

St. John's Reformed Church

April 5, 2026

Resurrection of the Lord: Easter Day

(Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections.)

Pre-Prelude

Announcements and Hospitality

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Votum **“Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth”**

*Call to Worship

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

*Hymn *Now the Green Blade Rises* #203 v. 1-4

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation

Call and Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, “Be not afraid,” but we are afraid. And we don’t know where to look.

And we are worried we’ll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We have best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.” We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people.

With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

Moment of Silence

Kyrie Eleison **“Lord have mercy upon us:
Christ have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us”**

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law: Matthew 22:37-40 - “He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri ***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.***

Musical Meditation “*Ye Songs and Daughters*”, traditional

The Word of God in Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson from the Psalms: **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** (p. 565 in the Pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Lesson from the Gospel: **Matthew 28:1-10** (pp. 34-35 in the Pew Bible)

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

*Hymn *See, What a Morning* #181 v. 1-3

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God’s Grace

Affirmation of Faith: **I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*The Peace The peace of Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

The Offering Invitation & Offertory “*Total Praise*”,
by Richard Smallwood (1948-2025)

*Doxology ***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.***

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of creation, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Introduction to Communion

Communion Hymn: *Let Us Break Bread Together* #837

Use "to the Rising Sun"

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 2 #811

(outer rings are wine, inner rings are juice)

Thanksgiving After Communion

Prayers of the people

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response Threefold Amen *Amen, Amen, Amen.*

*Hymn *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* #182 v. 1-3

Benediction

*Congregational Amen **"Go Now in Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with us each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know he will guide us in all we do.

Go now in love, and show we believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

*Postlude

*Indicates congregation to stand if able.

