

**BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church**  
**Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**  
**Date: Sunday, April 20, 2025**  
**Church Year Date: Resurrection Sunday**

*Thank you, dear musicians, for your dedication to leading us in the worship of our great Savior. Pastor Tom*

Prelude: Carol Gustafson (Singers Osthus/Reynolds)

**Mark 16:1-3** *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"*

Hymn #78 (vss 1&2) "The Old Rugged Cross"

**Mark 16:4-6** *But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.*

Hymn #104 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" with Trumpets

PASTOR: "Christ is Risen"

CONGREGATION: "He is Risen Indeed!"

Children's Songs

Unison Reading: **Job 19:25-27** *I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

Hymn #97 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Reader: Jacob O'Flanagan

Epistle Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:51-57** *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall 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*

**GLORIA PATRI:** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Greeting, Announcements, Prayer

## PRAISE SONGS

### MESSAGE: “THINE IS THE GLORY, FOREVER”

**Revelation 11:15, Pastor Tom Olson,**

**minnesotavalleychurch.org** *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

CELEBRATION: Today is a day of great celebration. Jesus Christ arose from the dead. He conquered sin, death, the devil and emptied Hades leading “captivity captive” and souls to paradise in triumphant procession. If we were a large church with a large choir, we might want to sing Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” today. The words come from today’s text, **Revelation 11:15 “The kingdoms of this world, have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever!”**

CLIMAX: This is the climax in our Lenten series from “The Lord’s Prayer.” It has been a rich time around God’s Word and dynamic testimonies of His grace. We will ponder the victorious Revelation 11:17 Easter theme for a few moments: *For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*”

## I. ANNOUNCED BY HEAVEN

**Revelation 11:17a** *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven...*

TRUMPET: The trumpet will sound! It will be a sound that will delight believers and terrify the ungodly. Can you imagine the trumpet blast from heaven that is heard around the world? God’s persecuted saints will hear it as a sound of hope. Satan’s wicked people will hear it as a sound of defeat.

BOMBS: When Pastor Bonhoeffer was in a Nazi prison camp, awaiting his death, along with American and British soldiers, they could hear the bombs of the Allied army getting closer and closer every day. Every bomb that dropped brought joy to the prisoners awaiting their liberation. Every bomb that exploded brought terror to the Nazi officers knowing it would lead to their arrest and trials

for war crimes. Many average German citizens, who were not Nazis, also had relief that the war may be ending soon.

ANNOUNCEMENT: After the trumpet sounds there will be an angelic announcement from heaven. We can be comforted to know that no matter how bad things may seem at times, the consummation is coming and things will be put right.

NOW: In our current era the honor of giving the announcement is ours. Jesus told his disciples to tell the whole world that Jesus has risen from the dead victoriously. He is the firstfruits of those who have “fallen asleep” in death. His resurrection is the promise of our resurrection. We don’t have to fear death.

TIMING: I have a hunch that for a believer, the time span between death and resurrection, when we wake up, will seem but a moment, even if one died 3 thousand years ago. The trumpet will sound, our souls will be reunited with our incorruptible bodies. It will be like waking up from a short afternoon nap.

FEAR: One of the reasons that the COVID pandemic was such a fearful thing was because so few people had the assurance of salvation. They were afraid to die, so they got terribly scared.

WITNESSING: When I got saved, my fear of death was taken away and that has made life so much happier. Now I look forward to hearing the trumpet and the angelic announcement. My renewed prayer this year is to do a better job of announcing the good news of eternal life in Christ to those I meet.

## II. VICTORY IS SECURED

**Revelation 11:17b** *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,”*

HUMILIATION: When Jesus cried “It is finished” on the cross, it was the end of the Satanic authority and the beginning of a new era. When Christ breathed his last breath, His humiliation was over and His glorification began.

GLORIFICATION: His descent into hell was part of His victory...or as theologians call it, HIS GLORIFICATION. In 1 Peter 3 we read that he went and preached to the souls that were in prison from the time of Noah and the flood. Ephesians 4:8-10 is another interesting passage about the descent into the lower regions: ***"When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." 9 (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.***

PARADE: I can just see him with a parade of souls going through the skies, victorious over death. Just as people march in parades and throw out candy, Jesus went on his parade and generously gave out gifts to His children.

FAITH: God wants us to not be distracted by the huffing and puffing of the defeated devil. God wants us to live in the reality of the secure victory that Christ has won for us. We live in this brief life BY FAITH and not by sight. We confess with confidence that we have "the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." Our names are in the book of life, our bodies are going to be rebuilt with no faults, unable to get sick, unable to die, with sound minds and healthy emotions.

THOUGHTS: The devil likes to get us dwelling on past disappointments and present pain. But we need to fight that and renew our minds with the promises of God. I like what one person said, "When the devil reminds you of your past, you just remind him of his future. (In the lake of fire.)"

PLAQUE: Our Minnesota governor recently put up a plaque in the state capital building that says, "Satan has a special place for you." He meant it to be something to look forward to. Be informed, I have no interest in Satan's place...I am headed to be with the Victorious Christ, Christus Victor. Satan's place is the Lake of Fire and I have no interest in that.

KING: Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I want to be with Him! Don't you?

### III. RESULTS ARE ETERNAL

***Revelation 11:17c "and he will reign for ever and ever."***

TREASURE: The time frame of Christ's benevolent reign is for all eternity. When we slip out of this body in death and enter by grace into heaven, we are eternally secure. We will be in a place where Jesus said there will be no moths eating clothes, no rust destroying our possessions and no thieves stealing from us. That is why He urges us to store our treasure in heaven. It is not affected by trade wars and volatile stock markets. It lasts forever.

CONTENTMENT: We will not be bored. God has so much for us to do that we will live in a continual state of awe, creativity, fellowship, rest, peace, discovery, accomplishment and joy. It can't be taken away from us. The guarantee is the empty tomb of Jesus.

ALREADY: In fact, by faith, we are already raised with Christ and seated in heavenly places. We can lose our health, wealth, our social status and all this world holds dear, and we lose nothing because it was never ours to begin with. We belong to God. ***1 Corinthians 6:20 "You were bought with a price."***

FUTURE: The future is bright for the children of God. Death is only the transition to better things. God's kingdom will go on for all eternity. This life is not even a second long compared to the life we have in Christ.

INVITATION: If you don't know that you are saved, won't you repent of sin today? Won't you put your faith in our Risen Savior today? Won't you invite Jesus into your heart to be your Savior and Lord? Won't you pray with me right now?

PRAYER: Dear Father in Heaven. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He died on the cross for me. I believe He

rose from the dead for me. I repent of my sins. I ask for forgiveness. I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and be my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving my soul. Thank you for preparing a place in heaven for me. I pray in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. ***“Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus.”***  
***Amen***

Chorus: “He is Lord” *He is Lord, He is Lord, He is Risen from the dead and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

Lord’s Prayer

BENEDICTION: From Hebrews 13--May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Hymn #545 “Because He Lives”

Postlude: Carol Gustafson