



# The Parishioner

Volume 28 Issue 04    A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2023

## From the Pastor's Desk:

As we come to the month of April, we are almost immediately into Holy Week. On Saturday (1 April) and Sunday (2 April) we celebrate Palm Sunday. At the end of the week, we observe “the Great Three Days”: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), and, on Sunday (9 April) we gather for the observance and celebration of Easter Day (please see the calendar at the back of the Newsletter for the times). The 40 days of Lent have, I hope, created within us a deep hunger for the Resurrection of Jesus, not so that our Lenten fasting (whatever that has been) is finally over and we can go back to “life as usual”, but so that by the time we gather for the Feast of the Resurrection, we have been prepared to have our deepest hunger and thirst – the hunger and thirst for a deep and profound communion with Christ – filled to overflowing. Having died with Christ, we will be raised with him (Romans 6).

The Resurrection of Jesus defines our faith. We may think of the Resurrection of Jesus as the logical conclusion to such a great life; after all, don't all Christians go to heaven? Such a misunderstanding of what the Resurrection is about completely misses the point. Jesus' Resurrection was a totally unique event in the entirety of history.

When we read the New Testament, particularly as we see the reaction of the Jewish leaders in the early chapters of the Book of Acts, we quickly see why it mattered. The majority of Jews (the Sadducees being an exception) believed in the future resurrection, the thing that God would do at the end of history. The problem for them was that the followers of Jesus were proclaiming the Resurrection of one individual, an individual who had been convicted and executed by crucifixion (e.g., Acts 4.2; 17.18; 23.6; 24.21; & 26.23!). In the Book of Acts, Paul said, “I am on trial for the resurrection”, not just about the concept of resurrection, but the proclamation of the bodily resurrection of the crucified Jesus, not that it would happen sometime in the unknown future, but that it had already happened to one particular man at a particular time in our history!!!

We must not miss the centrality of Jesus' resurrection. As one contemporary New Testament Scholar has put it, “What Israel believed God would do for her at the end of her long history, He had done for Jesus in the middle of history.”

When we turn to the letters of Paul and as we listen to Paul's preaching in the Book of Acts, we encounter someone deeply committed to his Jewish faith and to the hope of Israel; but it all got turned upside down. Because of his encounter with the *risen* Jesus, Paul had to rethink his beliefs in the light of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus and in light of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Paul had to work out how through Christ and the Holy Spirit the God of Israel fulfilled his promises and maintained His faithfulness to His covenant.

Jesus' resurrection was unexpected and, in a sense, confusing, even to his disciples, despite the fact that Jesus had told them about it a number of times. The women went to the tomb on that Sunday because they expected Jesus' body to be there; but it was gone. His soul hadn't just "gone to heaven"; God had raised his body, so that Jesus lives forever as the Crucified One, the Lamb who was slain.

Paul tells us in no uncertain terms: If Christ has not been raised, our faith is useless and we are still in our sins. Furthermore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. For if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we should be pitied more than anyone (see 1 Corinthians 15.17-19). When we affirm our faith each Sunday, we not only say, "On the third day he rose again"; we also affirm, "[I believe] in the resurrection of the body".

This message empowers everything we do – in song, prayers, words, giving, fellowship, service, particularly in the Word and in the Sacraments; in fact, this is our very life. There is no Christian faith without the resurrection of Jesus. When we go out "into the world" each day, the resurrection empowers our living, because the Holy Spirit empowers our lives *with* the life of the crucified, risen, ascended and reigning Jesus. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

In Christ, *Pastor Phillips*




### UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY – A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

On Thursday, 20 April, Bible Study will resume as we begin a survey of the Old Testament. If you want a better understanding of the Old Testament and why it is essential and central to the Christian faith, I invite you to join us. Classes are from 6:00 – 7:00 every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your Bible with you. I encourage you to start reading, beginning with Genesis 1, and continue reading as much as you can. Again, this Bible Study will be a survey of the Old Testament, not an in-depth study of each book.

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The liturgies of Holy Week have the potential to plunge the faithful who participate in them into the central mystery of our faith, the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is present to us during liturgical worship, and when we worship, we can be present to God. The saving events in the life of Jesus Christ remembered during Holy Week make this week different from all other weeks of the year.

