

Order of Worship Service – April 5, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY

PRELUDES	Fanfare – Antonio Soler Jesus Christ is Risen Today – arr. Anna Laura Page Thine is the Glory – arr. Anna Laura Page
WELCOME	
EASTER SUNDAY RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP	
OUR RESPONSE HYMN #809	Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD HUNDREDTH)
OPENING PRAYER	
CHOIR	Paen for Easter – Gordon Young
HYMN #254	Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven (ODE TO JOY)
SCRIPTURE READING	John 1:35-51 (NRSV) Reader: <i>The Word of the Lord.</i> Congregation Response: <i>Thanks be to God.</i>
CHOIR	Celebrate the Day – Boyd Bacon
PRAYER OF BLESSING	
HYMN #235	Christ Arose! (CHRIST AROSE)
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Dale Murphy Leader: <i>In our words, our silence, our actions, may our motivation be, Alleluia, Christ is risen!</i> Congregation Response: <i>He is risen indeed!</i>
SCRIPTURE READING	John 20:1-18 (NRSV) Reader: <i>The Word of the Lord.</i> Congregation Response: <i>Thanks be to God.</i>
WOMEN’S CHORUS	When It Was Yet Dark – Stephen Hatfield
MESSAGE	God in Search of Us – Randy Holm
HYMN #251	Thine is the Glory (MACCABEUS) *Hallelujah Chorus ‘visitors’ please come forward during the final verse of this hymn*
THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS	(from “Messiah”) – G.F. Handel
POSTLUDE	Toccata (from “Symphony V”) – Charles-Marie Widor

Worship Leader	Belinda Knopf
Minister of Pastoral & Spiritual Care	Wilma Wiens
Minister of Music	Margot Sim

NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 12: Kenton Anderson will be speaking on “The Breath and the Book” with scriptures Psalm 119:105-112 and 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

EASTER SUNDAY RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
ALL: **He is risen indeed!**
Leader: The darkness is gone!
ALL: **Bright light floods into this new day of hope.**
Leader: Those who went to the tomb received good news.
ALL: **Christ was not there!**
Leader: Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!
ALL: **He is risen indeed!**
Leader: Come, let us worship and celebrate the Good News!
ALL: **Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen!**

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW (Thomas Ken)

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.
Amen

PAEN FOR EASTER (Gordon Young)

Christ the Lord is risen today, sing alleluia.
All on earth and angels say, sing alleluia.
He has risen from the grave all of us on earth to save,
Sing we now this Easter day: Glory, Alleluia!

Hail we now this festal day, sing alleluia.
On this happy, Holy day, sing alleluia.
Raise we now our song of joy, every voice on earth employ,
Sing this glorious Easter day: Glory, Alleluia!

Christ the King is risen today, sing alleluia.
All on earth and angels say, sing alleluia.
He has conquered death to save; He triumphant o’er the grave,
Sing we to our God who gave glory, Alleluia!

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN (C. Wordsworth)

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross a victim for the world’s salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat.
Once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ the world’s Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above.
There in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of love.
Hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wounded hands and side,
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory!
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

JOHN 1:35-51 (NRSV)

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

CELEBRATE THE DAY (Boyd Bacon)

Celebrate the day! Celebrate the day of resurrection!

Sing and rejoice and tell the good news,
Tell everyone what you've seen and heard.
Sing and rejoice and tell the good news,
Jesus is risen, now spread the news.

Have you seen the empty tomb?
Have you seen the empty cross?
Symbols of the day of resurrection.

Celebrate the day! Celebrate the day of resurrection!
Celebrate the glorious day!

CHRIST AROSE! (Robert Lowry)

Lo in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Chorus:

Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes.
 He arose a victor from the dark domain,
 And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
 He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
 Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! **Chorus**

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior,
 He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! **Chorus**

JOHN 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

WHEN IT WAS YET DARK (Stephen Hatfield)

Then when Mary Magdalena came to the tomb to anoint the dead,
 There in the mist of the Easter morning, she found empty stone instead.
 Where were the soldiers to guard the body?
 Where was the click of the dice at play?
 Where was the smell of death and dying?
 How was the great stone rolled away?
 What does it mean and how could it happen?
 Who would defile a poor man's grave?
 Where is the teacher who taught that even women like me were fit to save?

Woman, tell me why you're weeping.
 Why on a morn so fresh and fair?
 I came to pray for my Lord, but look
 his grave has been robbed and the tomb lies bare. He's not there.
 Can't you tell me where he's been taken?
 I'll do anything you say.

Where is the man who called me "Mary"
when all of the others had turned away?

Then he spoke to Magdalena; she heard her name so soft and low.
Then she knew he had died to teach her what there was no other way to know.
I know, shame and pain can never defeat you;
My spirit is fire and flesh, it is clay.
Back to the clay go the men who mock you.
Death is a great stone rolled away.
One, was Mary bearing the baby;
Two was Mary whose brother was reborn;
Three was Mary Magdalena, bearing the gospel on Easter morn.

THINE IS THE GLORY (Edmond Budry)

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

Chorus: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let His church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! **Chorus**

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **Chorus**