

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 5, 2026

Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter Sunday

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

VIOLIN DUET "The Love of God" Violinists David Arends
& Cadhla Norris

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The darkness is banished!

All: The brightness of God's love floods in on us!

One: Christ is risen from the dead!

All: Christ is alive. Not just to Mary for a moment. He is alive for us forevermore.

One: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

All: AMEN!

*OPENING HYMN "Morning Has Broken" #469

RESPONSE FOR EASTER

One: Easter begins with despair. Our life, our love, our hope forever dead, crushed by a boulder, bottled up in a cave.

All: "Who will roll away the stone?"

One: Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect to face are removed. Where once death and despair laid locked in time, now the light of hope sprouts wings to fly. It is, at first, too good to be true.

All: Where have you laid him?

One: When faced with a miracle, our reflex is fear and doubt.

All: Be not afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen; he is not here: see the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples that he goes before you into Galilee. There you shall see him.

One: Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks. The One who was dead, is alive again, standing before us, thriving within us.

All: Christ is risen, risen indeed!

VIOLIN DUET "Christ Arose" Violinists David Arends
& Cadhla Norris

. . . to Hear the Joyous News of Christ's Resurrection

FIRST READING Acts 10: 34-43 p. 129

ANTHEM "At the Name" Choir

GOSPEL READING John 20: 1-18 p. 114

SERMON "Why Are You Weeping?" Pastor Judy Sibley

RESPONSE TO THE WORD "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" #123

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM "Lift Your Light" Choir

. . . to Respond in Hope and Joy

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #592

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate all we have brought to share, that the joyful sounds of resurrection may spread through these streets and across the lands, beginning within our walls and bursting out for all the world to hear. May the glad songs motivate ministry to others in our everyday lives. As forgiven and forgiving people, let us take the message of Easter everywhere we go, each and every day. Amen.

*COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" #513

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: . . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: . . . Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves,

that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Let us keep the feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... and Go Out in Resurrection Power

***CLOSING HYMN** "Majesty" **Lt. Blue Songbook #46**

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "I Danced in the Morning" **#302**
(verse 5 only)

POSTLUDE

The Upper Room

"Jesus Is Risen!"

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Read Matthew 28:1-10

"The angel said to the woman, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

---Matthew 28:5-6 (NIV)

When my children were very young, we attended an Easter service. While preaching about the resurrection of Jesus, the pastor talked about how Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to Jesus' tomb. They found the stone rolled back and encountered an angel of the Lord. Then the pastor asked a rhetorical question: "What did the angel say to the women?" Surprising us all, my five-year-old daughter blurted out, "Jesus is risen!" She said it so fervently and innocently that the pastor commented on her vigor in announcing Jesus' resurrection.

I've never forgotten that moment. My daughter had learned about Jesus' life and resurrection in Sunday school, so she knew the answer to the question and was proud to state it. I felt blessed by her enthusiastic response. We can learn from children to be witnesses of God's word, proclaiming it for all to hear. We are all God's children, and God loves us!

Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the blessing of children and all that they teach us about faith in you. Amen."

--Candace Kaufman (New York, USA)

Thought for the Day:

"I will embrace God's love for me like a child – wholeheartedly."

(If you would like to read **The Upper Room** each day, you may pick up a copy in the narthex.)

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