<p><b>HOLY WEEK</b></p>  <p><b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Palm Sunday Weekend, April 1 &amp; 2</li><li>• Maundy Thursday, April 6 @ 7:00 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good Friday, April 7 @ 7:00 pm</li><li>• Easter Vigil April 8 @ 5:00 pm</li><li>• Easter Day, April 9 @ 9:00 am</li></ul></li></ul>
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May your participation in the powerful liturgies of Holy Week draw you into deeper union with the Lord, who gave His life for us, so that we might share in the glory of His divine life. Let the worship of God that takes place at each Holy Week celebration intimately connect you to the Lord. Holy Week offers immense opportunities for grace and can be an intense spiritual experience for the faithful.

Source: <https://catholicstarherald.org/holy-week-an-opportunity-for-grace/>

## Stay Connected

We are working hard to continue reaching out, serving and “being witnesses” through a variety of old and new ways. Find us, “Like us” and Share us! ❤️

- [Website](http://stmarksbutler.org) – stmarksbutler.org / [Facebook](#) – St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (Butler, PA)
- [YouTube](#) – St. Marks Butler PA / [Radio Broadcast](#) – WBUT 1050 AM, Sunday mornings @ 10:30 am
- [Newsletter](#) – “The Parishioner” - sent monthly to your mailbox and found on the website
- [Email](#) – Parish Administrator, [wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org](mailto:wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org) / Phone – (724)-287-6741
- [Mail](#) – 201 West Jefferson Street, Butler, PA 16001

Help us stay connected to you. Share and/or update your contact information so that we can keep you informed.

### **Congregational Council** – Next meeting, Tuesday, April 11, 2023 @ 6:30pm

Please have your reports into the office by Thursday, April 6.

Envelopes will be available for pick-up in your mailboxes, Saturday, April 8.

*Please keep our Church Council in your prayers as they make decisions for our church family.*

*please  
join us*

**3T- Wednesday,  
April 5 @ 9:00 am**

Join the busy hands at work. A job for everyone!  
Time of talk, task & tea (lite lunch @ 11:30am)

St. Mark’s Financial Overview

February 2023

\$28,999.31 Receipts

\$39,702.39 Expenses

(\$10,703.08) Deficit

**Prayer Shawl Group** meets Wednesday, April 12 @ 1:00 pm.

If you are unable to join the group at the church, but would still like to add your talents, please reach out to Elaine Walker.

**Afternoon @ the Movies**  
**Thursday, April 13 &  
Thursday, April 20**  
**@ 1:30**

>NOW SHOWING<

*The Chosen* (next episode)

A multi-season television show about Jesus Christ; dig deeper into the people who encountered Jesus and to see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, but also to show him in a way that is more "personal, intimate, immediate."



**You are invited to an  
OPEN HOUSE  
In honor of the  
100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Daryl Betz  
Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> \*2:00-4:00  
Hidden Meadows Clubhouse**

(off Cupps Road in Meridian, please do not park on the grass.)

Light appetizers and beverages will be available.

No gifts! We hope to see you there!



Tuesday, April 25 @ 3:00

**Eve Bible Study**

Eve Bible Study will meet in the Good News Classroom. The study that day is "Nathum, the Call to Leave Judgment in God’s Hands," from "The Minor Prophets, The Divine Call".



*“It takes a village”* is a phrase I use frequently and this last month it was more than relevant. Several weeks ago, the 5 churches who serve Community Meals in Butler came together for a weekend of great local art, music, food and fellowship at St Michael’s Hall at the Community Meal Gala & Art Show. Working together for the last 6 months, we have been able to gain sponsors, food & drinks, and beautiful baskets for this festive event that raised money to support the work that we do in the community. The many church groups, community groups such as the Butler Lions, other Arts groups like the BLT & MTG, & Jr Women’s Club, came out for a relaxing evening while raising money for our mission— *“to fulfill Christ’s directive to ‘feed my sheep’ by providing, nutritious meals at no cost to those in need within the community of Butler”*. It warms my heart to see us all working together for this common goal of improving the quality of life for folks who have so little. It truly was a village sharing the duties & responsibilities of putting this together! There are far too many people who worked on this event to thank individually. We are so blessed to live in such a generous community who cares deeply about the people who live here.

