



Sunday, April 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Just a Story...”



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Paul Bouman

Announcements

Gathering Song

I Love Your Grace

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 34:1-10)*

P: We will bless the Lord at all times;
God’s praise shall ever be in our mouths.

**C: Let all who are humble hear and rejoice—
Come, let us exalt God’s name together.**

P: We sought the Lord, and God answered us,
Delivering us from fear and from trouble.

**C: Look to the Lord and be radiant—
For God hears and saves those who call.**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good;
Happy are all who take refuge in God.

**C: Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing—
Come, let us worship with joy and thanksgiving.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Open The Eyes of My Heart

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God, who chose us in Christ. Let us come to the fountain of mercy.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Almighty God,

C: In raising Jesus from the tomb, you destroyed the power of sin and death. Hear us as we confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Grant us the radiant power of your grace. Forgive us, heal us, and renew us, so that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

P: In great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In obedience to our Lord's command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Erik

Sermon "Just a Story..." Pastor Erik

Hymn This Joyful Eastertide ELW 391

The Nicene Creed

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

please be seated

The Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



Anthem

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

Benjamin Harrison

Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Sylvia, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Kathy, Joanne, Jessie, Adelyn, Kipp, Dale, Melanie,
Charles, Chuck, Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Special Music

"A Joyful Alleluia"

Cynthia Dobrinski

Benediction

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Song

Front Seat. Back Seat

Sending

P: Go in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

"Fanfare for Easter Season"

John Behnke

Vacation Bible School

We are having conversations about Vacation Bible School this summer, and your input will help shape what we offer. We're so grateful for the ways your families connect with us throughout the year, and we want to make VBS as accessible and life-giving as possible for everyone.

Would you take a moment to share your preferences for this summer? In particular, we're wondering:

Week Preference: June 15-18, June 22-25, July 13-16, July 20-23

Daytime or Evening?

How many days feel manageable: 3 days, 4 days, a weekend format

Would you or another family member be interested in volunteering by:

- 1) Planning/preparing in advance
- 2) Help lead
- 3) Help with the children
- 4) Provide food
- 5) Serve food
- 6) Cleanup and setup for next day

Please talk to Pastor Erik or email him at erik.allen@kogcarmel.org

Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, April 19

- 9:00 am Christian Ed
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Guitar Class
- 11:15 am New Council Gathering
- 12:00 pm Lion Dance Rehearsal
- 2:15 pm Chinese Orchestra
- 4:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 5:00 pm Catechism/Youth

- MONDAY, April 20

- 10:00 am Craft Group
- 7:00 pm Sarah Circle

- TUESDAY, April 21

- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

- WEDNESDAY, April 22

- 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am WOW
- 3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
- 6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Choir Practice

- THURSDAY, April 23

- 6:15 pm Girl Scouts
- 7:00 pm Worship & Music

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: Christ Is Risen to Give Us Joy That Endures

As the Easter season continues so does our rejoicing in the risen Lord with each day this week carrying a different tone of joy. Advent calls us to rejoice in hope as we await Christ's coming. Lent offers a quieter joy as we anticipate Easter. Now, in this Easter season, we are called to full and unrestrained joy—because Christ is risen. This joy is not shallow or fleeting. It is born from the cross and resurrection, rooted in God's promise to bring life out of death. It does not deny sorrow, but transforms it. Even in uncertainty or waiting, we are given a joy grounded in the risen Christ, who holds us in steadfast love.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 16:16–23 “A Little While”

Jesus repeats “a little while,” naming the tension between loss and promise. The disciples would soon face the grief of the cross, followed by the joy of resurrection. This rhythm—sorrow and joy—continues in the life of faith. We live in the “little while,” trusting what we cannot yet see. Yet, Christ does not leave us alone. He comes to us through the Word and within the gathered community. In baptism, we are joined to his death and resurrection, and in the meal he gives, he meets us with sustaining grace. Even now, Christ is at work, turning sorrow into joy. Lord, in our waiting, keep us grounded in your promise and open us to your joy. Amen.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: John 14:1–11 “O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God”

Jesus speaks to troubled hearts: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He does not dismiss fear but redirects trust toward himself. Philip longs to see the Father, and Jesus reveals that to know him is to know God. All of John's Gospel echoes this truth: the eternal Word became flesh and dwells among us. In Jesus, we meet a God who is present in love and suffering. The way to the Father is not hidden—it is revealed in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Siblings in Christ, when doubt arises, we return to this promise: God is known in Jesus. Lord, draw our hearts to Christ, who reveals your love. Amen.

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 75 The Pillars of the Earth Are the Lord's

Psalm 75 reminds us that God holds all things together. While human structures rise and fall, God remains steadfast. The image of pillars speaks of stability grounded not in human effort, but in God's sustaining power. God judges with justice, lifting up the lowly and humbling the proud. In a world that feels uncertain, this psalm offers reassurance: God's purposes endure. Our lives are held not by our strength, but by God's grace. Lord, be our foundation and strength in all we face. Amen.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11–20 Living as God’s People in the World

Peter speaks of believers as “exiles”—people shaped by a deeper identity. This does not mean withdrawal, but faithful living within the world. Rather than retreat or conformity, we are called to lives marked by humility and trust. Our identity is not defined by culture, but by God’s claim upon us. As Micah implores we seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Though the path is not easy, it is shaped by hope and trust in God’s work. Lord, guide us to live faithfully, grounded in your truth and love. Amen.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Lamentations 3:18–26 Waiting for the Lord’s Salvation

Lamentations gives voice to deep sorrow. Hope seems gone, and strength has failed. Yet a turning point comes: “But this I call to mind.” Faith does not ignore suffering—it speaks into it. The steadfast love of the Lord does not cease. God’s mercies are new every morning. Even when circumstances remain unchanged, God’s faithfulness endures. Our task is to let waiting become an act of trust, rooted in God’s promise. Lord, when hope feels distant, remind us of your unfailing mercy. Amen.

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14–16 Your Great High Priest

Hebrews reminds us that Christ is not distant. In Jesus, God fully enters human experience, knowing suffering and pain. Because of this, we approach God with confidence, not fear. Christ is our great high priest, drawing us near to mercy. In baptism, we are joined to his life, and in the gathered community, we are reminded that we belong to God. Grace is given, not earned. Because Christ knows us fully, we trust that we are received with compassion. Lord, draw us near to your grace and fill us with your mercy. Amen.

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 146 Trust Not in Rulers

Psalm 146 calls us to trust in God rather than human power. Leaders have their place, but they are limited. God alone is faithful across generations. This psalm proclaims who God is and what God does: creating, sustaining, freeing, and lifting up those in need. These are not distant truths but living realities. Today our calling is remembering that to praise God is to trust in this enduring love. Lord, turn our hearts toward you, that our trust may rest in you alone. Amen.