

Sunday Worship Service – April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

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

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings

On this Easter Sunday we acknowledge and celebrate that the risen Christ is in our midst, today and every day!

Call to Worship

Risen Christ, plant the seeds of glorious joy deep in the soil of our being.

**May we enjoy life, begin each day with enthusiasm,
and become ever more aware of your presence in our lives.**

Risen Christ, open our hearts to hear your voice.

May we listen deeply even when tears of sorrow moisten our hearts.

Erase our resistance to the surprising ways you choose to enter our lives.

Risen Christ, you are the power we need.

Roll away the stones of unloving. Push back the rocks of discontent.

Shove aside the boulders of worry. Untomb us and set us free.

Risen Christ, you are with us as we walk the continuing road
of sorrow and joy.

You listen to our longing.

You fill us with the strength of your loving nearness.

Risen Christ, you send us forth with blessing.

You invite us to tell the powerful story of your risen life.

**May we tell this story again and again through the witness of our lives,
by our love, and by the courage of our words.**

Risen Christ, whenever we gather, you are with us.

Risen Christ, we welcome you into our midst.

Thanksgiving for Baptism¹

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,

for these waters where you make us new,

leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth,

like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever. Amen.

#365 Gathering Hymn “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

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!**
3. **But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he’s king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. 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!

Prayer of the Day*

O wonderful and surprising God, who has blessed us with joy and happiness by raising Jesus, from the grave: keep us ever mindful of the joy which is forever ours because of Jesus' resurrection; that we may never cease to sing your praises, both with our lips and with our lives. We pray through Christ, in us and among us. Amen.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

I thank you, God, for your goodness! Your love is everlasting!

Let Israel say it: "Your love lasts forever!"

God is my strength and protection; God is my saving help!

**The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance
are heard in the tents of the upright:**

"God's strong hand is victorious! God's right hand is winning!

God's right hand is victorious!"

I won't die—no, I will live to declare the deeds of God.

Though God has disciplined me often, I am not abandoned to death.

Open the gates of justice for me, let me come in and thank you, God!

This is God's gate and only the upright can enter.

Thank you for hearing me and saving me.

The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

This is God's doing and it is wonderful to see!

This is the day God has made - we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

(TIB – *The Inclusive Bible*)

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ.

Jesus' resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Colossae, the 3rd chapter:

Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. Think about the things above and

not things on earth. You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation - Bread of Life Choir "Easter Alleluia"

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

The holy gospel according to John the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early in the morning of the first day of the week,
while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved,
and said,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they've put him."
Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb.

They were running together,
but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and was the first to arrive at the tomb.
Bending down to take a look,
he saw the linen cloths lying there,
but he didn't go in.

Following him,
Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there.
Peter also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head.
It wasn't with the other cloths but was folded up in its own place.
Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first,
also went inside.

He saw and believed.
They didn't yet understand the scripture
that Jesus must rise from the dead.
Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying.
As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb.

She saw two angels dressed in white,
seated where the body of Jesus had been,
one at the head and one at the foot.
The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
She replied, "They have taken away my Lord,
and I don't know where they've put him."
As soon as she had said this,
she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she didn't know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her,
"Woman, why are you crying?
Who are you looking for?"
Thinking he was the gardener, she replied,
"Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."
She turned and said to him in Aramaic,
"Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).
Jesus said to her,
"Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father.
Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them,
'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples,
"I've seen the Lord."
Then she told them what Jesus said to her.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *Glorious Joy!*

#367 Hymn of the Day “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

1. Now all the vault of heav’n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life’s day
that by our lives we truly say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
4. Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav’nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Easter Affirmation of Faith

We believe that Jesus - God unbounded - directed by love,
accepted restraint and lived a fully human life to begin the healing of the world.

Alleluia! With wonder we affirm it!

We believe that Jesus - God unbounded – sustained by love,
accepted restraint and died on the cross to draw the sting of death.

Alleluia! With faith we accept it!

We believe that Jesus - God unbounded - empowered by love,
accepted restraint and was entombed to break the grip of evil.

