

E A S T E R D A Y

April 5, 2026

John 20:1-18

Easter

There has always been something powerful about Mary's lonesome walk to the tomb that first Easter morning as each grief-filled step leads to renewed hope. And the beauty is that while we know what awaits her — not a lifeless body, but rather the Risen and Resurrected Lord — she doesn't.

In her pre-dawn funeral march, she has no clue that with just a few more difficult steps she will understand how God's promises are true. She will be awed to see how death doesn't get the victorious last word. She will hear the blessed new hellos that come after the heart-breaking good-byes.

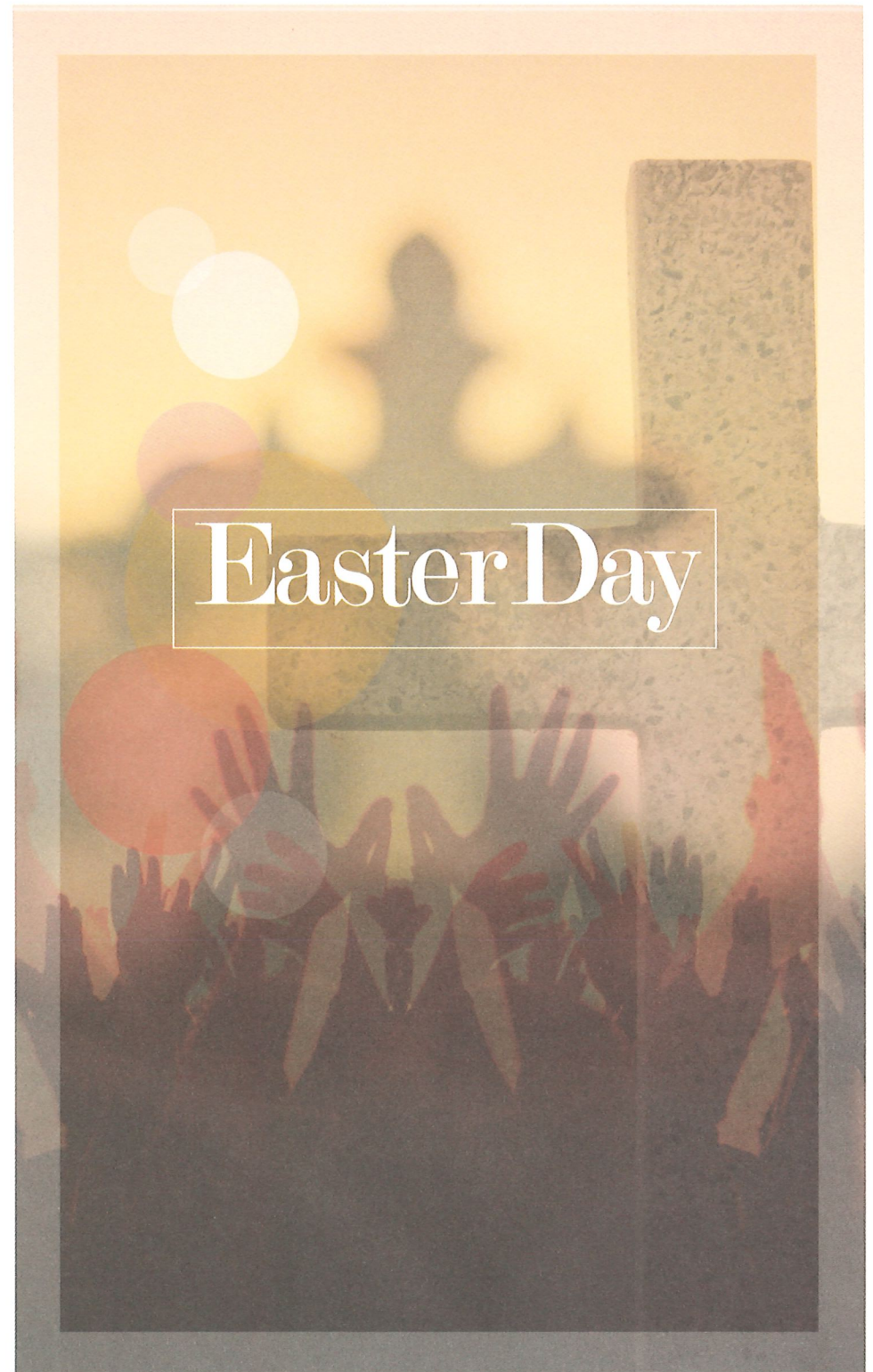
Whenever I find myself moving in slow motion and the weight of loss makes it hard to take even one tiny shuffle forward, I take my side next to Mary. I imagine walking with her to the tomb of death that will be revealed as the tomb of life. I walk with her noticing how the darkness gradually changes color. One step forward and the black sky turns to gray. Another step forward and the gray lightens with twinges of pink. Yet another step and the pinks give way to dazzling golden hues. Each step, a step of faith. Each step, a step of promise. Each step leading to the promise of a resurrected life.

It happened to Mary, and it can happen to you on this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday!

Remember Mary and find the courage in your losses of life to keep stepping forward, for those are the steps leading to hope and healing. Those are the steps that will reveal to us the loving compassion of our Risen Lord and Friend.

