

## Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

### GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

**Prelude** *Prelude on the Easter Hymn, Op, 88, No. 4* Charles Villiers Stanford  
(1852-1924)

#### Greeting and Announcements

#### Opening Sentences

#### \*Doxology - all to sing

No. 592

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### \*Prayer of Praise

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Through God's miracle of grace, we have come through the night and arrived at this glorious dawn.

**People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: All doors are open, all creation sings, all that was broken is made whole, and we have new life.

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord!

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

#### \*Opening Hymn      ["Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!"](#)

#### \*Call to Confession

Leader: God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

#### \*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love, there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you.**

*A Time of Silent Prayer*

#### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: God says to us, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Christ says to us, Do not be afraid. We need not fear; we are forgiven, we are loved, we are redeemed! God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. Our hearts cry, Alleluia! This is good news!

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

#### \*Response of Praise-all to sing      "Gloria Patri"      No. 579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

#### \*We Share God's Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)*

#### Anthem

*Easter Carol*

Jean Anne Shafferman

*Come, let us with our Lord arise, our Lord, who made both earth and skies,  
who died to save the world He made and rose triumphant from the dead.  
Hallelujah! Rise up and sing! Hallelujah, to Christ our King!*

*The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won.  
Our Christ has opened paradise, and death in vain forbids Him rise.  
Hallelujah! Rise up and sing! Hallelujah, to Christ our King!*

*Then let us render Him His own, with solemn pray'r approach His throne,  
with meekness hear the gospel word, with thanks His dying love record.  
Hallelujah! Rise and sing! Hallelujah, to Christ our King!*

*O sons and daughters, sing your praise on this most holy day of days.  
This is the day the Lord has made, that all may see His love displayed.  
Hallelujah! Rise up and sing! Hallelujah, to Christ our King!  
Hallelu! Rise and sing!*

### SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.  
**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Words of Institution

### **LISTENING FOR THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 \(NRSV\)](#)

Hymn (seated) "Jesus Loves Me" No. 304

*Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Children's Message

*(Children grades K-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)*

### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [Matthew 28:1-10 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon "You Are Looking"  
*it is marvelous*  
The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Prayers of the People...The Lord's Prayer ('debts' and debtors')

### **BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*Sending Hymn ["Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"](#)

\*Charge and Benediction

**Postlude** *Chorale Prelude on Gelobt Sei Gott* Healey Willan  
*No. 4 of Six Chorale Preludes* (1880-1968)

*(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)*

\*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

### **Lectionary readings for April 12, 2026**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31