MAY LIVE IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE THAT YOU HAVE IN HIM TODAY AND FOREVER!**

**IN PREPARATION** for the Divine Service next Sunday, **19 April A.D. 2020** Second Sunday of Easter, take time this week to read the lessons appointed for that day, Psalm 33, Ezekiel 37:1-14, 1 John 5:4-10, John 20:19-31, and the Hymn of the Day, "O Sons and Daughters of the King," *LSB 471*.

## WORDS FROM LUTHER: The Resurrection of Our Lord

*Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O death, where is your victory?  
 ....thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57*

This is a strange and unprecedented message, such as reason cannot comprehend. It must be accepted in faith. The message is that Christ is alive and yet dead, and dead in such a way that in Him death itself has had to die, and lose all its power... And as the Lord Christ has conquered death, He has also conquered sin. For in His own Person He is pure and just; but because He takes

upon Himself the sins of others He becomes a sinner. That is why sin can assault Him. And He, the Lord Christ, is very ready to be thus assaulted and nailed to the cross in order that He may die, as if He had Himself sinned and brought His death upon Himself. But there, hidden under the sin of others, His holiness is so great that death cannot overcome Him. Thus sin, like death, attacked the wrong man, and so grew weak and died in His body. And likewise the devil wanted to prove his power over Christ, and uses all his might against Him, trying to bring Him down. But He meets with a higher power which he cannot overcome. And all this has been wrought in order that our Lord Christ might glory because by being cast down He lifted up on high, and these three mighty foes, sin, the devil, and death, must lie under His feet. This great victory we celebrate today. Now all power consists in this, that we take it well to heart and firmly believe in it.

*Sermon on Easter Day, 1544. W.A. 52.249f.*



## OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Settings Three from Lutheran Service Book

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**THE EASTER LILIES** adorning the Lord's Altar this morning is dedicated to the glory of our Triune God by the following families:

**Mary Ann Bruggeman  
Glenn and Dee Butterfield  
Sue Combs**

**Ray and Cheryl Norton & Matt Dixon  
Scott and Georgie Rhodes**



### **Strengthened by God's grace... *Pray, Commit, and then Act!***

We are fortified by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel given in Word and Sacrament to be God's people and to produce fruits of faithfulness to Him. These fruits include the giving of tithes and offerings. If you are unable to give in the usual way, feel free to use your mobile device to scan the QR code provided here. It will take you directly to the church's online giving page. *Don't have a QR scanning application? Visit the Android or Apple App Store to download a free application.*



# OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS — 12 APRIL A.D. 2020

### ✠ PRAYERS ✠

**THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY:** Lucille Aldred & family, Adrian Atkinson, Leonard Badder, Dale Belmas, Dave Bosh, Susan Brandt, Mary Ann Brueggeman, Dan Bruzek, Debbie Defer, Joyce Griner, Luther Habitz, John Hangstefer, Marilyn Hatton, Donna Hay, Albert Heidinger, Bill Kelley and family, Landon Martens, Ronald Masch, Charles McCloskey, Cathy Pawlowski, Kathy Pump, Cindy Pushman, Calvin Reinke, Randi Talsma, Susan Vogt, Kristy Sweet, Michael Whalen, Frances Wyckoff, and Matt Zavada

**MILITARY:** Fletcher Armstrong, Jennifer Baca, Ramone Baca, Drew Barber, Brandy Bates, Robert Bell, Corry Brennan, Tom Buller, Brian Chapman, Mark Ciero, Kathleen Cottrell, Jonathan Cross, Kenneth Eyer, Kody Fletcher, Sgt. Paul Harrison, Drew Helmreich, Chad Libby, Neil Lipon, Richard McManamon, Meighan Mills, Matthew Niendorf, Chris Robosky, Steve Roeske, Samantha Russell, Jake Simkins, Cora Spangler, Sara Spangler, Logan Terao, Albie Therrien, Austin & Maria Wright, and Alex Young

**MISSIONARIES:** Rev. Charles Ferry and family, Rev. Steven Mahlburg and family, and Rev. Todd Roeske and family.

### Weekly eNews from April 6, 2020

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We've entered into Holy Week. This is the week of weeks in the Church Year. When it comes to our life together as a congregation, it's surreal to be apart like this. It's not an easy thing.

I want you to know that during this time I'm praying for you—*every single day*.

Each and every day I'm on my knees before the altar of God here at Our Savior, not just praying for the world in a general sense, but for all believers in Christ—and most especially for the people of God here at Our Savior in Hartland.

