



first community

April 5, 2026, EASTER SUNDAY

10 am SOUTH

GREETING

PRELUDE

Concertato on Crown Him with Many Crowns

Vaclav Nelhybel (1919-1996) (For 2

Trumpets, 2 Trombones, and Organ)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: At dawn, they came to the tomb—
carrying grief, carrying love, carrying fear.

All: And still, they came.

One: The earth shook, the stone was rolled
away, and the world was changed forever.

**All: Christ is risen. Love has broken
through.**

One: The angel spoke: “Do not be afraid.”
And yet they ran—with fear and great joy.

**All: We come as they came—
with all that we carry,
and with hearts open to wonder.**

One: Go quickly, the angel said. Tell the good news.

**All: We are here to receive it.
We are here to become it.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply:
Alleluia!**

**Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!**

God has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: Do you believe in the God of resurrection, who brings life out of death?

All: We believe in God, who does not abandon us to the grave, but meets us in love and calls us into new life.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who walked through death and rose again?

All: We believe in Christ, who meets us in our fear, calls us by name, and sends us out with great joy.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, alive and at work among us?

All: We believe in the Spirit, who rolls away stones, awakens hope, and empowers us to share good news.

One: Will you follow this risen Christ, even when the path holds both fear and joy?

All: With God's help, we will. We will live as resurrection people, bearing witness to love that overcomes all things. Amen.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Strife is O'er

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
The strife is o'er the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia! Amen!**

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

arr. Bryon Black II (b. 1989)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Giving

Receiving the People's Gifts

Anthem

Awake, Arise Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

ONE: As the gifts are presented, would all rise
in body or spirit? And let us pray:

**All: Risen Christ, you meet us in our fear
and fill us with great joy. Receive these gifts
and bless the offering of our lives. Use
them to bring hope where there is despair,
love where there is loss, and love that
transforms the world. Send us out as
witnesses to your resurrection.
Amen.**

†Gospel Acclamation¹

CANTOR: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

ALL: (singing)



CANTOR: Speak, Lord, Your servant is
list'ning. Speak your words of wisdom, for the
words you speak are everlasting life.

**ALL: (singing) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,
in the quiet of the morning
and in the trembling of the earth,
you revealed a love stronger than death.

Open our hearts now
to hear the story again—
not as something distant,
but as something alive among us.

Where we are afraid, speak peace.
Where we are uncertain, give us courage.
Where we are weary, awaken joy.

By your Spirit,
roll away whatever stones we have placed
in front of hope,
and let your living Word meet us
in this moment.

We pray in the spirit of the risen Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28: 1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SERMON

With Fear and Great Joy

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

arr. Craig Courtney

Introduction (Choir):

Crown Him with many crowns!

Crown Him with many crowns!

Crown Him with many crowns!

Verse One (Choir):

Crown Him the Lord of love!

Behold His hands and side,

Rich wounds, yet visible above,

In beauty glorified:

No angel in the sky

Can fully bear that sight,

But downward bends His burning eye

At mysteries so bright.

†(*Congregation standing*)

Verse Two (Lower voices: Tenors and Basses):

Crown Him with many crowns,

The Lamb upon His throne;

Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns,

All music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing

Of Him who died for thee,

And hail Him as thy matchless King

Through all eternity.

Verse Three (Upper voices: Sopranos and Altos):

Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save;
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.

Verse Four (ALL):

**Crown Him the Lord of years.
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.**

Coda (Choir): Crown Him with many crowns!
Crown Him with many crowns!
Crown Him with many crowns!

†BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Concertato on All Creatures of our God and King
Vaclav Nelhybel (For 2 Trumpets, 2 Trombones, and Organ)

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