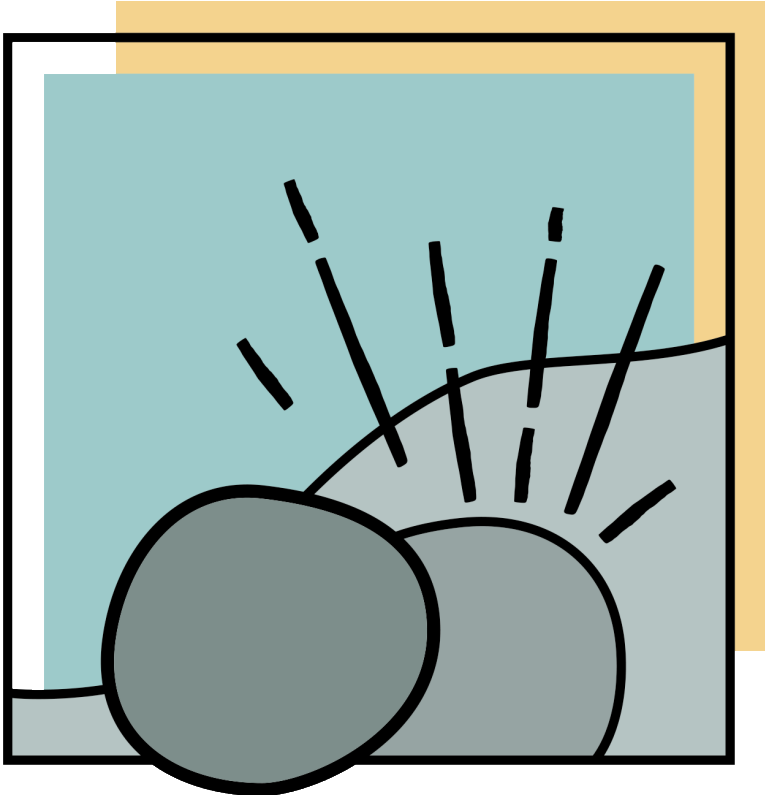


THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 4, 2021



OurSaviorBirmingham.com



Certain hope
FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES



Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We are happy that you are here!

HELPFUL INFORMATION

New to Our Savior? We are excited that you have joined us for worship today. Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. If you need assistance during the service, an usher located in the back will be able to assist you.



SCAN ME

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card—if you would prefer to fill it out online, scan the code with your phone, or go to OurSaviorBirmingham.com/Connect. You can put the Connect Card in the offering plate or give it to an usher as you leave.

Families with kids: We think it is important for families to worship together regularly. We know that occasionally, kids are going to have a rough morning. If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today's service. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

An offering will be gathered during our worship service today. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated or compelled to participate. If you would like to give an offering that supports the ministry work at Our Savior, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible contribution: (1) place your offering into the offering plate as you exit, (2) you can scan this QR code to take you to our secure, online giving site where you can give via credit card or ACH transfer.



Hand Sanitizer and Masks are available in the entryway for your convenience.

Bathrooms are located at the far end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary. There is a changing station located in Room 3 (Nursery).

Free WIFI is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the "OSLC-Guest" connection to get online!

An automated electronic defibrillator (AED) is located in the fellowship hall, in the corner nearest the front door.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.

OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Sermons archives, podcasts, calendar of events, and more!

[@OurSaviorBham](https://twitter.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events

[OurSaviorBham](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events

[OurSaviorBham](https://www.instagram.com/OurSaviorBham) | Event pictures and church pictures

[OurSaviorBham](https://www.youtube.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos

Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Pastor Kratz's email

Personal Worship Notes for Kids

What is the name of the church season or special day? _____

What is the color of the church today? Blue White Purple Red Green

The sermon was based on these Bible verses: _____

This is in the Old Testament New Testament

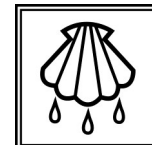


What was the sermon about?

My Favorite Song was:



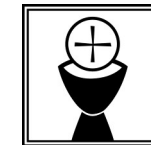
Did we have a sacrament today?



Baptism?

Yes

No



Communion?

Yes

No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

1) What did God tell you about himself?

2) What did God tell you about yourself?

3) What did God tell you to believe?

4) What did God tell you to do?

CLOSING HYMN: *See, What a Morning*

See what a morn - ing, glo - rious - ly bright, with the
See Ma - ry weep - ing, "Where is He laid?" As in
One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, through the

dawn - ing of hope in Je - ru - sa - lem;
sor - row she turns from the emp - ty tomb.
Spi - rit Who clothes faith with cer - tain - ty.

Fold - ed the grave - clothes, tomb filled with light, as the
Hears a voice speak - ing, call - ing her name; It's the
Hon - our and bless - ing, glo - ry and praise to the

an - gels an - nounce "Christ is ris - en!" See God's sal -
Mas - ter, the Lord, raised to life a - gain! The voice that
King crowned with Pow'r and Au - thor - i - ty. And we are

va - tion plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in
spans the years, speak - ing life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing
raised with Him; Death is dead, love has won, Christ has con

sac - ri - fice, ful - filled in Christ the Man, for He
peace to us, will sound 'til He ap - pears, for He
quered. And we shall reign with Him, for He

lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.
lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.
lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FOCUS FOR EASTER

While most of the world marks the passage of time from January through December, Christians have kept their own calendar of events for centuries. This Christian year is a way of remembering key events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Among the Sundays of the year, Easter Sunday has the place of prominence. Easter is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious Savior.

The death and resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Believers now do not have to fear death as the end of the story. The hopelessness of this sin-broken world is overtaken by the sure hope of eternal life with Christ in body and soul. God had been talking about Easter from the beginning—hinting and preparing His people to receive it. And now it is here for us to celebrate each week. Each Sunday is a little celebration of Easter: the Lord's day on which He rose from the dead.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Certain Hope for Uncertain Times

There is no doubt that there are many things that are uncertain in our lives and in our world. There seem to be even fewer things we can depend on than usual. In the middle of such uncertainty, we have a variety of hopes—things we wish would happen. There is no guarantee, however, that our wishes will come true.

Easter gives us something better. It gives sure and certain hope to the things God has promised. Both his promises about this life and the next are dependent on Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This is why the truth of Easter is so important. It assures us that he can and will keep his promises. We don't need to wish. We can know. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead gives *certain hope for uncertain times*.

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the Scripture readings, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant that we who have been raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

SERVING TODAY

Ushers: Doug Vertein, Tim Smith
Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz
Church Office: (205) 677-8642
Pastor's Cell: (205) 478-6843
Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world missions.





Service of the Word

EASTER PROCLAMATION

PLEASE STAND

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen!

Luke 24:1-6

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Dear friends in Christ, today we come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Let us draw near to him in worship and in praise, in our thoughts, and in our prayers.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

We begin our Easter worship in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Come, let us worship!

The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.

Alleluia! Christ is arisen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Death has no more dominion over us.

The Lord is risen indeed.

We are illumined by the brightness of His rising.

Go forth with renewed life. Live each day in the joy, confidence, and hope of the resurrection. Everywhere you go, create the community of God's people in Christ.

So be it! So shall we live! Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

This blessing has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. It is known as the Aaronic blessing because the Lord first instructed Aaron, the first High Priest of the children of Israel, to share the promise of blessing: "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLEASE STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

We respond to our Shepherd's voice by confessing what we believe concerning our God and all he's done for us.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OPENING HYMN: #157 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured,
Praise e - ter - nal as his love,



Who did once up - on the cross,
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise him, all you heav'n - ly host,



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss,
Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century, st. 1-3; Charles Wesley, 1707-88, st. 4; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, st. 1-3, alt.
Tune: EASTER HYMN (77 77 with Alleluias) *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, alt.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

His love endures forever.

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

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

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.

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!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Our God is a holy God, and we are unholy sinners. Before we meet our God, our status before him must change – or he would destroy us. We confess our sins, trusting God’s promise to forgive us (See 1 John 1:9). Our Lord wants to forgive our sins. He sent Jesus to make us “at one” (atonement) with God by dying on the cross for our sins. The pastor makes the sign of the cross to remind us we are forgiven only because Jesus died on the cross.

On this day God the Father raised His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from death. In doing so, he showed his acceptance of our Savior’s sacrifice for our sins. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Let us confess our sins to God our Father and receive His forgiveness, that we may be reconciled to Him and to one another.

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)

Most gracious heavenly Father,

we come to You burdened by the sins for which Your Son died. We are ashamed of our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds; in all humility we ask for Your mercy. You have raised our Lord Jesus from death and promised us eternal life because of the faith Your Holy Spirit has worked in our hearts. For the sake of Your Son’s innocent suffering and death and His glorious resurrection, forgive us, renew us, and lead us to eternal life. Amen.

On this most holy festival day, on which our Lord conquered death and the grave, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I joyfully forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[Based on John 20:19-31]

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

CERTAIN HOPE FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

The problem with most of our “hopes” - they are nothing more than...

Because Jesus is alive, you don’t need to _____ he is with you, can protect you, loves you, and forgives you. These are God’s _____.

Because Jesus is alive, God promises _____ to all of his people.

NOTES:

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26


The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.


²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

NOTES:


SONG OF PRAISE: #719 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (st. 1,5)




1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.
4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
5 Christ has a - ris - en; he sets us free.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.
He has a - ris - en this world to save.
Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.




For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go.
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.
Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done.
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;




E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
And in its con - quest his might did show.
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

This Tanzanian Easter hymn reminds us that the empty tomb is a message that transcends all time and culture.

THE WORD

We sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary did, to hear the Word (Luke 10:42).
Here is time for meditating, strengthening, forgiveness, instruction, and response.

SALUTATION

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship. Because God has forgiven us, we have a special bond with our Lord and with each other as Christians. Pastor and congregation express this bond of fellowship with a blessing for each other – that the Holy Spirit would bless you as you hear God’s Word and that he would bless the pastor to preach God’s Word with power.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Following an ancient outline, the prayer of the day asks for one specific blessing. This prayer changes each Sunday, according to the Bible readings for that Sunday.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

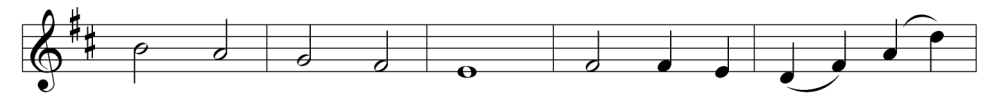
PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: #152 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day’s Gospel.



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove. He lives, my hun - gry
guide me with his eye. He lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul’s com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.



GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

The empty tomb is the end of fear.

The congregation stands for the reading of the Gospel. (In the past, soldiers put down their weapons and kings removed their crowns when the Gospel was read.) Christ—his life, his words of law and Gospel, his suffering and death, his resurrection, his ascension, his assignment to the Church, his promise to return—is the center of the Gospel. The faithful have waited for this moment, this reading. They stand in reverence. After hearing the Gospel, we respond with a joyful acclamation of praise.

The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 16.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

^{16:1}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. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As 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. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FIRST READING: Job 19:23-27

The empty tomb is the end of accusations.

The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament and occasionally from the Book of Acts. In it we learn of God's mighty words and deeds with the Old Testament Church, the people of Israel.

²³"Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
²⁴that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
²⁵I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
²⁶And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
²⁷I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

The Word of the Lord.

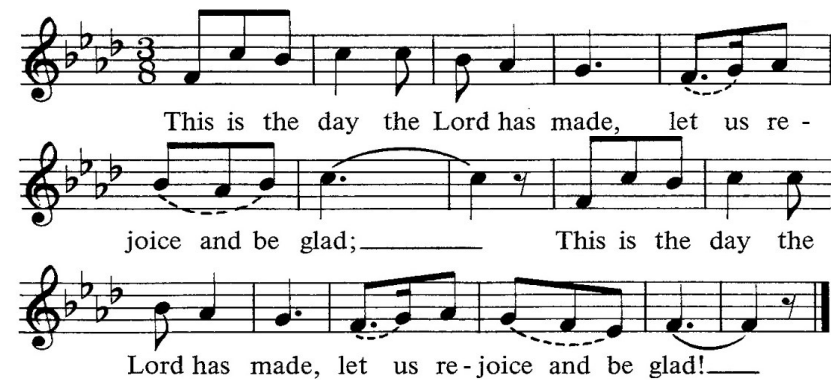
Thanks be to God.



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 118

Psalm 118 is the believer's joyful song of praise to God for all of his mighty acts, the greatest of which is Christ's resurrection from the dead.

The Psalm is the most ancient part of our worship service. While most of our liturgy is 1,800 years old, Jews have been singing Psalms in worship for 3,000 years.



The leader will introduce the refrain and sing the verses of the song.

The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain as indicated.

Leader: Refrain.

Congregation: Refrain.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever;

Let the house of Israel say: "His mercy endures forever."

Refrain.

The hand of the Lord has struck with pow'r, his right hand is exalted,

I shall not die, but live anew, declaring the works of the Lord.

Refrain.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

the Lord of love and mercy has brought wonder to our eyes!

Refrain.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

The empty tomb is the end of death.

The Second Reading of Scripture is from the New Testament letters of the apostles or the Revelation to St. John. It stresses Christian faith and Christian living as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Psalm 118:24

The Gospel Acclamation, or Verse of the Day, is a Bible verse, often times from the New Testament, that echoes or reinforces the theme or tone of the focus of today's worship service.



Melchior Vulpius, c. 1560-1615

Refrain.

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

Refrain.