God of Resurrection Hope, we praise You for the new day dawning. In Jesus, our hopes are renewed. In Jesus, grief will turn into joy. In Jesus, our tombs will indeed be made empty. May the steps of faith we take be strengthened by Your Love and may we never step moving forward toward Your beautiful promises. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

April 4, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Easter Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: John Dynes & Pat Grossman

Music: Connie Sjostrom | Video: Wilhelm Eisenbraun

*Rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE *My Lord What a Morning*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

All: We seek Christ this day.

*NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-2

John Dynes

REFLECTION & PRAYER OF MYSTERY

God of mystery, we have made it here on Easter morning, seeking to find you. We know the Easter story and yet, we do not always understand what is happening. When your truth is not clear to us, give us courage to keep seeking that truth. With every breath that we take, may our hearts learn to sing your Easter promise. Amen.

HYMN *I Come to the Garden Alone*

NCH 237 v. 1-2

SCRIPTURE John 20:3-10

Pat Grossman

*REFLECTION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery, we confess that faith doesn't always come easily. We know the Easter story, yet we struggle with the mystery of life breaking open the tomb. Help us trust the faith of those who first believed. Quiet our doubts, kindle in us a hope that grows like new life in spring, and let that hope rise in our voices and in our hearts. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN *Because You Live, O Christ*

NCH 231 v. 1-2

TIME WITH CHILDREN

No Sunday School today. Children are invited to remain in worship and partake in communion.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, our heavenly host;

Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE John 20:11-18

John Dynes

REFLECTION & SHOUT OF AWE

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

CHOIR ANTHEM

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

SCRIPTURE John 20:19-23

Pat Grossman

REFLECTION & PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

NCH 241

COMMUNION Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330
Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive communion! Grape juice is served at all stations and gluten-free bread is available at the center station. If coming forward is preventative to you, wave to a server and they will serve you in your seat towards the end of communion.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Resurrection, we praise you for life anew! We give thanks for this meal which sustains us to walk as peacemakers and life-givers in a world yearning for hope. Lead us in the ways of the Risen Christ. Amen.

*HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* NCH 233

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A](#).



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsored in Honor

We are sponsoring Easter Sunday in honor of this congregation and all of the work they are doing to spread the love of Christ. This church truly embodies the work of loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly with God. We also remember the family members of Rev. Gretchen Deeg and John Sauter who have passed and the positive influences they have had on the family.

Sponsored by Carol & Bernie Deeg

April 12 & 19 are available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Easter Egg Hunt - Today at 11:15am

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held today after Worship. For children pre-k through 5th grade. All children participating need to meet in the basement fellowship hall for instructions.

Lay Leadership Celebration

We're celebrating Lay Leadership at Bismarck UCC from April 13 – May 17 while Pastor Gretchen is on 1/3 of her sabbatical. This the second year of our Lay Leadership Celebration and last year was an incredibly enriching, faith-filled experience with lay-led worship.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: April 5 - 12

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship
11:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** Church Office Closed
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
- Wednesday:** 6 PM Youth Group & Confirmation
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 5 PM Council (in-person & [online](#))
6 PM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Friday:** 9 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
7 PM Gretchen's Birthday Party (open invitation)
- Sunday:** 10 AM Sunday Worship
10:20 AM Sunday School
11 AM Fellowship
11 AM Christian Ed (in-person & [online](#))
11 AM Liturgical Arts

Rummage Sale - April 18 from 8am to 4pm

Sign-up below the bulletin board or contact the church office to help set-up during the week and work the sale. You may begin bringing items to the church after worship on Sunday, April 12. No adult clothing, shoes, exercise equipment, or electronics.

Men's Breakfast - April 18 at 10am

Gather in the church basement for good food, good conversation, and a great way to start a Saturday!

OUR PRAYER LIST

Roberto Alvarez, Sharon Vanorny (Hannah's mother), Lacy Peters (Dawn Archer's cousin), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Gellsia (Oliver Gagner's daughter), Lynn Bryntesen, Sandy Kirby (Autum's Sister), Matthew Nitschke, Nolan (Amanda Wilson's grandson), Sheyla Munoz (Autum's sister-in-law), Tasha Hausauer (John Sauter's cousin), Hayes & Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's sons), Diana, Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

I Come to the Garden Alone

(In the Garden)

John 20:14-18

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1 I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the night a - round me be

ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the
 sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he gave to me with -
 fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his

Refrain
 Son of God dis - clos - es.
 in my heart is ring - ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the

joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

Because You Live, O Christ

Luke 24:1-10

Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

1 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the
 2 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of
 3 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the rain - bow of your

world has come to flow - er, the shad - ows of the tomb
 hope is freed for fly - ing, our ca - ges of de - spair
 peace will span cre - a - tion, the col - ors of your love

are flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 no long - er keep us closed and life - de - ny - ing.
 will draw all hu - man - kind to ad - o - ra - tion.

The stone has rolled a - way and death can - not im - pris - on! O

New Zealand hymnwriter Shirley Erena Murray expressed her aims in writing this new text for the beloved Easter tune Vreuechten: "I wanted a fresh expression of community joyfulness, with light, color, and the vision of the covenant rainbow through the Resurrection."

Tune: VRUECHTEN 6.7.6.7. with refrain
 Melody in David's Psalmen, 1685
 J. Oudaen, Amsterdam

EASTER

sing this Eas - ter Day, for Je - sus Christ has ris - en, has

ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Luke 24:36-37

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, with the first two lines of each stanza corresponding to the vocal line and the third line corresponding to the piano accompaniment line.

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.



- 1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



My God, have mer - cy on me.

1-2 | 3



Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57**Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.*

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!