

Easter Sunday Worship Service – April 5, 2026

Using material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

The tomb is dark, but empty.

The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness.

The stone has been rolled away.

The one you are looking for has overcome death.

The burial clothes are put aside.

The one you are looking for is alive!

Christ is Risen!

Let us worship our Risen Savior!

Gathering Hymn *“The Day of Resurrection”* #361

1. **The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**
2. **Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and list’ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the glad refrain.**
3. **Now let the heav’ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!**
4. **All praise to God the Father, all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow’r and glory ascribe to God alone!**

¹ *Call to Worship* written by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

Thanksgiving for Baptism ²

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” #365

1. **Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**
2. **Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav’nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

² *Thanksgiving for Baptism* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN
(www.sundaysandseasons.com)

3. **But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**
4. **Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day³

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:34-43

In the very early days of the Christian Movement Peter was led to address a group of non-Jews in the house of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion! It was against Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile, but Peter comes anyway. Clearly the Resurrection was fundamental to Peter's belief in Jesus as Lord. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the tenth chapter:

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone

³ *Prayer of the Day* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.

but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Choir Anthem *“He is Not Here”* (11:00 AM service)

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

The author of this letter has described baptism as being “raised with Christ” and becoming sharers in his suffering and death. Baptism entails dying to one’s old ways and focussing on new, godly, ones. A reading from the Letter to the Colossians, the third chapter:

Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God’s right side. Think about the things above and not things on earth. You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation *“The Living Word”*⁴

**In the beginning was the Word,
the Living Word of God, the Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us on ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu! You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within!**

You speak to us and we remember:

**“I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.**

⁴ *Gospel Acclamation “The Living Word”* from “Liturgy of the Beloved” © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

**I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.” The Living Word.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 28th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you.”

With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Mercy, Passion and Joy

Hymn of the Day “Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded” #933 (ACS)

1. **Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing of the sun from darkness appearing;
sing of the seed from barren earth greening;
sing of creation, alleluia!
Sing of the stream from Jesus’ side flowing;
sing of the saints in water made holy;
sing of salvation, alleluia!**

2. **Day of delight and beauty unbounded,
tell the news, the gospel spread!
Day of all wonder, day of all splendor,
praise Christ risen from the dead!
Sing now of mourning turned into dancing;
sing now the myst'ry, hope of our glory;
sing with thanksgiving, alleluia!
Sing now of fasting turned into feasting;
sing the Lord's favour lasting forever;
sing, all things living, alleluia!**

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Prayers of Intercession ⁵

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. Each petition will end with "Merciful God" and the congregational response "receive our prayer."

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially...*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering ⁶

Let us rejoice and give thanks this day, bringing our gifts to God.

(An Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)

Offering / Offertory Prayer

With gratitude and joy, O God, we bring these gifts for your use, even as we offer our very lives into your loving service. May our financial

⁵ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Sundays and Seasons** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

⁶ *Offering Prayer* written by B.J. Beu, from **The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

assistance and the ministries of this church bring new life to a hurting world in need of resurrection. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁷

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order
and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.

He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power

to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose,

freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life,

we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels

and the whole company of heaven,

singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus ⁸ *(sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. *(repeat)*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all,

for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory.

⁷ *The Great Thanksgiving* from **New Life, The Lord, The Spirit** (Scottish Liturgy 1982)

⁸ Music by Jeff Johnson © 2019 Sola Scripture Songs

In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.
From the Garden the mystery dawned
that he whom they had loved and lost
is with us now in every place forever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,
welcoming weary fishermen on the shore,
he renewed the promise of his presence
and of new birth in the Spirit
who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which slaves walked free,
at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Mystery of Faith*⁹ (sung)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Epiclesis

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves a single, holy living sacrifice.

⁹ Music by Jeff Johnson © 2019 Sola Scripture Songs

Hear us, most merciful Father,
 and send your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon this bread and this wine,
 that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
 they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
 and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
 and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
 to live and work to your praise and glory;
 may we grow together in unity and love
 until at last, in your new creation,
 we enter into our heritage in the company of the apostles,
 and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters
 living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be to you,
 Lord of all ages, world without end.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Communion Invitation

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

Communion Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Communion Hymn "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" #619 (verses 1,2,5,7,8)

1. I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my everliving head!
2. He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.
5. He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.
7. He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.
8. He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Communion Hymn "Thine Is the Glory" #376

1. Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Refrain: Thine is the glory, risen conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.
2. Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. *(Refrain)*
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *(Refrain)*

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Choir Anthem *“He is Not Here”* (9:00 AM service)

Blessing

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. Amen.

Benediction Song *“May the Grace of Christ Attend Us”* (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Beth Hendricksen

¹⁰ *Prayer after Communion and Blessing* from sundaysandseasons.com, Copyright © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN.