

EASTER Sunday – April 5, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE – Piano/Wind Ensemble [Automatic Opening Slides]

Ushers turn off lights

VIDEO: Women Find the Tomb Empty

REMOVE BLACK VEIL FROM CROSS & TURN ON LIGHTS

Presider Mic ON ~ **EASTER ACCLAMATION (from back)** ~ **PRESIDER**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

[STAND] Presider Mic OFF **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today ELW 365 v. 1, 2, 4 with piano and winds

Order of Procession: children with twirly sticks - crucifer - paschal candle bearer - acolytes - reader - assisting minister - and pastor

*1~ Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*2~ Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!*

*4~ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4

[STAND] Presider Mic ON ~ **CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ **PRESIDER**

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

Hallelujah! **On this day we celebrate resurrection.**

The power of life has overcome the power of death. **Hallelujah!**

The light of love has shattered the darkness of fear. **Hallelujah!**

The way of peace has prevailed against the violence of empire. **Hallelujah!**

We come to worship the God whose resurrection power lives on in the Christ we serve. **Hallelujah!**

Joanna Harader; <http://spaciousfaith.com>

[STAND] PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ PRESIDER

We confess our sins before God and one another.

[Pause for silence and reflection.] God of resurrection,

You have redeemed us through the gift of your son, yet we often act as though we don't know what that means. We fail to see where we need to change, and where we need to work to bring positive change to the world. We remain fixated on ourselves rather than living in love and service for others. Forgive us our sins of thought, word, and action or lack of action, that we might better do your will.

THE GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS ~ PRESIDER

Christ is risen indeed, and proclaims to you and all of creation the entire forgiveness of sin. Receive this gift of forgiveness with joy! **Amen.**

[STAND] Presider Mic OFF KYRIE/GLORIA (*Gospel Liturgy*)

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, for peace and for our salvation.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

For the world we ask for your peace, for the church and for all unity.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

For this house and for all who are here to give you their worship and praise.

Oh Lord, have mercy on us.

Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious God. Amen, amen.

Gloria! Gloria!

Glory to God forever! Glory to God forever!

Gloris, gloria! Gloria, gloria!

Gloria!

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[STAND] Presider Mic ON ~ EASTER PRAYER

Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us pray together: **O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.**

~ Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, Queens, NY; <https://www.liturgylink.net>

>>*You may be seated.*

WORD

KIDS TIME

Presider Mic OFF ~ **SCRIPTURE SONG:** (*Gospel Liturgy*)

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise to the Lord God Almighty Praise to the Lord God Almighty
Allelu, Allelu Allelu, Allelu
Allelu

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SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 28:1-10 LAY READER

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 28. **Glory to you, O Christ.**

[The Scripture is read]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Presider Mic OFF ~ **SERMON SONG:** Hymn to Christ the King v 1, 2, 3, 4

*1. Oh, we were wand'ring in the dark; we had lost our hope and way.
 And we were restless in our hearts; how we needed to be saved.
 And so to rescue all your own you sent to us your only son.
 A light to fall, a peace to bring: the coming of our Christ, the King.*

*2. The Word made flesh, the light from light, a cry that pierced our endless noise.
 A child to speak into our pain, restoring unto us our joy.
 To teach our hearts and heal our wounds, replace our doubt with heaven's truth.
 The broken, healed, the lost, redeemed; the beauty of our Christ, the King.*

*3. Tho' heaven's glory he had shown, all our praises turned to scorn.
The gift of mercy that he gave, we returned with cross and thorn.
Yet to the end, he loved us still, surrendered to the Father's will.
Forgiveness was his offering: the mercy of our Christ, the King.*

*4. And tho' they laid him in the tomb, in the silence of the grave;
no stone could keep the love of God from the ones he came to save.
And so in pow'r and radiant light he vanquished death and rose to life.
Now with the heavens I shall sing the glory of our Christ the King.*

TAG: *Now with the heavens I shall sing the glory of our Christ the King.*

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Presider Mic ON >> *Please stand as you are able*

[STAND] PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

We pray for the church, the world, and all creatures in need. [PAUSE]

After each petition:

[PAUSE] God of abundant life, **You hear our prayer.**

Confident in the promise of the resurrection, we lift all these prayers to you, saving God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**
[Let us greet each other with signs of the peace of Christ.]