Alleluia! With confidence we believe it!

We believe that Jesus - God unbounded - directed, sustained and
empowered by love, threw off all restraint and rose from the dead to
transform the world through Life.

Alleluia! With joy we proclaim it!

Prayers of Intercession²

Let us rejoice and be glad on this Easter day, offering our prayers to God for all in any need. Prayer petitions will end with “for Christ is risen,” and the congregation responds by praying, “**Christ is risen indeed.**”

We praise you for the gift of the global church. And we pray that you send the Spirit of the resurrection into every church on earth.
Give us joy in one another and hope in the face of sorrow,
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the wondrous earth that you continuously create and for all the plants and animals that show forth your glory.
Form us into caretakers who protect your lands and seas,
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for the peace & freedom that you have granted to us.
And we pray for everyone who suffers from yet more gun violence,
from prejudice and injustice, from oppression and poverty.
Bring an end to wars in the world,
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

We praise you for each day of health and well-being.
We pray for everyone who suffers from illness of any kind,
for those with dementia and their caregivers,
for those living with cancer or chronic illness,
for those experiencing relationship difficulties
For those in hospital and those who are grieving.
Accompany all who face troubles and sorrows,
for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

In thanksgiving for the new life of the resurrection, we raise these prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy;
through Jesus Christ, in us and among us. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering*

² <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/3714/>

Thank you, God, for the gift of this amazing day of resurrection!
Our hearts are overflowing with the joy and excitement of Easter.
We pray that you will take our excitement and use it to bring light and hope to those trapped in darkness and despair. Use the gift of our very lives to empower our calling to carry your love into the world. We pray this with the boldness of those who have encountered the living Christ. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving for Easter Morning

The God of every morning be with you.

And also with you.

People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.

People of Easter's joy, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

We sing our hallelujahs to the God of everlasting love.

On this day of joy and hope, Redeemer of the lost, Restorer of the broken, we sing our praise to you.

Very early in the morning, your Word shattered the silence of chaos, and grace flowed forth like a river.

You reached down and gathered up the dust of creation, forming us into your image, and breathing life into us.

Yet the day came when we chose to turn from you believing our wisdom was superior to your will for us.

You sent us the prophets, to speak of your gracious hope, but we refused to listen.

When you could have let us remain in the clutches of sin and death, you sent Jesus to be one of us, so we could come home to you.

Therefore, we join our voices this morning with those who stood at the empty tomb, as well as those of every time and place, shouting our Easter joy to you:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of the empty grave.

Glad songs of resurrection joy are offered to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who comes bearing your steadfast love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of every day, and blessed is Jesus Christ,
Bright Morning Star. Creator of all that is good,
Jesus entered the shadows of death to lead us into hope's light;

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

It is here at this Table, Resurrecting God, that we are fed by your love.
As you pour out your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
fill us with the spirit of Jesus, so we may go forth to be your people.

We will lift our voices to you, God in Community, Holy in One,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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.**

**make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. (Refrain)**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion³

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ, in us and among us. Amen.

#369 Sending Hymn “Christ the Lord is Ris’n Today; Alleluia!

1. **Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
at the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!**
2. **For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**
3. **Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
when contending death and life, Alleluia!
met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!**
4. **Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia!
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!**

Announcements

Blessing⁴

As Christ burst forth from the tomb, may new life burst forth from us
and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world.
And may the same Christ, who lives forever
and is the source of our new life,

³ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

⁴ Posted on Joanna Harader on her Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

keep your hearts rejoicing and give you peace this day and always.
 In the name of + God the Creator, Jesus our healer,
 and the Holy Spirit our comforter. Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, filled with the glorious joy of the risen Christ
 to love and serve God through word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

#377 Postlude Hymn "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" (5 verses)

- 1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
 Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
 Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 2. Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
 breaking our bread, giving us glory:
 Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.**

Refrain

- 3. Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
 heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.**

Refrain

- 4. Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder,
 and Easter is bright.
 Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.**

Refrain

- 5. City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
 river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!**

Refrain

Sources: Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).
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