

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Easter Sunday**

April 5, 2026

Pre-Service Music: *Fugue in C Major* George Frideric Handel

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Dialogue* Daniel E. Gawthrop

Introit: *O Easter Day With Joy So Bright* Johann Jeep

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

Through God's miracle of grace, we have come through the night and arrived at this glorious dawn.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All doors are open, all creation sings, all that was broken is made whole, and we have new life.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

Risen Lord, we turn from the night's vigil toward the first rays of your new dawn warming all creation. We praise you that you are alive here with us and that no power can stop your love. Teach us what it means for Death to relinquish its hold on us, that with renewed hearts we might know resurrection hope in our bodies and cry, Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Hymn #232: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (stand)

Call to Confession

This is a day of celebration, and nothing should prevent us from lifting our voices in praise to God.

We must not hide the things we have done or failed to do, the things that do not imitate the perfect love of Christ.

We must not let them fester and stifle our joy. Therefore, let us bring them before God in confession.

With that knowledge, we confess our sins before God and each other.

Prayer of Confession

Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love, there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God says to us, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Christ says to us, Do not be afraid.

We need not fear; we are forgiven, we are loved, we are redeemed!

Alleluia!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father*

Commissioned Ruling Elder Recognition and Affirmation:

People of God: Do you promise to support Susan in her work within this congregation? **We do.**

Do you promise to pray with her and for her as together we move forward to renewed life in Christ in this community and this congregation. **We do.**

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Offertory Hymn #709: *God, We Honor You* (seated)

Prayer of Illumination:

Great God, to you we give our thanks; your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude we bring our gifts to you. Bless us and our gifts, that our lives and our resources may be a source of healing and hope, of joy and justice in our world. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Psalm: Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24

First Lesson: Acts 10:34 - 43

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1 – 18

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God. *1 Corinthians 1:23–25*

Sermon:

Reflecting on Easy

Susan Murray

Comm. Hymn #525: Let Us Break Bread Together v. 3

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

... Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

... Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Now pray the words Jesus our Savior taught 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 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

Comm. Hymn #525: *Let Us Break Bread Together* v. 1

Distribution of the Bread

... The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the bread)*

Comm. Hymn #525: *Let Us Break Bread Together* v. 2

Distribution of the Cup

... The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the juice)*

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn #248: *Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!* (stand)

Charge and Benediction

May the love of the holy triune God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
abide with you forever.

Alleluia!

1 John 4:13–16

Now go forth in Jesus' name,
remembering his new commandment
to love one another, just as he has loved us.

Amen.

1 John 3:23

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Prelude:

Fugue in D Major

William Selby

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