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our offering is a part of our worship. If you wish to support the ministry God is doing through and among us, please consider contributing to our offerings.

OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING: Bell Choir

>> *Congregation eventually seats themselves.*

SUNG OFFERING PRAYER (*Gospel Liturgy*)

We give our thanks to God! We sing our praises to the Lord.

We bring an offering to the most high, we thank you, our Lord, God, we thank you.

We give our thanks to God! We sing our praises to the Lord.

We bring an offering to the most high, we thank you, our Lord, God, we thank you.

Thank you, gracious God! Amen.

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[STAND] THE GREAT THANKSGIVING ~ PRESIDERS

>> *Please stand as you are able ...*

Friends, let us seek communion with God and join with each other in the light of God's love.

God is with you! **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right join their unending hymn:

[STAND] Presider Mic OFF ~ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Gospel Liturgy*)

Refrain:

Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy

is our God, is our God!

Hosanna! Hosanna to our God, to our God!

*(The mountains can't help but bow down to you,
the oceans, they lift up their waves!*

With hearts that are full of gratitude, we boldly praise your name)

Refrain

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[STAND] Presider Mic ON ~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~ PRESIDER

... bread ... Do this in remembrance of me.

... cup ... Do this in remembrance of me.

[STAND] THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Loving Creator, who dwells in the farthest reaches of the universe and within us.

We praise you, and we honor the intricate worlds you have created.

Renew our earthly home in the image of your love.

Give us the sustenance we need for the living of each day, and a hunger to see the whole world fed.

And forgive us our failures, as we forgive others for their failures.

Enable us not to hurt others, and heal us from the hurts of the past.

Grant us the courage to practice lovingkindness in all we say and do, for only love can save us from ourselves.

For you are our ever-present dwelling place in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Gabriele Schroeder

>>*You may be seated.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE ~ PRESIDER

God sets before us a feast of victory and opens the gates wide for all to enter. Come join with all creation in the celebration of Christ's resurrection, by remembering him in the sharing of his body and blood. Come with joy, for all is ready.

Presider Mic OFF ~ LAMB OF GOD (*Gospel Liturgy*)

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy, mercy on us. Have mercy, mercy on us.

Lord, grant us peace, grant us peace. Lord, grant us peace, grant us peace.

(2x)

*Lord, grant us peace, grant us peace. Lord, grant us peace, grant us peace.
Lord, grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.*

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PRAYER to PONDER [Slide]

May the miracle of the Resurrection take away my fear and give me hope.

[STAND] **Presider Mic ON** ~ **TABLE BLESSING** ~ PRESIDER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

[STAND] **Presider Mic OFF** ~ **SUNG PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (*Gospel Liturgy*)

*Thank you Lord! Thank you Lord!
Praise to the Lord God Almighty. Praise to the Lord God Almighty.
Praise and thanks, to our God! Praise and thanks, to our God!
Praise to God!*

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SENDING

OUR LIFE TOGETHER (ANNOUNCEMENTS)

>>Please stand as you are able ...

[STAND] **Presider Mic OFF**

SENDING SONG: ELW 392 Alleluia Sing to Jesus v. 1, 2, 3

*1~ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."*

*2~ Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.*

*Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?*

*3~ Alleluia! Bread of heaven, here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinners sweep across the crystal sea.*

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. | Music: Rowland L. Prichard, 1811-1887

BLESSING ~ PRESIDER

(based on St. Patrick)

PRESIDER:

Christ's peace be with you,
Christ's peace within you,
Christ's peace behind you,
Christ's peace before you,
Christ's peace beside you,
Christ's peace to win you,
Christ's peace to comfort and restore you.

And may Christ keep your hearts rejoicing and grant you peace this day and always. Amen.

DISMISSAL ~ PRESIDER

Go in peace. Praise the Risen Christ. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – Piano/Wind Ensemble