While I don't get through the whole roster of names in the congregation in a single day, I can pretty much guarantee that each member's name is spoken out loud and into the divine ears of God at least every other day or so.

When I pray, I'm praying for your health. I'm praying for your livelihood. I'm praying for your family. I'm praying for your renewed strength and a spiritual stamina in the face of adversity to trust in the One who gave His life that you would have eternal life—an everlasting home beyond the pale edges of this passing world.

No matter the circumstances in this life, I do this confidently—as I'm sure other pastors do, too—because there are a few things I know of God.

It certainly isn't that God needs informing. A bird does not fall from the sky without His knowledge (Matthew 10:29). He knows the number of hairs on the head of every human being (Luke 12:7). Our thoughts are not too quiet for Him to hear, and the slightest of gestures never escapes His view (Psalm 139:1-3). Well beyond us even these things, the sun and moon and stars all continue on their courses according to His gracious and upholding care (Hebrews 1:3). He knows your joys and sorrows. And the scale of the occurrence does not matter. From the bloodiest of wars to the most insignificant slights against any one of us, God foreknew their

hours (Isaiah 42:9). Nothing is lost on Him, and so He doesn't need for me to tell Him what's going on.

Of course, I reach to God in prayer because I need Him. But perhaps more importantly, I do this because He invites me into His presence to speak as a privilege of faith (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

We've entered into Holy Week, which means we've made our way into a time when the Church remembers that at the death of Jesus, the temple's curtain was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51), signifying the Lord's work on the cross as all-sufficient for granting every believer full access to the Heavenly Father. Believers have been given the promise that we can go to our God through Jesus, and He promises to hear and answer us as we pray according to His will (John 14:6-14, 1 John 5:14).

There's great comfort in this birthright of faith, and it serves us in both the good times and the bad.

Ambrose Bierce wrote somewhat snidely of Christians that prayer is really just nothing more than an attempt by unworthy petitioners to get the laws of the universe annulled. Setting aside his condescension for a moment, in a sense, Bierce is right. We don't deserve anything from God. And yes, we are asking Him to rewrite the universal laws. In humility, we ask to be forgiven of our seemingly unforgiveable crimes. We do this knowing full well that the order of this universe is one of justice, that the guilty pay for their own crimes, and the innocent go free. But we are approaching God already knowing He has heaped the punishment we are due upon His own Son. The innocent One was sentenced to death. The guilty were set free.

If that isn't counter to the way of normalcy in this world's order, then I don't know what is. And yet, Christians reach to God, asking Him to continue in this mercy, praying through the merits and mediation of Christ.

But there's something more to my reasons for praying.

I also pray because by the power of the Gospel for faith, the Holy Spirit is alive in me (Romans 1:16-17, Romans 8:10-11), and He is at work recreating me to be one who loves God and desires faithfulness to Him (Galatians 5:22-25). In other words, a very real facet of my life as a Christian involves actually telling and showing God I love Him. Prayer is a very real fruit of faith in this regard.

A very basic way to think of it...

I'm a father, and while I know my children love me, there's an element of proof to their love when they say it. It serves both our hearts well, and it feels good to hear. God is the same way. He knows that by faith we love Him, and yet He also loves to hear us say it—and so we pray.

By the way, another very practical way the Bible describes our prayers to God is not just according to the sense of hearing, but by the sense of smell. As we have those favorite aromas—flowers, a sizzling steak, a spouse's cologne or perfume (for me it's a good Scotch, sunscreen, a swimming pool, and Florida palm trees)—so also are our prayers compared to a fragrant incense wafting to the heavens and into the divine nostrils of God (Psalm 141:2, Revelation 8:3). Prayers arising to Him by faith, calling out to Him according to His gracious will in Christ Jesus, these are ever-so-sweet to Him, and He loves to receive and then respond to them. By contrast, prayers in contradiction to His will—words tossed out toward the sky in unbelief, the use of His name in



vain, greed, arrogant self-righteousness, and the like—these are sour and off-putting to God, and He waves them away from His face in disgust (James 4:3, Isaiah 1:15-18, Luke 18:9-14, Proverbs 3:34, 1 Peter 5:5).

I suppose the last thing I'll say is that even as prayer is to be a part of the Christian life, I'm guessing prayer isn't so easy for everyone. Some folks want to pray, but just don't know what to say.