**Notes from the Kitchen.....**

- ❖ My apologies to Susan Catanzarito and New Dimensions Comic who were inadvertently left out of the Acknowledgments in the Gala program. Susan donated the beautiful handmade Iris Garden quilt that was raffled off. New Dimensions Comics loaned Mark Hall the four metal display racks that he used to hang much of his artwork on. We appreciate all they did to add to our event.
- ❖ The number of meals that Katie’s Kitchen serves continues to rise primarily as a result of the decrease in SNAP benefits that our folks are receiving. We are currently serving TWICE as many meals as we did this time last year. We continue to be blessed with donations from Butler Farm Market, Panera, & St Vincent de Paul that help us stretch out budget! We appreciate All that they share with us!
- ❖ We have been seeing a few more families with children stopping by for meals, so we have been offering them free children’s books that have been donated to us. These books have been well received, and give the children more opportunities to see the printed word in their homes- a very important key to get them reading. Often these families don’t get a newspaper or magazines ( does anyone have a magazine subscription any more? ♀). If your children have outgrown some of their books & you are looking for a place to donate them, please drop them off at KK or send them in with any of our dedicated volunteers. We can use any books that are appropriate from birth to school age children— picture books, chapter books, or graphic novels. Their reading teachers will thank you!

In these days of Lent, we are asked to sacrifice, give alms, & pray. In that spirit, I am so very grateful for all of those who contributed & sacrificed in any way to make the CMG&AS a great success! It was a busy few days but we were able to raise a substantial amount of money that will allow all of these churches to continue to feed our neighbors who are most needy. (We are still working on the final numbers!). By accepting our neighbors where they are in life, we are acting as the eyes & hands of Christ who died for all of us & rose gloriously from the dead on Easter morning. I pray that the Risen Lord bring you & your family abundant happiness this Easter Season.

*Wishing you all a very Blessed Easter !*

*-justine*



We are so thankful for the generosity of the community we live in!

**Community Dinner  
Art Show & Sale  
2023**  
A BIG Thank You  
to all involved!





## August 7-11, 2023 Lutheran Week 2023

*“Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation!”*

—Mark 16:15

The American Lutheran missiologist, James A. Scherer says, “For Luther, mission is always pre-eminently the work of the triune God—*missio Dei*—and its goal and outcome is the coming of the kingdom of God. Luther sees the church, along with God’s word and every baptized believer, as crucial divine instruments for mission. Yet, nowhere does the reformer make the church the starting point or the final goal of mission, as 19th-century missiology tended to do. It is always *God’s own mission* that dominates Luther’s thought, and the coming of the *kingdom of God* represents its final culmination” (James A. Scherer, *Gospel, Church, & Kingdom: Comparative Studies in World Mission Theology* [Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987], 55). As one of the Core Values of the North American Lutheran Church is Mission Driven, it is important for us to be reminded that this is not our mission, our vision, our strategy, but it is “pre-eminently the work of the triune God—*missio Dei*!”

This year’s NALC Lutheran Week completes a six-year focus on the Holy Trinity, concluding now with “God the Father Creates...in His Image,” as the theme for the **Braaten-Benne Theological Lectures**. However, it seems appropriate to conclude this cycle with the theme, *Missio Dei*, as we celebrate the fact that everything we do as a mission-driven Lutheran body comes from God and His mission—that we are to go into all the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, preaching the good news of salvation in and through Jesus Christ—to the whole creation!

Our prayer is that this year’s **Mission Convocation** will indeed be a mission-oriented and mission-driven gathering! While there will be necessary times dedicated to reports, actions and elections—including the election of a bishop—highlights will be the several “On Fire for Mission” sessions, focusing on domestic mission, international mission and mission related to congregational life. These will begin with brief Bible study and devotional periods, followed by presentations on the theme, with extended time for table talk, reflection, breakouts, and strategies for “taking it home!”

We are also excited to hold a **Faith Formation Festival** (“Everything You Want to Know About Youth & Family Ministry”) and the **Gathering of the Women of the NALC** (“Using Our Gifts to Serve”) earlier in the week.

The hope and prayer of all involved is that this will light a spark or fan the flame for mission, that we return home inspired and excited about *missio Dei*—the work and mission of God in our local congregations, in North America and throughout the whole creation!

For more information or to register go to: <https://lutheranweek.com/>

**A Guide for Daily Prayer 2023-2024 >>>>** The 17th-century Anglican bishop Jeremy Taylor famously said, “Pray frequently and effectually; I had rather your prayers should be often than long.” *Devoted to Prayer* is a devotional aid to help you build a habit of more regular and purposeful prayer, with daily Scripture readings and reflections from the lives of saints who have gone before. It is arranged in the Lutheran prayer tradition and suitable for all Christians seeking a deeper relationship with God. To receive a daily text message, daily email, download the prayer calendar or view the daily readings on online, go to <https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/>





Harlan Rae Barron-Fowler will be taking her First Communion at the Palm Sunday Service on April 2nd at 9AM.

