

**Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026
Communion Service**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler and Newcomer people,
We acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again, and again the colonizers disregarded and broke the treaties,
causing grave and lasting harm to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to finding faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land and one another
in a spirit of openhearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

Today we gather in the joy and power of the resurrection.

The stone has been rolled away, death has been defeated, and hope is alive again.

Like the women who came to the tomb at dawn, we come with expectation, wonder, and faith. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Let us rejoice and be glad.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Early on the first day of the week, love came to the tomb.

All: Love has rolled the stone away!

One: Do not be afraid, for Christ is not here—He is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: Go and tell the good news to all the world.

All: We come to worship the risen Christ!

OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, we greet this day with joy and wonder. You have conquered death and opened the way to new life. Roll away every stone of fear, doubt, and despair in our hearts. Fill us with resurrection hope, that we may worship you with gladness and live as witnesses of your victory. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: VU#155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

PASS THE PEACE

MOMENT TO PONDER

At dawn, while it was still quiet and the world was just beginning to wake, the women made their way to the tomb. They came carrying spices in their hands, but also grief in their hearts.

They came expecting to complete the rituals of death, not to encounter the surprise of life. Their minds were filled with questions, their steps heavy with

sorrow. Who will roll away the stone? What will we find when we get there? How do we move forward from here?

And yet, when they arrived, everything had changed. The stone had already been rolled away. The tomb was empty. And in the place where they expected to find death, they encountered the message of life: "He is not here; He has been raised."

How often do we find ourselves in that same place? We carry our burdens, our fears, our disappointments, and our expectations of how things will turn out. We prepare ourselves for the worst. We brace ourselves for loss, for endings, for closed doors.

But Easter reminds us of something powerful: God is always ahead of us. Before the women arrived, God had already acted. Before their questions were answered, the stone was already moved. Before hope could even rise in their hearts, resurrection had already taken place.

And so it is with us. There are stones in our lives, stones of fear, stones of uncertainty, stones of grief, stones of situations that seem impossible to move. Yet Easter declares that the power of God is greater than every stone we face.

The stone is rolled away, not only from the tomb, but from every place where we believed hope was buried. From every situation where we thought nothing good could come again. From every moment when life felt final and unchangeable.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1–10

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Our Saviour is Alive"

REFLECTION

HYMN: VU#166 Joy Comes With the Dawn

Offering Invitation

On this resurrection morning, we are invited to give not out of obligation, but out of joy. The risen Christ calls us to be bearers of hope, sharing our gifts, our time, and our resources. So let us give generously and with glad hearts.

Doxology VU#542 We Give You But Your Own

Offering Prayer

God of resurrection, we offer these gifts with gratitude and joy. Use them to bring life where there is despair, hope where there is fear, and love where there is need. Bless our giving and our living, in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

HYMN: VU#460 All Who Hunger

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the risen Christ. Christ is not bound by the tomb and this table is not bound by walls. All who seek hope, all who hunger for life, all who long for grace, are welcome here. Come, for the risen Christ invites you.

GREETING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of life that conquers death.

On this Easter morning, we celebrate that the stone was rolled away, the tomb was empty, and your love could not be contained.

In Jesus Christ, you have shown us that hope rises, love endures, and life is forever renewed.

And so, with hearts full of joy, we praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

O God, you are the light that shines in the world, and on this resurrection morning, your light has overcome every darkness.

We lift our prayers for those who still walk in shadow: for the hungry, the oppressed, the lonely, and the lost. May the power of the risen Christ bring hope where there is despair and new life where hope feels buried.

Guide leaders to walk in justice and righteousness, and inspire peacemakers in every nation, that your resurrection peace may reign on earth.

We pray for our local community: for those who struggle with illness or sorrow, for the young and the old, newcomers and the long-time faithful, for those searching for meaning, direction, or hope. As the stone was rolled away, roll away every burden that weighs upon your people, and renew them with your grace.

We remember all who serve your children through acts of love and service: caregivers, volunteers, ministers, and all who bring comfort and support. Strengthen them with the joy of the risen Christ, that they may not grow weary in doing good.

May we, too, carry your resurrection light into the world, to places of brokenness, to hearts in need, and to every corner where your love is yet to be known.

We pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is risen and lives among us. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before he gave himself for us, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: **“Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”**

In the same way, he took the cup, gave thanks, and said:

“This cup is the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, O God, that we may be nourished by your grace and strengthened to live as people of resurrection.

Transform us, that we may carry your life into the world. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung – VU 959)*

THE SHARING

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, for all is now ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Risen Christ, we thank you for meeting us at this table. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us with the cup of hope.

Send us now into the world to share your love, to proclaim your resurrection, and to live as your faithful witnesses. Amen.

HYMN: VU#606 In Christ There Is No East or West

BENEDICTION

Go now in the joy of the resurrection. Do not be afraid. Christ goes ahead of you.

May the God of life raise your spirits, the risen Christ walk beside you, and the Holy Spirit fill you with courage and joy, this day and always. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION VU#163 Hail, Glad Festival Day (Refrain ONLY, sung once)

POSTLUDE