

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

- **IN-PERSON 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary
- **LIVESTREAM** online at **9:30 am on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC>
- on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/@hillsdalefirstumc-45nmanni2>
- on **our church website** <https://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>

Please stand as you are able during parts of the service indicated with an asterisk. * | Congregation responses indicated in **bold print**.

Gathering

Prelude

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Now the Green Blade Rises*

M.C. de Jong
D. Cherwien

Choral Introit

Antiphonal Alleluia

J. Brighton

Pastoral Greeting

... *The Lord is risen!* **The Lord is risen indeed!**

*Call to Worship

Weeping may last for a night,

but joy comes in the morning.

Despair may crush our spirits

but hope will lift us on the wings of eagles.

The Lord is risen, and the world is filled with glorious possibilities.

Jesus is alive, and we walk in the light of his love.

*Hymn of Praise

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

302, vs 1-4

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708. Public Domain. Introduction by Paul Manz © 1975 Concordia Publishing House. Reharmonization by Lani Smith © 1997 Lorenz Publishing Company.

Proclamation

*Prayer of Invocation

God of life,

we have gathered around your cross and witnessed the death of our Lord.

We have held vigil at his tomb, trusting in his promise.

**When the time was fulfilled, you brought Jesus Christ forth to life again,
and you exalted him over all powers in Heaven and on Earth.**

And so, you have made the way for us to receive new birth, and to walk in new life, abundant and everlasting.

**Give us the faith to accept this gift of resurrection,
so that we might live as new creations in this world,
and share in the glory of Jesus Christ forever.**

In His name we pray, Amen.

*Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851. Public Domain

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

Sung Response

Thine Be the Glory

308, v2

**Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

Words by Edmond L. Budry, 1904; trans. by R. Birch Hoyle, 1923. Music: Harmonia Sacra, ca. 1753; arr. from G. F. Handel, 1747. Trans. by permission of The World Student Christian Federation. Public Domain

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 118:5-17

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.
⁶ With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?
⁷ The Lord is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in mortals.
⁹ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in princes.
¹⁰ All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
¹¹ They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

¹² They surrounded me like bees;
they blazed like a fire of thorns;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!
¹³ I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the Lord helped me.
¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory
in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”
¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Anthem

The Festal Day Is Here

H.H. Hopson

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Response to the Scripture This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Banning the Bunny

Pastor Tomasino

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Mighty God of Resurrection and Redemption,
we present our gifts along with our praises.*

*We present our hands and feet and voices to take the celebration of life
from this sanctuary into a world in desperate need of hope and healing!*

**May we share the Good News with our community
with such courage and enthusiasm that we might feel the ground shake once again,
that we might see stones roll away,
and that our neighbors might experience through us the glory of Jesus' everlasting life,
and the transforming power of his love!
In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

Sending

***Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

Words: John of Damascus; trans. John Mason Neale, 1862. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1835. Public Domain

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Toccata" from Symphony V

C.M. Widor

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir
Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Easter Worship | 9:30 am | Sunday, April 5 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |
| • Chancel Choir | 6:30 pm | Thursday, April 9 | In person – Music Room |
| • Worship | 9:30 am | Sunday, April 12 | In person – Sanctuary and Online |
| • Handbell Rehearsal | 11:00 am | Sunday, April 12 | In person – Sanctuary |
| • Gull Lake Guitar Recital | 3:00 pm | Sunday, April 12 | In person – Sanctuary |