



Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday

Today's Front Cover Artwork

A New Day Begins. August 26, 2025, Ocean City, NJ. Photo by David Kertland.

*Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.*

Hosea 6:3

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

"The resurrection has a central role in the New Testament. It is the culmination of the story of the life of Christ in the Gospels. It is a prominent point in the preaching of the book of Acts. It is the basis for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). It has a weighty role in Paul's writings because Paul sees the resurrection as the decisive turning point in history that brought about the transition to a new era of history, the era of the age to come. This age to come has already dawned in the resurrection of Christ because he is the fountainhead and source of the life in the age to come. ...The resurrection of Christ is the turning point in the history of the world, where new creation begins. But it is also the turning point for each individual Christian, because we are united to Christ and experience the benefits of his resurrection. We are raised to new life, already, in Christ. ...The Holy Spirit joins us to Christ and his resurrection: *'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.'* (Romans 8:11)"

From Vern S. Poythress, *The Mystery of the Trinity: A Trinitarian Approach to the Attributes of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2020, 10-12).



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) desires to be a welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations community of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. We seek to love God and our neighbor as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to *worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.*

Preparing to Worship God

Welcome

Welcome to Hershey PCA! We are glad you have come to worship God with us as we come to him through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

A **Nursery** for children aged infant through 3 years old is provided on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. Today's Nursery Workers are Rachel Ballach and Lauren Sanabria.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4-Grade 2 is offered on the Lower Level of the Education Bldg. beginning during the hymn before the sermon. Today's Junior Church Teacher is Paul Hepperle.

Thank you to all who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order: Emily Church (vocals), Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Jericho Church (vocals), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Keith Dolon (greeter), Peter Gibble (viola), Bonnie Kertland (vocals), David Kertland (preaching), Nathanael Marengo (vocals), Katy McIlvaine (vocals), Jared Salyards (piano), Brad Weaver (sound), Don Wood (vocals), Cooper Yingst (trumpet), Nick Yingst (leading worship).

Today's Ushers are Asahel Church, David Eakin, and Michael Kitchens.

Counters are Keith Dolon and Crystal Basom.

Throughout today's service: the light face type is read by the leader; the **bold face type** is to be read or sung by the congregation.

Prelude

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

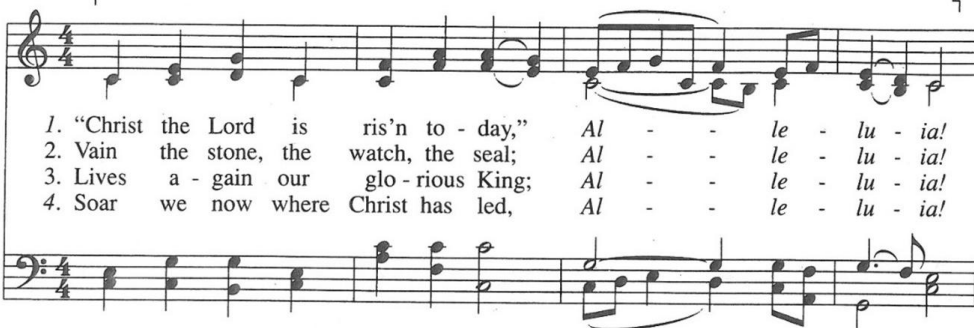
The Easter Greeting

Christ is risen!

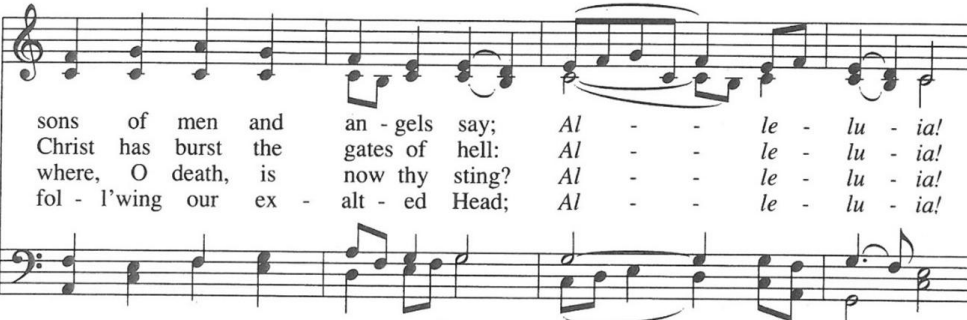
He is risen, indeed!