First of all, know that this concern is, in a sense, a prayer in itself. You're showing God you want to speak to Him, and because He is worthy of your best, you want to do it in a way and with words that will show Him this love. Wrestling with this concern, remember, He knows you love Him. Let that comfort you. No matter how the thoughts or words come out, He won't turn away from you. He'll listen.

Secondly, if you struggle to focus, don't be afraid to use pre-written prayers. There's nothing wrong with the practice. This is how the Church has prayed since the beginning, and I do it all the time. Just because I may be using someone else's words, doesn't mean what I'm praying is of lesser value to God. Pre-written prayers can be an incredible help in times when inner clarity seems out of reach. In fact, because I know folks are struggling right now to find the right words in the midst of this worldwide pandemic, I posted a Vigil of Prayer on Our Savior's website. If you are struggling to pray, take a look at the video and pray along.

<https://www.oursaviorhartland.org/prayer-vigil/>

Also, think practically. When one is feeling like a novice, the way to better skills is to study the efforts of others and to practice. Think about it. How did you first learn to speak? Most likely by mimicking the words of your parents. Praying while using the words of our Christian fore-parents is a good practice. Don't let anyone tell you that unless your words are spontaneous or whatever you're not really praying. That's ridiculous. If someone does tell you this, then brush it off. They've made prayer into a legalistic venture, and you should avoid their advice altogether.

Thirdly, the easiest and best place to start is with the prayer the Lord taught us. There's no better prayer than the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Start with that. It doesn't get any better.

To close, and as I said already, be mindful that God gave us prayer for such times as these. This COVID-19 situation is, if anything, an exercise in knowing to whom we should run in times of trouble. Turning to the only One who can rescue us from all our burdens and give us the gift of real rest is always the better bet (Matthew 11:28).

Go to Him in faith. Pray for your needs. Pray for the needs of others. He loves you. He loves them. And He's listening. He has already promised that no matter what is happening, He will work all things for your good (Romans 8:28).

And with that, it's on to the news...

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**+ IMPORTANT!** Congregational leadership has been at work investigating the details of the CARES Act passed by Congress and which includes money available to nonprofits and churches (Payroll Protection Program) during the pandemic in the form of forgivable loans. Jeff Hoppe has written a letter explaining what we're doing by executive action to keep up with all of it. Still, we need the congregation to offer their voices. Take a look. It's VERY important.

***Subject: Special Congregation Meeting via e-mail***

Hello to all voting Members of Our Savior,

May the Lord bless you and keep you all under His care. I pray this note finds you all safe and healthy.

These past weeks have turned so many things we previously held as “normal”, upside down. As a congregation we have made numerous adjustments and have tried our best to maintain the church and school as much intact as we can under the circumstances so that when this mandate is lifted we can quickly return to what we know and love. Normally, in times like this, we would call a Special Congregation Meeting so that each member could have the opportunity to be informed and help make the decisions needed to move forward. Unfortunately, this cannot occur right now and so we are doing the next best thing to keep everyone informed by providing electronic communication in order to seek your input.

One of our greatest concerns is the wellbeing of our beloved staff. I want to bring everyone up to date on the actions we have initiated in the past couple of days in order to try and protect our staff as this shutdown continues.

**Background:**

The Federal Government announced plans to support small businesses that retain and support their employees. The plan is called Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). It is expected that the funds earmarked to support this program will go fast so we needed to act quickly if we have any hope to receive some of these funds. Nicole Spangler has attended a number of webinars this past week to better understand what options might be available to us. As you may have followed in the news, the PPP is administered via the Small Business Administration (SBA) and to receive funding, we need to apply through our local bank - PNC. The application process is considered a federally guaranteed “loan”. Some speaking points are below:

- Governor has now (4/2) officially closed all in-person schooling for the remainder of the school year
- Our school staff is working tirelessly to provide a quality distance learning program for our students
- Our daycare follows school closures. Also daycares can currently only be open if they are serving in a disaster relief capacity for essential workers. We do not feel we have the capacity to serve in this manner at this time.
- Length of stay-at-home orders remains to be seen
- We desire to keep our workers whole through this national crisis, both those able to work from home and those unable to work from home
- Payroll Protection Program Loans offer support for that effort and is being promoted by Concordia Plan Services, LCMS, and English District
- All funds utilized for the approved purposes are forgiven, essentially becoming a grant
- Some FAQ info for faith based organizations are attached for your reference

**Immediate Action Taken:**

On behalf of the congregation, Mark Elling, Landon Martens, and I authorized Nikki to prepare and submit the application form to PNC on behalf of OSL so we do not lose time and hopefully reserve a place for us “in line”. As officers, we are representatives of the congregation as a whole, but this direction probably exceeded our authority alone and I will be the first to admit that. If this action is offensive in any way to anyone, I apologize. It was not our intent to offend but rather our intention was to best help the congregation quickly obtain funding to help us through these challenging times.

