

**BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church  
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations  
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2026  
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: Jan Ellingson (Singers: Fuglebergs)

***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 #69 (vss 1&2) "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended"

***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 Message

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: Dave Fischer

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

PASTOR: "Christ is Risen"

CONGREGATION: "He is Risen Indeed!"

PRAISE SONGS

**MESSAGE: "HE OWED US NOTHING AND GAVE US EVERYTHING" Pastor Tom Olson, 4/5/26, mnvalleychurch.org** *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

Today is a day for good news! If I could have only one chapter of the Bible it would be 1 Corinthians 15. Our Epistle text today is 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and the sermon title is something from a little girl explaining the gospel. She said, "HE OWED US NOTHING AND GAVE US EVERYTHING..."

## I. HE GIVES US GOOD NEWS

*1 Corinthians 15:1-2 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

NEWS: The word GOSPEL means GOOD NEWS. Let me read verse one again using that wording; "...*I want to remind you of the GOOD NEWS I preached to you...*" The internet has been flooded with ads from churches inviting people out to their Sunday Easter gatherings. This is a day of the year that churches get a bump in attendance and have an opportunity to give it their best shot. These internet church ads all sound similar with the preachers rightly telling people about the power of the gospel to change their lives. They want people to get some GOOD NEWS when so much of the news we read is bad news.

SAVED: Notice that verse two tells us that this GOOD NEWS saves us! I can think of three areas that the Gospel saves us. The Bible tells us that we are saved #1 from SIN, #2 from DEATH and #3 from THE POWER OF THE DEVIL.

Christ saves us from our sin by giving us FORGIVENESS. This song I love so much puts it so well: "*His blood has washed away my sin, Jesus thank you...once an enemy, now seated at the table, Jesus thank you.*"

SIN: Jesus saved us FROM SIN. I had the privilege of talking to a man recently about who Jesus is and what he did to wipe out our sins with his innocent blood. I tried to explain how he took the punishment for our sins upon Himself. "HE OWED US NOTHING AND GAVE US EVERYTHING." It was such a joy to share GOOD NEWS with a seeking soul.

DEATH: Jesus also saved us FROM DEATH. His resurrection is proof that he defeated death. The Bible says that Jesus is the FIRSTFRUITS from the dead. Lazarus was raised from the dead by a miracle but had to die a second time. Jesus was raised, never to die again. We who are his believing children will also rise from the dead one day.

JIM: Jim Null was buried at Ft. Snelling on Friday but he will one day rise from the dead in a perfect body, never to die again. People my age are busy writing wills and getting their affairs in order for death. It is so wonderful to know that death is temporary until Jesus comes back and raises us from the grave.

DEVIL: He saved us FROM THE POWER OF THE DEVIL. The devil causes a lot of trouble in the world. He and his demons make life hard. They offer life-destroying temptations to us. But now, when we receive Jesus by faith, we have a power in us that is stronger than the devil. *1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them (evil ones), because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."*

My friends, JESUS GIVES US GOOD NEWS. Secondly...

## II. HE GIVES US HIS LIFE

***I Corinthians 15:3-4a For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried...***

MYSTERY: The great mystery of our salvation is how Christ accomplished it. Paul says here that this is ***“of first importance.”*** ***“Christ died for our sins.”*** The very author of life through whom all things were created had to take on human flesh. Jesus had to live the perfect life we could not live. Jesus, sinless and innocent, took upon himself the sins of the world.

ROBE: ***2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made Jesus who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*** We are invited to give Jesus our sins and he then freely gives us ***“The robe of righteousness.”*** When the prodigal son came back to his father after wasting his inheritance in sinful living, the forgiving father covered his son’s filthy body with his own spotless robe.

***Luke 15:21-23 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”***

SUMMARY: Jesus gave his life on the cross in order to cover our sins with His own robe of righteousness and restore us into His forever family. JESUS GIVES US HIS LIFE. THIRDLY...

### III. HE GIVES US RESURRECTION

***I Corinthians 15:4b-5 ...that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.***

HE AROSE: The song that we will sing after the sermon puts it well. ***“Up from the grave He arose. With a mighty triumph over His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign.”***

TRIUMPHED: Another Easter song says it this way, ***“Now all the vault of heaven resounds...Christ has risen, He has TRIUMPHED, Alleluia.”***

FOCUS: No matter what happens in this life, we are blessed if we focus on the Resurrection of Christ.

RUSSIA: One of the things that kept Christians going during the worst dark days of Communism in Russia was the Resurrection of Christ. When Billy Graham went to Russia toward the end of the Soviet Union, they asked him to preach about the Resurrection. They knew that the evangelist preached a lot about the cross. In their circumstances of persecution, they needed to be reminded that Jesus has triumphed and that one day He would return and overcome the evil powers that enslave the earth. The atheistic communists will eventually fall to the Kingdom of Jesus. He conquered death and He will conquer all His foes at the right time. That is because HE GIVES US RESURRECTION.

QUESTION: Won’t it be exciting to return with Christ when He comes back? He will exercise his Kingship and tear the authority away from the devil and all evil rulers. He can do that because He has risen from the dead. He takes away our fear of death. JESUS GIVES US RESURRECTION. FINALLY...

### IV. HE GIVES US WITNESSES (MARTYRS)

***I Corinthians 15:6-8 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.***

WITNESSES: Paul lists the many groups of people who saw Jesus after his resurrection... five hundred brethren, James, the other apostles and even to Paul himself. Paul met with Jesus after he had ascended into heaven. Jesus himself came back and instructed Paul before sending him out in his apostolic role of establishing churches. Paul came into the church late, that is why he calls himself ***“abnormally born.”*** He was one of the hundreds who witnessed the risen Savior. He was one of hundreds who died for their witness.

MARTYRS: Just last Sunday a group of Christians in Nigeria were celebrating Palm Sunday and a group of Muslims brutally attacked them and killed them. Those who died are called Martyrs. The word martyr means “witness.” They have witnessed to Christ, like most of the apostles did, by giving their lives for Him. The Christians in Nigeria are in inspiration to me. They will rather die than renounce their faith in Jesus. Revelation 20 says that God has a special resurrection and assignment for the martyrs. They won’t be cheated or short-changed for dying young for Christ. They will reign with Him in a special way.

HOW: How can they die for Christ? They can do it because CHRIST OWED THEM NOTHING YET GAVE THEM EVERYTHING forever and ever in heaven. Most of their persecutors will die and be in misery but they die and find themselves in God’s heavenly paradise. They get promoted out of this life of suffering into heaven’s glory. That is GOOD NEWS.

APPEAL: Dear friends, give your sins to Jesus, receive His forgiveness. Let him wrap you with His robe of righteousness. Let him save your soul. He will do it today if you call upon Him. Won’t you say with me: “Thank you Lord for living for me, dying for me, rising for me and one day returning for me.” ***“Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus.”***  
***Amen***

Hymn #111 “Low in the Grave He Lay”

PASTOR: “Christ is Risen”

CONGREGATION: “He is Risen Indeed!”

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: Jan Ellingson