*Response of Praise:

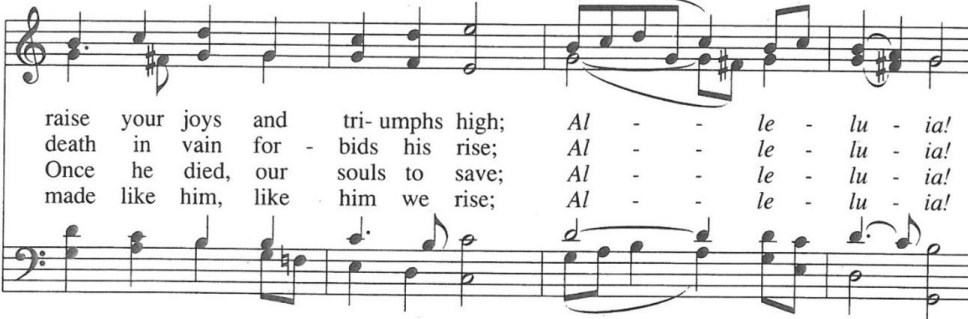
Christ the Lord is Risen Today



1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day," Al - - le - lu - ia!
2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!



sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell; Al - - le - lu - ia!
where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!
death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!
Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!
made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!



sing ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!
where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

5. Hail, the Lord of earth and heav'n! *Alleluia!*
Praise to thee by both be giv'n; *Alleluia!*
thee we greet triumphant now; *Alleluia!*
hail, the Resurrection, thou! *Alleluia!*

Charles Wesley, 1739

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7.al.
Lyra Davidica, 1708; alt.

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith:**

The Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed. It is an ancient summary of what the Bible teaches about God, our need of a sufficient Savior, and our dependence on the work of God's Spirit.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost:
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end. A-men, a-men.**

* “‘Catholic’ here means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples.” It is confessed in recognition of the believing church throughout the world; it is not intended as a reference to what is today called the *Roman Catholic Church*.

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Romans 3:21-25

[N]ow the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Romans 5:5b-11

...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of April 5-12

2

- **In the Local Community:** Ronald McDonald House in Hershey
- **Civil Government:** PA State Senator Patty Kim
- **Unreached People Group:** Bhar of South Asia
Population: 1,836,700; Language: Bhojpuri; Religion: Hinduism
"...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

Intercession *for the Church* (God's People):

- **Health issues:** Peter M.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Pastor Emeritus Bob Eickelberg
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Matt & Joanna Dabiero
(RUF, Penn State)

The Lord's Prayer:

We close our prayer in unison with this version of 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.**

Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory: *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" arr. Benjamin David Knoedler*

Hershey PCA Easter Choir
See lyrics on page 17.

During this hymn, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in the lower level of the education building. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children in the narthex.

***Song of Preparation:**

Up From the Grave He Arose

Capo 1: (A) (D/A) (A) (E) (E⁷) (D/A) (A)

1. Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior,
 2. Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;
 3. Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior;

(D) (A) (F#m) (E/B) (B⁷) (E)

wait - ing the com - ing day— Je - sus, my Lord.
 vain - ly they seal the dead— Je - sus, my Lord.
 he tore the bars a - way— Je - sus, my Lord.

REFRAIN
 (A) *Faster*

Up from the grave he a - rose, He a - rose!

(D) (A)

with a might - y tri - umph o'er his foes. He a - rose!

He a - rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he

lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign. He a - rose!

He a - rose!

He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

Robert Lowry, 1874

CHRIST AROSE 11.10.ref.
Robert Lowry, 1874

Listening to God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination**

In this prayer, we ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to his Word.

***Reading of Scripture**

John 20:1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

The Christ, the Son of God (6): *The Gospel of John* Chapters 18-21

Sermon: “*From Darkness to Light*”

Today’s Text: John 20:1-10; Pastor David Kertland

1) While it was still dark, God _____ Jesus.

