

APRIL 5 2026 ORDER OF WORSHIP

I. PRELUDE: Robin Wohlfeil

Robin's Choice

II. WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Nikki Blanks

A. Welcome

B. Announcements

C. Opening Prayer

Let us pray...Living God, long ago, faithful women wandered, heavy-laden, toward Jesus' burial tomb, only to find the resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Guide us in faith with them, that we may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

III. CALL TO WORSHIP: Nikki

One: Please rise in body or spirit and join in our call to worship as it appears in your bulletin.

All (Sung): Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

One: They went out in the early dawn, when the sky was grey, carrying spices to the tomb.

All (Sung): Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

One: It wasn't their first time putting a friend to rest. They knew what to expect: the stench of death, the tears, the final goodbyes. But they just had to see him one last time.

All (Sung): Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

One: So they slipped through the garden, like ghosts in fog, knowing their teacher wasn't coming back. Knowing they could easily be next. Hoping beyond hope that not everything was lost.

All (Sung): Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

One: They found the tomb, and one whispered to the other, "Are we even going to be able to move that stone?"

All (Sung): Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

Save me, O God. Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

One: Then suddenly! An earthquake! An angel! An empty tomb! And a calling, "Come and see, go and tell and, above all else, don't be afraid, for Christ is risen!"

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

One: Now, let continue to worship singing hymn #246- Christ is Alive

IV. OPENING SONG: Robin

#246- Christ Is Alive!

V. CONFESSION & ASSURANCE: Ed Marek

A. Call to Confession

Please be seated. Friends, Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him. Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death. Please join me in the prayer of confession as it appears in your bulletin...

B. Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb, we don't always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty. Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. And fill our hearts with abundant new life. And hear us now as we silently pray before you...

PAUSE 30-60 SECONDS FOR SILENT CONFESSION

C. Assurance of Pardon

One: Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Sisters and brothers, Christ has forgiven our sins. Christ calls us to new life and righteousness. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

VI. PASSING OF THE PEACE: Ed

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Now, let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

VII. SONG OF PRAISE: Robin

#243- Be Not Afraid

VIII. FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Ed

A. Prayer for Illumination

Please be seated. Now, as we prepare to hear God's Word for us, let us pray together:
Lord, dwell with us. Open the scriptures to us, to make us wise. Tell us the good news of resurrection, and set our hearts on fire with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

B. Scripture Reading

Our first scripture reading comes from the book of Jeremiah, chapter 31 and verses 1 through 6. Hear God's Word for you:

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

IX. SPECIAL MUSIC: Pop-Up Choir

Now the Green Blade Rises

X. SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Nikki

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

XI. MESSAGE: Nikki

XII. SONG OF RESPONSE: Robin

232- Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

XIII. GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

A. Call to Bring Our Gifts: Nikki

B. Song of Thanks: Robin

Doxology

C. Prayer of Thanks: Ed

Please join me in prayer over our offerings: Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good, we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us, your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us. Help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts by serving you and delighting to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XIV. SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: Nikki

A. Invitation to the Table

One: Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

All: For He is risen! He lives, and He presides at this feast!

One: Come, eat together the bread of life!

All: For He is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!

One: Come, drink together from the cup of gladness!

All: For Christ is risen and welcomes everyone who will come to him. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

B. Great Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Praise to you, God of glory! You created the universe and all living things. You breathed life into our dust and gave us a paradise. You sought us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin. You made a people for yourself, and saved them from oppression.

In the fullness of time, your love came also to us in your servant Jesus. He ministered to us, healing, overcoming divisions, welcoming all. He died on the cross of shame. But you vindicated him, giving him a life that is forever new! This is the life he shares with us: a life of justice, mercy, and citizenship in your realm of peace. We give you thanks, O God, for all the great blessings in our lives. AND WE THANK YOU ESPECIALLY FOR THE BLESSINGS WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart, and met with violence and death.

By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne. The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Intercessions for the world... AND WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WE NAME BEFORE YOU NOW...

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, the one who taught us to pray using these words:

Our Father...

- C. Words of Institution
- D. Communion of the People
- E. Prayer after Communion

Let us give thanks! Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion—oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of

enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

XV. SENDING SONG: Robin

250- In the Bulb There Is a Flower

XVI. CHARGE & BLESSING: Nikki

One: May the living God who raised Jesus from the dead bless you and keep you and make you shine with joy. May God raise up new life in you and give you peace, for the sake of Jesus, Lord of Life! Christ is risen! Tell the world!

All: Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen! Tell the world!

All: Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen! Tell the world!

All: Risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!

XVII. POSTLUDE: Robin

Robin's Choice