Based on eligibility rules, the final application amount we could request was \$152,471.39. The application was submitted for this amount on Saturday afternoon. Church council members were informed and were supportive of the action. Nevertheless, according to our interpretation of the Church Constitution and By-Laws, we should, in my and others opinions, obtain the approval of the congregation to proceed as this is officially considered a loan (which the government will forgive). All loans should be approved by the congregation. Up to this point, our actions have been to move quickly in order to have the best opportunity for funding. The application process reserves us a spot but does not mean we must accept the “loan”. Additionally, just because we applied for this funding does not mean we will be approved either. We will have to wait to see if we are granted acceptance.

If we, as a congregation, chose not to pursue the money, we can withdraw our application or not take the money if we were to be approved.

Unless we hear otherwise, we will continue to pursue the PPP funding in parallel to receiving the congregation feedback.

#### **Next Steps and my Request:**

As a congregation, we conduct our business under Robert’s Rules of Order for procedural decisions. We are in uncharted waters here with how to best obtain the congregation’s consent or rejection given we cannot formally have a meeting and take a vote. Since we cannot meet in person, I am requesting your “electronic “vote.

**My request from each voting member is that you review what actions we took so far as stated above and reply back by 12pm (noon) on Wednesday, April 8 to let us know if you are in support or not to continue this action.**

If the response from the majority of the members is in favor of proceeding, then we will proceed accordingly. If not supported, we will discontinue this PPP application in order to pursue other potential support which may be available to us going forward.

If you have questions or concerns, please indicate them as soon as possible so we can address them.

We are facing challenging times but be reminded that He will always provide what is best for us in His time. We pray for God’s guidance and wisdom and that He shows us the path He wants us to follow as we navigate through the next weeks and months uncertainties.

Blessings to all,  
Jeff Hoppe

+ I want to thank the folks who've volunteered to serve for our recorded worship services—choir members, musicians, and elders. The additional voices along with the listening ears in real time helps to make the effort much more enjoyable.

A reminder that all services can be viewed at: <https://www.oursaviorhartland.org/church-news/worship/our-savior-worship-by-video/>.

Also, I should say that I'll be glad when this is all over. I'm probably not doing it right, but it takes hours to get just one service pieced together in video format—and then even after that, you discover mistakes you didn't notice during the assembly process—such as your computer's notifications pinging through in the audio feed. Argh! Funny how it only happened during the Palm Sunday sermon. I blame that one on the devil and his efforts to distract from the preaching of the Gospel.

Nevertheless, as I've said before, with each round, we figure out something new that helps to make it better. By the time Holy Week is done, we'll have this down!

+ Nikki Spangler, our Parish Administrator, sent along the following note of thanks. Take a look!  
OSL Family and Friends,

Thank you for your response to last week's communication regarding financial support during our time of physical separation. We have received online, mailed in, and even a few dropped off contributions over the past week. There have been daily online contributions. Many contributions were mailed in. Well done good and faithful servants!

Thank you for stepping out of your routine, maybe even your comfort zone, to continue to provide financial support to your church, school, and daycare. We continue to strive together toward the day when we can worship as one in person once again.

As a reminder, please avoid sending cash by post. Also, as pastor mentioned in the eNews, building access is limited. Those of us reporting to the building are limiting our in office hours while ensuring that someone is onsite daily. If you do need to drop something off, please give the church a call to make sure someone will be able to receive it.

Thank you for continued support!

Blessings,  
Nicole

+ Considering the note above, finances are a significant issue right now. We went into this week with about \$4,500 in checking, and we held over about \$1,700 in bills. This means we're looking at about \$30K in obligations.

Like so many other churches, we're finding ourselves in a tight spot. Please be faithful. Pray, commit, and act. God will bless your efforts for faithfulness.

And don't forget you can give by way of our online portal, which is:  
<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/oursaviorhartland>

+ The new church directory has arrived and it looks great! Stay tuned for how to get your copy!

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That's it for this week.

God's richest blessings to you and your family as together we make our way through to Golgotha and beyond to the resurrection victory of Easter!

In Jesus,

Pastor Thoma+