

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Introduction to the day

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY - Strongly Sung Alleluias

In Matthew’s telling of the Easter story, Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” are the first to experience the resurrection of Jesus (28:1). Earthquake, descending angel, and convulsing grave-guards all attest to this miraculous feat of God’s love defeating death forever. The angelic invitation to the women to behold the bodiless resting place of Jesus is met with evangelistic fervor; the women race off full of “fear and great joy” (v. 8) to tell the others. Their run from the empty tomb, however, is interrupted by the risen Christ. A simple word of greeting from Jesus sends the women to the ground; they “took hold of his feet, and worshiped him” (v. 9).

What did this first Easter-morning worship look like? Did the women recite traditional Jewish prayers? Were they moved to sing? Might this worshipful moment be the time and place the first Easter “alleluia” was uttered? Perhaps they harkened back to Psalm 118 and sang to Jesus, “The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation” (v. 14). At the feet of Jesus, the women found strength as they bore witness to God’s liberation and the power of resurrection. This was the Jesus they would share with the other disciples and, by extension, the world. This is the Jesus they would sing out to others in Galilee and beyond. A new day had dawned; Easter had arrived. Alleluia!

The church gathers on this Easter Day to join in the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We gather to share in the wonder and joy of Mary and Mary, whose worshipful witness has become our own. We join in the prayers, the confession, the Easter fervor that knows the salvation of our God, our strength and our song. A new day, an Easter Day has come. “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). Indeed, let us rejoice, worship, and sing out strong: Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ’s victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus’ resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain especially *Chris* Burchat, *Natasha* Gagnon-Burchat, *Shirley* Glickman, *Donna L.* Hoffman, *Glenda* Panke, *Marilyn* Schneider, *Doug* Sell and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts Merciful God, those who need your healing touch.
receive our prayer.

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ’s resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ’s victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING (ELW p. 114)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Announcements:

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Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday

8:15 to 10:15 AM – Easter Breakfast at Grace

10:30 AM – Grace – Holy Communion

Monday, April 6th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace

Tuesday, April 7th

10:00 PM – Bible Study

1:00 PM – Ladies Aid Meeting

Thursday, April 9th

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

10:30 PM – Grace Choir

Saturday, April 11th

1:00 PM – Fairfield Worship

Sunday April 12th - Easter 2

10:30 AM – Grace - SOW

Sunday School

Monday, April 13th

4:00 PM – Confirmation

5:00 PM – Grace Youth Group – Messy Church

Grace Youth Group

We are very excited to be launching a new once a month **Youth Group** at Grace for Grade 6 and up. We are planning to hold this on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:00 pm, aiming for a start date of **Monday April 13.**