

# **Easter SonRise Service**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 – 8:50 AM**

**M: Christ is risen!**

**P: Christ is risen today!**

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

OPENING HYMN:

*♪ He Lives! ♪*

Words & Music: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

**I serve a risen Savior / He's in the world today.  
I know that He is living, whatever foes may say.  
I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer;  
And just the time I need Him/ He's always near.**

***He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me & talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how – I know He lives?  
He lives – within – my heart!***

**In all the world around me / I see His loving care,  
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast;  
the day of His appearing / will come at last.**

OPENING PRAYER:

**ALL: Eternal God of Life and Light:**

**Through Your Son, now Risen and Glorified,  
You have given the Light of Life  
upon the whole world.**

**On this special morning,  
bless today's sunlight  
and grant that our hearts & minds,  
as Your Easter people of the Resurrection,  
may also shine with the bright holiness  
of Christ's Everlasting Glory;  
through His name we pray: AMEN!**

## THE FIRST SEVEN DAWNINGS OF RESURRECTION

*During this service, we will focus on the moments when Resurrection first begins to dawn on difference people in the Resurrection Story.*

### 1. The Dawning of Courage: Matthew 28:1-2

*"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."*

Before anyone else dared to rise, the women, like Mary, rose.

They walked into the half-light carrying spices for a body, not hope for a miracle. Yet courage is often like that—a quiet decision to keep moving toward love even when the world has given you every reason to stop. Resurrection begins with those who refuse to abandon tenderness.

*Where is God inviting me to take one small step of courage today?*

**ALL: We believe in the God  
who meets us in the early hours,  
calling us to rise with courage  
even when the path is dim.**

## 2. The Dawning of Recognition: John 20:16

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).”*

Mary stands weeping in the garden, unable to recognize the One she loves. Grief can blur even the face of God. But then—her name, spoken with the old warmth. Recognition dawns not through sight, but through belovedness. Resurrection begins when we remember that we are known.

*What part of me needs to hear Christ speak my name again?*

**ALL: We believe in Christ  
who speaks our names with tenderness,  
awakening us to the truth that we are  
known and beloved.**

## 3. The Dawning of Hope: Luke 24:12

*“Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.”*

Peter runs—not because he believes, but because he *wants* to. Hope often begins as a wanting, a leaning toward possibility even when certainty is still far off. Resurrection does not demand perfect faith— only a heart willing to run toward good news.

*What hope is stirring in me, even if I can’t yet explain it?*

**ALL: We believe in the Spirit  
who stirs hope within us,  
nudging our hearts to run toward  
good news we can barely imagine.**

#### 4. The Dawning of Companionship: Luke 24:13-32

“‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him as Jesus, but then He vanished from their sight.”

Two disciples walk the long road of disappointment, and Jesus joins them unrecognized. He listens first. He walks their pace. He breaks bread. Resurrection dawns in community—in shared stories, shared meals, shared wounds. Christ rises not only for us, but among us.

*Who is walking beside me right now, carrying Christ's presence in ways I may not yet see?*

**ALL: We believe in the Risen One  
who walks beside us,  
revealing Himself in shared stories, broken  
bread, and honest conversation.**

#### 5. The Dawning of Peace: John 20:19

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of their religious persecutors, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’”

Fear has locked every door. But fear cannot lock out Christ. He stands among them and speaks the word their bodies have forgotten how to trust: “Peace.” Not the peace of avoidance, but the peace that breathes courage into frightened lungs. Resurrection dawns when peace becomes possible again.

*Where do I need Christ to breathe peace into my life?*

**ALL: We believe in the Peace of Christ  
that enters locked rooms,  
breathing courage into our fear  
and stillness into our unrest.**

## 6. The Dawning of Trust: John 20:24-28

*“A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”*

Thomas does not ask for proof—he asks for honesty. He wants to see the wounds, because any Savior who hides His scars cannot heal ours. Resurrection dawns when we discover that Christ’s risen body still carries the marks of suffering love.

*What wounds—mine or the world’s—am I being invited to touch with compassion?*

**ALL: We believe in the Wounded & Risen Savior, whose scars teach us that healing and truth are never separate.**

## 7. The Dawning of Calling: John 21:9-13

*“When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.”*

At dawn, Jesus cooks breakfast for tired fishermen. He feeds them before He commissions them. He restores Peter not with punishment, but with purpose: *“Feed my sheep.”* Resurrection dawns when grace becomes vocation— when love becomes our work in the world.

*What is Christ calling me to tend, to nourish, to restore?*

**ALL: We believe in the grace that restores us  
and sends us,  
inviting us to feed, tend, and love  
with resurrection-shaped lives.**

**This is the dawn we proclaim.  
This is the faith we rise up to.  
Christ is risen, and we shall rise with Him.**

CLOSING HYMN:     🎵 *Christ Is Risen* 🎵  
Words: Brian Wren, 1984

**Christ is Risen! Earth and heaven  
nevermore shall be the same!  
Break the bread of New Creation  
where the world is still in pain!  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
*“Christ is Risen! Get ye gone!”*  
God the First and Last is with us!  
Sing, *“Hosanna!”* everyone!**

BENEDICTION

M: God bless your eyes  
to see goodness in the things of this world!  
Christ bless your ears  
to hear the sounds of love around you!  
The Spirit bless your hands  
to touch the world and bring it healing!

M: Go forth in the power of the Resurrection!

**ALL: Hallelujah! AMEN!**