

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

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; I Corinthians 15:19-26

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

THE REFITTING OF THE SANCTUARY

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG *This is the Day* (unison)

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made!**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Congregants: Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Minister: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: He comes now to us, that we might believe
and share his love and gospel to the world.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord of life!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Glory to You, O God of grace and glory.

You have won victory over death

by the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,

raising him from the grave and giving us eternal life.

In his death on the cross we find redemption,

and through Your Holy Spirit

You guide, protect, and strengthen us each day.

Grant us the resolve to die daily to our sinfulness,

so that we might live with him

in the hope, joy, and assurance of his resurrection.

Hear these our silent prayers.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear good news! Christ himself bore our sins

in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin,

we can live for righteousness.

Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 236

The Strife Is O'er

Victory

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Alleluia! Christ the Lord Is Risen!

Taylor Davis

Christ is risen, sing your praises, Christ has broken every chain.
Hark, the angels shout hosannas, singing evermore on high; Alleluia!
Christ is risen, let us sing.

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;
now all Christians let us sing that the lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!
Christ is risen, let us sing.

He who bore all pain and loss, comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high, pleads for us and hears our cry; Alleluia!
Christ is risen, let us sing. Alleluia!

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 28:1-8

¹ 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.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of Your risen Word.**

Enliven our hearts with Your Holy Spirit.

Startle us with Your truth.

**Open our hearts and minds to the good news
that Jesus Christ is risen indeed.**

**Open our spirits and our intellects to the news
that he is Lord of life, even over death,
and that love shall never lose, throughout eternity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERMON

A LOVE STRONGER THAN DEATH

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 277 *Hail Thee, Festival Day!*

(Easter Verses 1 and 2)

Salve Festa Dias

Choir will sing the Verses, Congregation will sing the Refrain

Congregational Refrain:

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

Choir Verse 1:

All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising!

Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns:

Congregational Refrain:

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

Choir Verse 2:

Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation.

Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all:

Congregational Refrain:

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

*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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymn 522 *I Am the Bread of Life*

Prayer of Dedication

I Am the Bread

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 238

Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-737649 . All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI#1241295

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Margie Lemon would like to thank everyone for food, cards, visits, gifts and the beauty of each friendship. The blessings are abundant! Many thanks!!

Hunger Busters will be collected over the next four weeks. If you would like to participate, please pick up a bag in the narthex, fill it, and return it to the church. The food goes to support the Presbyterian Community Center pantry.

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting items for Sunnyside March 22-May 2. Useful items for their residents are shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, mouth wash, combs, brushes, shaving cream, deodorant (for men and women), bath soap, tissues, puzzles, books: crossword, search, daily devotionals and anything that the residents can use.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Seekers Class Easter Service / Communion
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers Restaurant
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Seekers Class Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bill Bailey	Joyce Barker	Rob Barker
Di Brammer	Pam Claterbaugh	Jackie Critzer
Maggie Hambrick	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Mary Anne Huff	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Sandy Smith
Dora Slee	Karen Smith	Denise Schuh

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Dan Cone	Kathy Pankavich
Glenna Myers	Jack Argobast Jr.
Connie Watkins	Tom Kirby
Rene Speese	Harry Speese
Vicki Widener	Charlie Wilkerson

***THE SESSION ***

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

