



Sunday April 5, 2026

Welcome Everyone and Happy Easter!

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43** <sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4** <sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**GOSPEL: John 20:1-18** <sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord’s Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

*You are invited to come forward via the centre aisle and form a single line across from the steps leading to the altar area. Once you have communed and the pastor has spoken the communion blessing, you may place your used wine glass into the bowl on the stand near the side aisle. Then you may return to your seat via the side aisle.*

If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.

**St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Blessing our neighbourhood since 1876**

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“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

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 Second Vice-Chairperson: Bob Hansen .....  
 Church Secretary: Rona Devreese .....905-734-4746  
 Organist: Lily Jasinskas .....

**Weekly Calendar:**

**Monday:** Pastor’s day off

**Tuesday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Pastor in Port Colborne

**Wednesday:** Pickleball 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
Rose City Quilters 9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Pastor in Welland

**Thursday:** Pastor in Welland

**Friday:** Pickleball 9:30 am to 11:30 am  
Pastor in Port Colborne

**Saturday:** Pickleball 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember**

The City of Welland's new Hospice Niagara, Walker House, Welland has been approved as our Anniversary project for 2026. Envelopes have been provided in the pews or money can be e- transferred to St. Matthew's for forwarding to the Hospice.

We live and serve on land that for thousands of years, Indigenous peoples have walked. We live on the traditional territory of several Indigenous peoples, including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnaabe and the Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their continuing stewardship of this land and we also honour the heritage and gifts of the Métis people.

**Worship leaders, ushers and counters for this week’s service:**

Scripture Reader Linda Borland  
Prayers Bobbye Goldenberg  
Usher/Greeter Norm & Carole McLeod  
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

**Worship leaders, ushers and counters for next week’s service:**

Scripture Reader Bobbye Goldenberg  
Prayers Marilyn Schultz  
Usher/Greeter Bob Hansen  
Counters Bob Hansen & Carole McLeod

Last week’s attendance 17, last year’s attendance 14



**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*  
A portion of the Easter Gospel is read from the centre aisle. Following the reading the leader says: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen just as he said!”

All: **Alleluia!** Greeting - Christ is risen, **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Gathering Hymn.....**ELW # 365**  
**“ Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie .....**ELW** page 147

Hymn of Praise “This is the Feast” **ELW** page 149

Prayer of the Day

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading..... Acts 10:34-43

Psalm.....118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading.....Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel .....John 20:1-18

Sermon

Hymn of the Day.....**ELW # 382**

**“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”**

Nicene Creed.....**ELW** page 104

Prayers of Intercession

**“Receive Our Prayer”**

Sharing the Peace

Offering Prayer

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Great Thanksgiving (sung).....**ELW** page 152

Sanctus “Holy, Holy”.....**ELW** page 153

Eucharistic Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer ..... **ELW** page 154

O Lamb of God .....**ELW** page 154

Communion Hymns.....**ELW # 367,379, 433**

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

Announcements and Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**ELW # 376**

**”Thine Is the Glory”**

Dismissal: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**“Thanks be to God”**