

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

The Good News is alive in the world!

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC In Christ Alone (Calvary Choir)

WELCOME & 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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God.

The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned,
crucified and buried our living God.

And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return.

Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay.

With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Friends, let us pray:

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.

Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

**Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 365 Jesus Christ is Risen Today vs. 1 & 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

KIDS SERMON

HOPE FOUND AROUND US: A Blessing *For a New Beginning* by John O’Donohue

Let us listen for God’s hope and grace as it comes to us from unexpected sources.

Our hearts and minds are open to the spirit.

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

God, be in our understanding.

Let the Spirit be heard.

I invite you to stand in body or spirit as we prepare our hearts for the scriptures:
Alleluia (Call Us Home, #)

HOPE FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE

Let us listen for God's hope and grace as it comes to us in scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open to the spirit.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you."

The women hurried away from the tomb with awe and great joy and ran to carry the good news to the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus stood before them and said, "Shalom!" The women came up, embraced Jesus' feet and worshiped. At this, Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee, where they will see me."

The word of God for the people of God,

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

We will now take a moment of reflection, to listen to the spirit. This is also a time to prepare our hearts for the offering. We all have so much to share: time, talent, tithe. In the bulletins, there is a piece called Joyful Giving to share what you will give the community this week. Those slips can be placed in the offering basket.

TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING ELW 364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts we offer today, let us share your hope and grace with all the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for. We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning. We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave. We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.

Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you. Thank you for showing the world what could be.

Thank you for loving us with abandon.

Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy.

Thank you for the empty tomb.

Thank you for morning birdsong.

And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do.

Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world.

The grave couldn't hold you.

Death couldn't keep you.

The empire couldn't confine you.

Instead, you are here and everywhere.

You are risen.

You are on the move in the world and call us out into it.

And that is good, good news.

So on this Easter Sunday, this holiest of days, we ask for your help noticing you in our midst.

When our feet walk beside wildflowers, may we think of you.

When the stars light up the sky, may we see you.

When we break bread with our neighbors, may we feel you.

When a stranger acts with kindness and love, may we recognize you.

We know that you are out in the world, God, and we don't want to miss a minute of it.

And while we pray these prayers with gratitude and joy, we also pray for those who still find themselves at the foot of the cross. We pray for those stuck in the pain of Good Friday. Let us also pray for those **we name aloud or quietly in our hearts, especially (PRAYER LIST)...**

Holy One, so many days feel like Good Friday, but the promise of Easter is that Good Friday does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Call Us Home, 13)

PREFACE

Truly it is right and joyous that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we raise our voices with this never-ending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Call Us Home, 14)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

CALL US HOME (Call Us Home, 16)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the language or version of our hearts:

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Distribution

Communion Hymns Lamb of God - Call Us Home

ELW 379 Now the Green Blade Rises
ELW 393 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

**Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.
Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst.
Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are.
Thank you for this Table that brings us together.
Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits.
Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will
be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world
speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray, amen.**

Blessing

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For if you won't, then who will?
Remember, the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking, knowing the Creator, + Redeemer
and Sustainer are with you always.
Amen.

Sending Song ELW 376 Thine is the Glory

Dismissal

Go in peace, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.