

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

1

**Welcome** *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

**Special Music** *“Alleluja” by Mozart, sung by Cheryl Bailey*

**\*\*Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in BOLD and \*\**)

**\*\*Good Morning, I am Nancy Cooley, and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand as you are comfortable and able to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

**\*\*Leader: Come and see; come and rejoice. God calls us together for a celebration.**

People: We have come seeking Jesus of Nazareth. We want to know the One who comforts and heals.

**\*\*Leader: Enter into this time of worship with thanksgiving; receive once more the good news of peace.**

People: God is our strength and our song; God has acted in Christ for our salvation.

**\*\*Leader: The gates of righteousness have opened to you; Jesus promises to meet you along life's way.**

People: Christ is risen; what a joyous moment! Christ is risen; we want to tell the world!

**\*\*Will you join us in our opening song, “Christ is Risen”, hymn #307, and the words will be on the screen.**

**Children’s Time**

**Choir Anthem “He is Risen Now!” by John Purifoy**

**Community Notes**

## **2 Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts**

*(Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)*

**\*\*Invitation: Our generous offerings are but one response to the good news of Easter. They are appropriate expressions of thanks to God. They bear witness to the degree of our commitment. But no offering is a substitute for personal faithfulness to God, who calls us to be healers, witnesses, and lovers of the world's people, whom Christ came to save.**

**\*\*Will you pray with me? No gift we bring is adequate to return the love you have given us, O God in the risen Christ. Anoint these expressions of our thanksgiving with power to accomplish your will among our neighbors and in your world. In response to your grace, we rededicate ourselves to serve in faithfulness wherever you may lead. Thanks be to you, O God, for the new life you have granted. Amen.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 NRSV**

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; this steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly." I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading Acts 10:34-43 NRSV**

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God 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.”

**\*\*Scripture Reading Matthew 28:1-10 NRSV**

**As this is a reading from the Gospel, please stand in body or spirit.**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And

4 **they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”**

**This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!**

**Message** *“Do Not Be Afraid to Go”* Pastor Jeff Williams

**Special Music** *“Hallelujah”* by Leonard Cohen, sung by Alexa Ward  
(Easter lyrics)

**Closing Song** *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”* -On Screen

**Blessing for the Week**

**Choral Benediction**

Fresh Winds of the Spirit, pages 74 and 75