

5 April 2026
Easter Sunday

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Leader: Christine Robertson
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Prologue

Introit: "Alleluia"

*(Text and Music: Jerry Sinclair
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Opening Words

One: In life, in death, in life beyond death

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

One: Over powers and principalities,
over all who determine, control,
govern or finance the affairs of humankind,

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

One: Of the poor, of the broken,
of the sinned against and the sinner,

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

One: Above the Church,
beyond our most excellent theologies,
and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

All: Jesus Christ is Lord!

One: Jesus Christ is risen today, Hallelujah!

Call to Worship

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

All: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

All: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

One: The good news is dancing!

All: The good news is on the loose!

One: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

**All: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.
Let us worship our good-news Christ.**

Affirming statement:

All: As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Hymn: VU 155 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

(Words: Lyra Davidica 1708, et al.; Music: Lyra Davidica 1708 desc. Derek Holman 1971, Descant © 1974 Derek Holman, Public Domain)

- 1. Christ the Lord is risen today , hal-le-lu-jah!
all creation join to say; hal-le-lu-jah!
raise your joys and triumphs high; hal-le-lu-jah!
sing O heavens, and earth reply: hal-le-lu-jah!**
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, hal-le-lu-jah
unto Christ our heavenly King, hal-le-lu-jah
who endured the cross and grave, hal-le-lu-jah
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!**
- 3. But the pains which he endured, hal-le-lu-jah!
our salvation have procured; hal-le-lu-jah!
now above the sky he's King, hal-le-lu-jah!
where the angels ever sing. Hal-le-lu-jah!**
- 4. Sing we to our God above, hal-le-lu-jah!
praise eternal as God's love; hal-le-lu-jah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hal-le-lu-jah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hal-le-lu-jah!**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God,

we want to be Easter people.

We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.

We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.

**We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.**

And we don't know where to look.

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."

We are on our way, but we are not there yet.

Show us how to embody your good news in this world.

Show us how to be your Easter people.

With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

Sung Response: VU 948 "O God, Hear My Prayer"

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O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.

Assurance of Grace

One: Beloved community,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias,"
we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you.

And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.

So join me in this good news declaration:

All: Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response: VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

(Words: trad. Liturgical text; Music: anon., arr. The Iona Community 1990

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Verses 2 & 3 written/added by Tim Weger)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Repeat 3X

Jesus Christ is risen, Hallelujah

Jesus Christ is risen, Hallelujah

Jesus Christ is risen, Hallelujah

Christ is risen, Hallelujah!

Now the tomb is empty, hallelujah

Now the tomb is empty, hallelujah

Now the tomb is empty, hallelujah

The tomb is empty, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Repeat 3X

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon: The Good News is ...Alive in the World

Rev Katherine Brittain

Hymn:

VU 187 "The Spring Has Come"

(Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1990, Music: Colin Gibson 1990

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- 1 The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!**

- 2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!**

- 3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!**

Affirmation of faith

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,

so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches,

even when wars rage,

even when mercy feels out of reach,

I remember the one who welcomed the children

and led with nonviolence.

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Invitation to Offering

Offering Hymn: MV #182 "Grateful" (chorus only)

*(Words & music: Tom Tomaszek, 2003; arr. Sarah Hart & Tom Tomaszek, 2003
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**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,
O God of Love.**

**Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

Offering Prayer

Hymn: TLUS 23 "For Everyone Born" (A Place at the Table)

*(Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998, alt., Music: Brian Mann, 2006
Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. 60188. ARR.
Music © 2006 Brian Mann, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik. ARR.
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**1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,**

**Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy! R**

**2. For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair, R**

3. For those we neglect, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for those we neglect, the right to belong, R
4. For all who have breath, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace, R
5. For you and for me, a place at the table,
though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for you and for me, a new way to live, R
6. For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, so speak out, to witness and worship
for everyone born, the right to be free, R

Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the table

One: On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus.
The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran,
afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him.
They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ.
And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them"

**All: Jesus met the women in their seeking.
Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.
Jesus met them when they felt lost.
Jesus met them and provided hope.**

One: Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ,
if you have known grief or fear,
if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope,
then come to this Table. All are welcome here.
For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking,
I am confident that Jesus meets us here,
saying, "Do not be afraid." So, lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise

One: Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit...

...So we join our voices with the faithful across the ages,
and with angels and archangels, and the rocks and stones of all Creation itself,
as we sing

All: "Holy Lord"

*(Lyrics & Music: Steve Bell, Arrangement: Ilchyshyn/Schwartz
© 1991, Signpost Music (SOCAN)*

E-mail: signpost@signpostmusic.com/Website: www.signpostmusic.com)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

One: You are risen. You are on the move in the world...
... As we remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection,
we wait with hope his coming again, to bring peace and justice to the earth;
and proclaim the mystery of our faith

**All: Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

Sharing the Gifts of God with the People of God

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

**Loving Christ,
thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.
Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst.
Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are.
Thank you for this Table that brings us together.
Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits.
Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there.
May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news.
With joy and hope we pray, amen.**

Announcements: Life and Work of the Church

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy birthday to you, Happy Anniversary to you
May God bless and keep you the coming year through.

Hymn:

MV 26 "Your Love is Amazing"

*(Words & music: Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen
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**Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet,
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded your love carries me.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.**

**Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,
all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see you all your goodness shines through,
I can feel this God song rising up in me.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing**

**Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet,
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded your love carries me.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, your love makes me sing.**

Commissioning and Benediction

One: As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.

**All: For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.**

One: The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking.
For if you won't, then who will?

All: Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen