



THE PILGRIMAGE

The newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (LCMS), Broadway at Florey, Kilgore, Texas

April 2026

We glorify God by receiving the forgiveness of sins by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and sharing that salvation through word and deed with those in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

“Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!”

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

Do you have a favorite Easter hymn? Maybe “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (*Lutheran Service Book* 457)? Maybe “O Sons and Daughters of the King” (as at 470 and not 471)? Maybe “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (469, with the same tune as “The Friendly Beasts”)? Maybe C. F. W. Walther’s “He’s Risen, He’s Risen” (480)? I would be hard-pressed to give you only one favorite Easter hymn: I especially like Paul Gerhardt’s “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” (467) and “I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives” (468). The three stanzas of “Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious” (548—note that it is in *LSB*’s Redeemer section) is all that we have now of my old Easter favorite the six-stanza “Like the Golden Sun Ascending” (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 207, which itself omitted four stanzas of Thomas Kingo’s original). Incidentally, the headline for this article is the first line of *LSB* 475.

Any Easter hymn arguably qualifies as what the Old Testament, compared to the old Psalms, would consider a “new song” (for example, Psalm 40:3; 98:1), for our God’s past deliverances pointed forward to His greatest deliverance of us from our sin and deserved death by the death on the cross and resurrection from the grave of His Son in the human flesh of Jesus, for which deliverance we especially sing “Hallelujah” or “Alleluia”, either way, “Praise the Lord”, this Easter season (confer Revelation 5:9; 14:3)!

Our current hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, gives essentially thirty-three Easter hymns, numbered 457-490 (the Index on p.994 lists another five hymns under the Easter heading). We have sung all thirty-three of those hymns in the Easter section one or more times at one point or another in the more than fourteen years that I have been at Pilgrim now, though we will only sing twenty-two of them this Easter Season. (Most of the ones that we will not sing this year we last sang either last year or the year before.) If you consider that the Easter Season has seven Sundays and that, in general, we currently sing six hymns each Sunday, we arguably could sing all thirty-three of the hymns in *LSB*’s Easter section each Easter Season, but there is more to good hymn selection than just picking a hymn from the section of the hymnal that matches the season. For example, “Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow” (476) is centered on Luke 24:13-35, the appointed Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Easter in this year’s “A” year of our Three-

Article continues on the following page.

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Year Series, and “Long before the World Is Waking” (485) is centered on John 21:1-17, the appointed Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Easter in last year’s “C” year of our Three-Year Series. Furthermore, several of the hymns appointed by *LSB*’s developers as the Hymn of the Day for several of those seven Sundays are not even hymns from the hymnal’s Easter Section; for example “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (709), the Hymn of the Day for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also affectionately known as “Good Shepherd Sunday”, is in *LSB*’s Trust section (see also 556 and 539, which are the Hymns of the Day for Easter 6 and 7).

In general, we sing each Easter hymn at least once every three years. More specifically, we sing each appointed Hymn of the Day on its day each year; for example, we sing “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (633—note that it is in *LSB*’s Lord’s Supper section but as *Lutheran Worship* 126 was in the Easter section) on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. We sing the same two “traditional” Sequence Hymns on Easter Day every year (488 and 459), and I tend to pick “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (461) as the Closing Hymn on Easter Day every year. We sing “Hail Thee, Festival Day” as the Entrance Hymn on Easter Day every-other year, when we use Entrance Hymns. Coming into this Easter season, there were three Easter hymns that we had not sung since the Easter season of 2023, but we are singing all three of those this year. Some of the Easter hymns are not suggested by *LSB*’s developers for very many Sundays, though I certainly do not limit the hymns that I consider for any given Sunday only to those hymns suggested by *LSB*’s developers for that Sunday.

When I first got to Pilgrim, the Elders gave me a slightly-out-of-date list of hymns from the previous hymnal, *Lutheran Worship*, that the congregation supposedly knew, which list also indicated the extent to which the congregation supposedly knew the hymns. Of course, we have sung and continue to sing those hymns, and we have learned and continue to sing other hymns, some newer than *Lutheran Worship*, namely, 462, 472, 474, 476, 481, 485, and 486. (You may be interested to know that, of the thirty-three hymns in *LSB*’s Easter section, essentially fourteen were on that original list that the congregation supposedly knew.) And, all of that is not even to mention how the congregation itself has changed over the years, so that any estimation of the current congregation’s familiarity, especially of those present on a given Sunday, is ultimately a very rough guess. We do have our live accompanists introduce each hymn that we sing by playing only the hymn’s melody for a reason!


All are invited and welcome to “rejoice and sing” at Pilgrim this Easter Season! (See the calendar at right especially for the special services.)

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

DAILY BIBLE READING

- 1 Isaiah 25:1-9
Romans 1-3
- 2 Ps. 114
Romans 4-6
- 3 Ps. 115
Romans 7-9
- 4 Ps. 116
Romans 10-13
- 5 Ps. 117
Romans 14-16
- 6 Ps. 118
1 Cor. 1-3
- 7 Ps. 119:1-8
1 Cor. 4-6
- 8 Ps. 119:9-16
1 Cor. 7-9
- 9 Ps. 119:17-24
1 Cor. 10-11
- 10 Ps. 119:25-32
1 Cor. 12-14
- 11 Ps. 119:33-40
1 Cor. 15-16
- 12 Ps. 119:41-48
2 Cor. 1-4
- 13 Ps. 119:49-56
2 Cor. 5-7
- 14 Ps. 119:57-64
2 Cor. 8-10
- 15 Ps. 119:65-72
2 Cor. 11-13
- 16 Ps. 119:73-80
Galatians 1-3
- 17 Ps. 119:81-88
Galatians 4-6
- 18 Ps. 119:89-96
Ephesians 1-3
- 19 Ps. 119:97-104
Ephesians 4-6
- 20 Ps. 119:105-112
Philippians 1-2
- 21 Ps. 119:113-120
Philippians 3-4
- 22 Ps. 119:121-128
Colossians 1-2
- 23 Ps. 119:129-136
Colossians 3-4
- 24 Ps. 119:137-144
1 Thessalonians 1-3
- 25 Ps. 119:145-152
1 Thessalonians 4-5
- 26 Ps. 119:153-160
2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 27 Ps. 119:161-168
1 Timothy 1-3
- 28 Ps. 119:169-176
1 Timothy 4-6
- 29 Ps. 120
2 Timothy 1-2
- 30 Isaiah 25:1-9
2 Timothy 3-4

APRIL 2026



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Pilgrim Lutheran Church
 www.pilgrimlc.org
 903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00-8:00 PM
 Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM-Noon
 Saturday Noon-3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Elder on Duty: Jeromy McMurray (Back-up: Carl Gardner)			1	2 HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY 7:00 PM Divine Service	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM Divine Service Gualtieri/Hudson (A) Ava Knight (B)	4 Council Reports and Agenda Items due to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley tomorrow
5 EASTER DAY (W) 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Egg Hunt 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service	6 Tracie Fey (B)	7	8 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study M/M Treadway (A)	9 10:30-2:00 DFW Study Group at Faith, Wylie 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	10	11 (Willows Services are suspended)
12 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Meal & Special Voters' Meeting Andrea Walker (B)	13	14 6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting	15 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	16 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis	17	18
19 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Mary/Martha Society Gathering	20 Truman McHargue (B)	21	22 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	23 NO Circuit #14 Pastors' Meeting 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis M/M Navaille (A)	24	25
26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (W) 9:15 AM Refreshments 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Regular Church Council Meeting Paul Uhles (B)	27	28 5:30 PM Pastor opens the Kilgore City Council Meeting with prayer	29 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	30 7:40 AM Pastor leads Kilgore PD Devotion 4:15 PM Catechesis 7:30 PM Catechesis		

**“In fact, Christ has been raised from the dead,
 the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20 ESV)**

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713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

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