

Rochester Christian Reformed Church
ORDER OF WORSHIP
April 5, 2026 – 10:00 AM
EASTER SUNDAY

Prelude *Christ lag in Todesbanden* Franz Tunder (1614-1667)

Adult Choir "Christ the Lord is Risen Again" John Rutter (b. 1945)

Preparing to Worship

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" [John 11:25,26]

* Call to Worship

Leader: If Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile; we are still in our sins.

All: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
[1 Corinthians 15:17,20]

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

* Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (vs. 1-4) #182

* Welcome and Greeting from God, affirmed by congregational "**Amen**"

Call to Confession

Leader: Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

All: Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. [Romans 3: 19-20]

Prayer of Confession

Leader: To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

All: "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'" [Luke 18:9-13]

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." [Luke 18:14]

Leader: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

All: Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
[Romans 5:6-10]

* Hymn

"Man of Sorrows"

#170

* The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading John 20:1-18 NRSV

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation

"An Empty Tomb"

Prayer of Application

* Hymn

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

#185

The Lord's Supper

The Thanksgiving

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The Institution

Leader: We give thanks to God the Father...

... Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

**All: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Invitation

The Communion

Leader: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." [*John 6:35, 40*]

Leader: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! [*Romans 5:8b-10*]

Nicene Creed

All: We believe in one God,

**the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,**

and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Congregational Prayer

Offertory

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise
—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. [*Hebrews 13:15*]

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| * Hymn | “Low in the Grave He Lay” | #186 |
| Children’s Choir | “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” | John Rutter |
| * God’s Blessing, affirmed by congregational “Amen” | | |
| Postlude | <i>Concerto in C Major</i> , BWV 595 (Allegro) | J.S. Bach (1685-1750) |

Leading Us in Worship Today :

Minister: Bethany Miller
Organist and Pianist: Ryan Chan
Adult Choir: Ryan Chan, Director
Guest Musicians: Adrian Lau, Jasmine Ngai, Sara Noble
Children’s Choir: Ryan Chan, Director

Liturgist: Gary Harris
Congregational Song Leader: Jackie Fenton
Children’s Message: Sarah Smith
Offertory Deacon: Bob Null
Congregational Prayer: Jeff Harp