



**Easter Sunday Communion Worship,  
April 5, 2026, 9.00am**

**In-Person & YouTube Live**

**All speak bold print.**  
*\*Please stand.*

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US**

GATHERING MUSIC | *Welcoming Christ's Light*

WELCOME

*\*CALL TO WORSHIP | Worship Reader*

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.**

*\*HYMN OF GATHERING | Christ the Lord is Risen Today #233*

INVITATION TO TRANSFORMATION

*\*PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION | Worship Reader*

**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 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.

#### CELEBRATION OF FREEING

Beloved, even when our lives sing out-of-tune, we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could separate us from God's love. 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.**

#### \*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

GIVING OUR LIVES AND OFFERING | *We give in a variety of ways. This offering symbolizes the many ways we give and participate in God's mission physically, electronically, and through our generous living.*

#### \*DOXOLOGY (Hymn Tune #34)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

#### \*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

**Giver of all Good Gifts, we humbly bless you with these our offerings, as we are awakening to be alive with you in this world, and to bless our neighbors through Christ's love, we pray, Amen.**

#### THE CREATOR STILL FEASTS WITH US

WE ARE LISTENING FOR A WORD FROM GOD | *Worship Reader*  
*Matthew 28:1–10 (Common English Bible)*

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He isn't here, because he's been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>Now hurry, go and tell his

disciples, 'He's been raised from the dead. He's going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' I've given the message to you."

<sup>8</sup>With great fear and excitement, they hurried away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>But Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers that I am going into Galilee. They will see me there."

RESPONSE | *Worship Reader*

The Spirit continues to open with us wisdom from this Word,  
**Thanks be to God!**

A FRESH WORD | *Alive and Awake in the World!* | *Pastor Marty*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE | *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You #4*

SHARING PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT

MORNING PRAYERS and CHRIST'S PRAYER

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF LIFE | HOLY COMMUNION

\*COMMUNION SONG | *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken #346*

WELCOME

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us:

"Suddenly, Jesus met them" (Matthew 28:9).

**Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief. Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope.**

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table. All are welcome here.

**For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, “Do not be afraid.”**

#### PRAYER OF PRAISE

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. Your love meets us at this Table and calls us out into the world. And that is *good, good news*. Amen**

#### SHARING THE BROKEN BREAD AND CUP

From the Good News of Matthew, we hear this:

**While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said,**

“Take and eat. This is my body.” Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from this, all of you.

**This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won’t drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father’s kingdom.”**

Adapted from Matthew 26:26–29 (CEB)

If you desire this feast, you are welcome to come forward:

The Bread of Life.            The Cup of Blessing.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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.

## CHRIST SENDS US INTO OUR WORLD

ANNOUNCEMENTS | *Worship Reader*

\*SONG OF SENDING | *Peace I Leave with You, My Friends #249*

\*BLESSING AS WE GO

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 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—go forth living.**

For if you won't, then who will?

**Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.**

INTERLUDE INTO LIFE | *This is the Day #84*

**This is the day, This is the Day, That our God has made, that our God has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it, We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that our God has made, We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, This is the day, that our God has made.**

POSTLUDE



Reverend Dr. Martin Carney  
Sara Johnson, *Music Director & Pianist*

Prayers adapted from Rev Sarah A. Speed  
ONE LICENSE #A-700000

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Pastor Marty is available by appointment Wednesday through  
Sunday afternoon. Contact: 920-467-9126

The church office is open on Wednesdays from 9 – Noon

Sandra Johnson, Moderator  
Roberta Rohdin Killian, Assistant Moderator  
Ruth Anne Morava, Treasurer  
Jim Killian, Financial Secretary  
Kathy Walsh, Clerk

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*No matter where you are on your journey,  
you are welcome here!*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Cultivating Community:  
Rooted in Christ and Bearing Fruit  
ANNUAL MEETING of the WISCONSIN  
CONFERENCE UCC**



**April 10-11, 2026  
Green Lake Conference Center  
W2511 WI-23  
Green Lake, WI 54941  
For more information contact Pastor Marty.**



**Earth Day Service  
Wednesday, April 22  
6:30 PM |Hearth Room**

**Serve for Survivors  
Pickleball Party  
April 25 @ Lake Geneva Tennis & Pickleball  
630 Veteran's Parkway, Lake Geneva**



**All proceeds benefit New Beginnings' work to support  
and advocate for survivors of violent crimes.**

**For more information visit:**

**[www.newbeginningswalworth.com](http://www.newbeginningswalworth.com)**

**Church Council meets on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 PM  
in the Hearth Room**