She has finished her classes, painted a chalice, baked bread, and made a banner.

The Members of St. Mark's are excited and supportive as Harlan continues her Faith journey.

Classes will be held in the Fall for the kids going into 3rd grade next year, and any that are older that need to take their First Communion.

**God is Good all the time! All the time, God is Good!**

### Sunday School for kids

Sunday School takes place every Sunday, from 10:15 to 11:15AM in Schramm Hall.

Starts at age 2.

- Palm Walk on Sunday, the 2nd during Sunday School. The kids will take a journey with Jesus as he rode a donkey triumphally into the city of Jerusalem. Palms are waved and kids shout "Hosanna, the King!"
- Easter Egg Hunt after the Palm Walk
- No Sunday School on Easter Sunday
- Resurrection Eggs on the 16th. Easter is here! Alleluia! Christ is Risen, He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come join the fun! Lessons! Crafts! Songs! Games!



### Sunday Service 9AM

As part of the Worship Service, all kids, ages 4 to Confirmation age are welcomed at

**children's Church**

**Games! Lessons!**

**Studies! Snacks!**

**Puppet Shows!**

**Fun for all!**

Kids will sit with their Parents in the Pews. Pastor will call the kids forward for a short Children's Message. Then, they will head downstairs with Miss Darcie to get an age appropriate lesson. Miss Darcie will bring the kids up during Communion to be blessed.

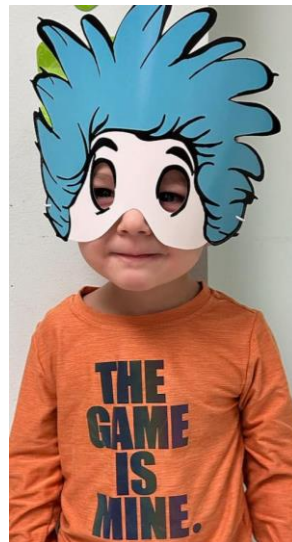
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
201 West Jefferson St.  
Butler PA 16001

Darcie Pomykata  
Youth Director  
(724) 996-9245 cell/text  
Darcie.Pomykata  
@stmarksbutler.org



## St. Mark's Children's Hour fun in the month of March

- Dr. Seuss/Crazy Sock Day
- A Visit from Butler County Dairy Princess  
~Brooklyn Peters
- St. Patrick's Day Celebration



**JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Q: What do you call a bear caught in April showers?????????????????????  
 ??????????????????????????????  
 ??????????????????????????????  
 ?????A drizzly bear?????????



**Beet Pickled Deviled Eggs**

Pickled Eggs

- 1 dozen hard boiled eggs
- 2 cans sliced beets or 1 lb. fresh beets, boiled until tender, sliced, reserving cooking liquid
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 TBSP whole black peppercorns
- 4 TBSP pickling spice
- 1 small red onion, sliced

Deviled Pickled Eggs

- 2 TBS unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

Fresh chives

Instructions – Combine all the liquid from canned or jarred beets (reserving the beets), apple cider vinegar, sugar, pickling spice, and black peppercorns to a saucepan. Bring to a simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Add sliced beets, sliced onion, and peeled hard-boiled eggs to the cooled liquid. Refrigerate for at least 24 hours or up to 7 days.

Deviled eggs – Slice deviled pickled eggs, remove yolk. Combine yolk, mayonnaise, butter, salt and pepper in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until well combined and fluffy. Fill egg halves with yolk mixture and top with sliced chives or pickled onions from the mixture.

Source <https://abraskitchen.com/beet-pickled-deviled-eggs/>

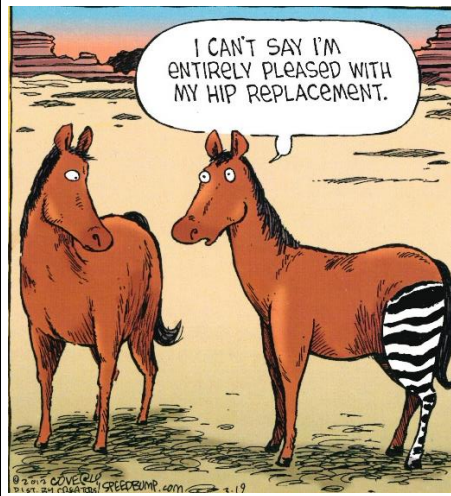


**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Tuesday, April 18  
 Noon – 5:30 pm**

**St. Mark's Fellowship Hall**

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Butler to schedule an appointment.



