

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter



WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 61:1-3; Psalm 90:13-17; John 21:1-19

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Into our fears and through our locked doors,

Congregants: Come, Almighty God.

Minister: Into our doubts, our apathy, our sinfulness,

Congregants: Come, Lord Jesus.

Minister: Into our confusions and our weaknesses
and our brokenness,

Congregants: Come, Holy Spirit.

Minister: Into our deepest needs, known and unknown,

Congregants: Come Father, Son, and Spirit, and be with us.

Minister: Let us come now, to worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Heavenly God, we come to You now in prayer,
confident that in Christ we are no longer dead in our sins,
but instead are alive through his resurrection.
In Your grace, we seek Your presence, that we might worship You.**

**We know that we have sinned, in word, in thought, in action.
Forgive us for what we have done, for who we have been,
for messes we have created, for needs we have ignored.
Forgive us for seeking to control our world,
when only You can bring hope and healing and salvation.
In Your mercy, set us again on Your path,
and raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Here these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, loved, and made whole.
You are the people of the resurrection--go forth, and live that life.
By the grace of God, you are cleansed, redeemed, made new.
Live in that promise! May God be praised.

***RESPONSE HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (Verse 2)**

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 34:1-10

¹I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. ³O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. ⁴I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. ⁶This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. ⁸O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. ⁹O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. ¹⁰The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 24:13-35

¹³And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. ¹⁴And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. ¹⁷And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? ¹⁸And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? ¹⁹And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: ²⁰And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. ²¹But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. ²²Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; ²³And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. ²⁴And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. ²⁵Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ²⁶Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? ²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. ²⁹But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. ³⁰And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³²And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? ³³And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, ³⁴Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. ³⁵And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open to us the wisdom of Your Word and enlighten us with Your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and all that leads us away from Your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope, for we pray in his name. Amen.

SERMON

LOSING EASTER

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 702

Christ Be Beside Me

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other and in all Your creation, to find You in many new discoveries of the heart and mind and spirit, and to learn to live together as Your resurrection people. May Your presence and Your love never stop surprising us and transforming us, until Your Kingdom comes. Through the risen Lord we pray. Amen.

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 233 *The Day of Resurrection!*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Billy and Maggie request the pleasure of your company to celebrate their wedding Saturday May 10, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Reception to follow in fellowship hall.

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, May 13th, at 10:00 am at the Church.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Thursday, May 15th, at 8:30 a.m. New location is: IHOP at 4764 Valley View Blvd, Roanoke

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

Frances Bowling	Pam Claterbaugh	Richard Claterbaugh
Marie Haines	Walt Haines	Jake Hayes
Mary Anne Huff	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Patsy Linton	Susan Lockard	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Dan Cone	Ann Arrington
George Smith	

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer

