




Strathmore United Church
April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday, Holy Communion
Rev. Maria Szabone Berces

 **Special Music: Sound the Trumpet – congregation
please join choir on the hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen
Today” at the end of the presentation. 4 verses.**

- 1. Christ the Lord is ris’n today. Al-le-lu-ia!
Sons of men and angels say. Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Al-le-lu-ia.!
Sing ye heav’ns and earth reply. Al-le-lu-ia!**
- 2. Lives again our glorious King. Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dying once, He all doth save. Al-le-lu-ia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!**
- 3. Love’s redeeming work is done. Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ has opened paradise. Al-le-lu-ia!**
- 4. Soar we now where Christ has led. Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-l’wing our exalted Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise. Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al-le-lu-ia!**

Greetings & Welcome:

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: and also, with you..

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

L: Let the light of Christ pierce the deep shadows of Good Friday. May its light shine on us this most holy of days. May its light be a beacon for us, renewing all that is good within us, all the good within our community. Christ the Lord is risen today!

P: Hallelujah! Hallelujah, indeed!

Written by Jim McKean; Gathering, Lent-Easter: 2025, Page 43; Used with permission

🎵Centering: *Thine Is the Glory (Vs 1-2) *VU #173*

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer:

L: Come to settle into the ritual of worship, gathering as those united by the Spirit, challenged by Christ's own Way to turn the world upside down.

P: We come, even when our lives are disrupted. We come eager to embrace the resurrection promise, hopeful that by the empty tomb, God continues to make all things new.

L: We come afraid for the future yet daring to grasp the challenge of trusting in God.

P: We come to rejoice and to celebrate that grace abounds, that transformation is ours when we trust and are loved.

L: Come, then, opening our hearts to God's loving transformation in prayer:

P: God, who is love, as you did with Jesus' tomb, empty our hearts of all that imprisons us. As you did with Mary's tears, flush away our worries in a cascade of relieved joy. As you did for the women fearfully silent while fleeing the tomb, strengthen us to proclaim your good news despite our fright.

As you did for the doubting disciples, challenge us to accept what seems impossible.

In times like these, which seem burdensome and draining, teach us to trust, to rejoice, and to sing your praise.

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Story Time for All Ages:

 **Hymn:** Joy Comes with the Dawn *VU #166

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, very early in the morning, the women went to the tomb, not expecting life in the graveyard. We confess that we also fail to seek your resurrection power in shadowed places, within us and in our world. Help us to see the miracles of your love where now we see only loss; to find hope where we feel only despair. Let us find the living Christ within our hearts and within the world. Now, accept our silent prayers as we bring ourselves, our doubts, burdens and fears into your loving, powerful presence.

(A time of silent reflection)

Amen

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Word of Assurance:

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 **Special Music:** Consider the Lilies

Prayer of Illumination:

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Reading of Scripture Luke 24:1–12
Acts 10:34–43

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

P: Thanks be to God.

Message:

 **Hymn:** Now the Green Blade Rises *VU #186

Holy Communion Liturgy:

The Offering Invitation:

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M&S Story:


Where would we be if the women at the tomb had not shared what they experienced? Or if the disciples had not shared their stories? Or if people of vision had not shared their faith in your community? A legacy of sharing is why we are here. What do you have to share because of the resurrection?

 **Dedication:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* *VU #541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication:

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 **Hymn:** *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (VS 1)* *VU #179

Commissioning:

L: Go bring hope, where there is defeat.

P: We will be hope from the risen Christ!

L: Foster companionship, where people live in loneliness.

P: We will be company, in the risen Christ!

L: Work for purpose, where confidence is lacking.

P: We will bring fulfillment in the risen Christ!


L: Bring an end to apathy and fear.

P: We will bring freedom in the risen Christ!

L: Be a word of calm where there is tumult and upset.

P: We will be peace in the risen Christ.

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 **Hymn:** *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (VS 2)* *VU #179

Passing the Peace of Christ

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

P: And also with you.

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the
Library after the service.*

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