The overflowing love expressed in your cards, gift cards, phone calls, visits and meals has shown us how very blessed we are to be part of your church family.

You all have been amazing and full of grace.

Thank you again for all that you did.



Your Sister in Christ, Jessie

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Justin Brown, We thank you for your contribution to the “Community Meal Gala & Art Show.” We commend you on your dedication, work ethic, and commitment to raising funds for the Butler churches to provide quality meals for the community. We appreciate you managing Katie’s Kitchen and your assistance in supporting the Butler community. Wishing you continued success,

Leslie A. Osche, Kimberly D. Geyer

Board of Butler County Commissioners

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Thank you for your participation in the Glade Run Lutheran Services Christmas Angel Program. Your support and generosity has made a difference in the lives of so many individuals. May this new year hold many blessings for you and your loved ones. Many thanks for your continued prayers and contributions. - Steven Green, President/CEO, and the children, families and staff of Glade Run Lutheran Services

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**THANK YOU!**

Your donation is greatly appreciated.  
 VOICE, Victim Outreach Intervention Center,  
 111 S. Cliff Street, Butler, PA



# APR 2023



SUN      MON      TUE      WED      THU      FRI      SAT

01

5:00 Worship

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

9:00 Worship  
10:15 S.S.



5:00 Bell Choir  
6:00 Choir

9:00 3T  
9:30 Children's  
Hour



5:00 Katie's  
Kitchen  
7:00 Worship



7:00 Worship



5:00 Worship

09

10

11

12

13

14

15

9:00 Worship  
10:15 S.S.



5:00 Bell Choir  
6:00 Choir  
6:30 Council

9:30 Children's  
Hour  
1:00 Prayer Shawl

1:30 Movie

5:00 Katie's  
Kitchen

5:00 Worship

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

9:00 Worship  
10:15 S.S.

12:00 Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
5:00 Bell Choir  
6:00 Choir

9:30 Children's  
Hour

1:30 Movie  
5:00 Katie's  
Kitchen  
6:00 Bible Study

5:00 Worship

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

9:00 Worship  
10:15 S.S.

3:00 Eve Bible  
Study  
5:00 Bell Choir  
6:00 Choir

9:30 Children's  
Hour

5:00 Katie's  
Kitchen  
6:00 Bible Study

5:00 Worship

30

9:00 Worship  
10:15 S.S.

Fun Dates to Celebrate: April 12 – National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day  
April 15 – Take a Wild Guess Day, April 23 – Talk Like Shakespeare Day  
April 26 – National Pretzel Day

Scripture

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." ~ 1 Peter 1:3-4*

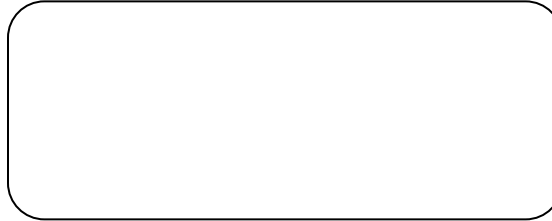
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
201 West Jefferson Street  
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Fax: 724-287-6747  
Website: [www.stmarksbutler.org](http://www.stmarksbutler.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 92  
BUTLER, PA

Parish Office Hours:  
9:00 AM -- 1: 00 PM  
Tuesday – Friday  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:15 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Learn more about The North American

Lutheran Church

[www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)

Christ Centered

Mission Driven

Traditionally Grounded

Congregationally Focused



**St. Mark's Staff**

Rev. David Phillips, Senior Pastor  
Wendy Holt, Parish Administrator  
Darcie Pomykata, Youth Director  
John Lingenfelter, Custodian  
Larry Rettig, Custodian  
Rebecca Veith, Director of Music  
Sherry Young, Treasurer  
Toni Tasse, Financial Secretary

## April Scriptures and Prayers

April 2 – Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 118:19-29, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 26:1-27:66

*\* Almighty God, You sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take our flesh upon Him and to suffer death on the cross. Grant that we may share in His obedience to Your will and in the glorious victory of His resurrection; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 6, Maundy Thursday – Exodus 24:3-11, Psalm 116:12-19, Hebrews 9:11-22, Matthew 26:17-30

*\* Holy God, source of all love, on the night of His betrayal, Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment: To love one another as He had loved them. By Your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 7, Good Friday – Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

*\* Almighty God, we ask You to look with mercy on Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 8, Easter Vigil – Exodus 14:10-15:1, Psalm 118:15-29, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20:1-18

*\* O God, You are the creator of the world, the liberator of Your people and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of Your Son free us from our fears, restore us in Your image, and ignite us with Your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 9, Easter Sunday – Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 16, Colossians 3:1-4, Matthew 28:1-10

*\* Almighty God, You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in Your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 16 – Acts 5:29-42, Psalm 148, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

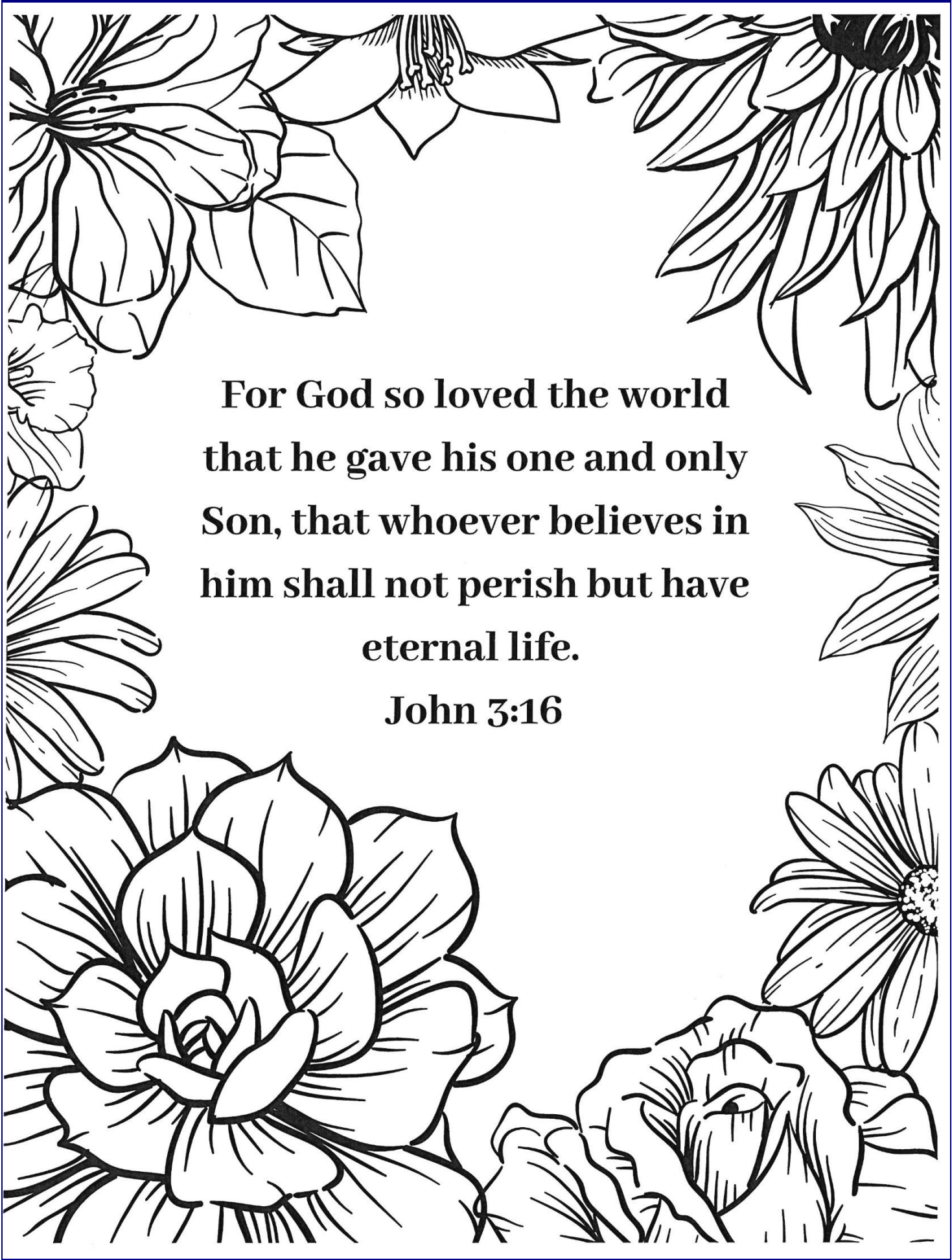
*\* Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 23 – Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-14, 1 Peter 1:17-25, Luke 24:13-35

*\* O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant Your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 30 – Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

*\* God of all power, You called from death our lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed on another with knowledge and understanding; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



**For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only  
Son, that whoever believes in  
him shall not perish but have  
eternal life.**

**John 3:16**