2) While we are still in darkness, God _____ with Christ.

Preparing for the Lord’s Supper:

Prayer of Application

The sermon concludes with a prayer asking the Lord to help us to be those who listen to his word and obey it. “...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

Receiving Provision from God

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning (see below)

Prayer

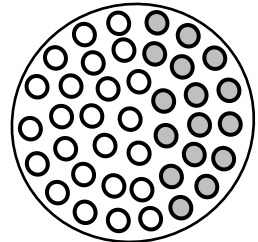
Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Receiving of the Elements

About the elements: Our communion servers will be handing out the elements, which are in two stacked communion cups. The top cups have the juice or wine, and the bottom cups all have gluten-free bread. As a server comes to you, please take a cup of your preference. The clear cups are filled with grape juice; the purple-tinted cups are filled with wine.



Prayer

white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) welcomes to receive the Holy Supper all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and obey Christ, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that proclaims the gospel or who have been approved by our Session after indicating a desire to participate (BCO 58-4). Children should await communicant membership before participating.

Let this table, and our communion together, point you to Jesus—to hold out your empty and faltering hands to him, to receive grace from him, to allow him to feed and strengthen you, and to remind you that, if you are in Christ, He is *for you* and *will help you* as you seek to follow him this week.

If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, we invite you to cry out to Jesus and pray the following prayer (or one like it):

Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you and rest on you alone for my salvation."

Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk to our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Receiving God's Blessing

*Song of Commitment:

Worship Christ the Risen King

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Matt. 28:6

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voic-es, Christ has con- quered death and hell.
 2. See the tomb where death had laid him, emp- ty now, its mouth de- clares:
 3. Hear the earth pro - test and trem - ble, see the stone re - moved with pow'r;
 4. Doubt may lift its head to mur- mur, scoff- ers mock and sin- ners jeer;
 5. We ac- claim your life, O Je- sus, now we sing your vic- to- ry;

Sing as all the earth re- joic- es; res- ur- rec- tion an- thems swell.
 "Death and I could not con- tain him, for the throne of life he shares."
 • all hell's min- ions may as- sem- ble, but can- not with- stand his hour.
 but the truth pro - claims a won- der thought- ful hearts re - ceive with cheer.
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your con- quest keeps us free.

Come and wor- ship, come and wor- ship, wor- ship Christ, the ris - en King!
 Come and wor- ship, come and wor- ship, wor- ship Christ, the ris - en King!
 • He has con- quered, he has con- quered, Christ the Lord, the ris - en King!
 He is ris - en, he is ris - en, now re- ceive the ris - en King!
 Stand in tri- umph, stand in tri- umph, wor- ship Christ, the ris - en King!

Being Sent to Serve God

*Benediction:

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Amen.

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are glad that you have joined us for worship today. We hope you can stay a little while for conversation with our pastors and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. The time following the worship service is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ! We encourage you to look for others you don't know, introduce yourself, and welcome them in the name of Jesus Christ!

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** *A New Day Begins*. August 26, 2025, Ocean City, NJ. Photo by David Kertland.
- 2) **Music:** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (277), "Up from the Grave He Arose" (276), and "Worship Christ, the Risen King!" (286) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes: Page 2:** from Vern S. Poythress, *The Mystery of the Trinity: A Trinitarian Approach to the Attributes of God* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2020, 10-12). Some of the quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- 4) **On the Sermon:** Along with the Greek and English texts, a variety of commentaries and other study aids may have been consulted in preparing this and other sermons from the Gospel of John, including: the insights, sermons, and writings of John Calvin, D. A. Carson, William Hendriksen, Matthew Henry, Leon Morris, Herman Ridderbos, R. C. Sproul, St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate (Dick Lucas, William Taylor), and others. Not every commentator or pastor listed is consulted for each sermon, yet many of the insights belong to these and others, while the form and specific use of the Scripture text, along with any errors that follow from them, are my own.
- 5) **The "Invitation to the Lord's Supper"** and the communion page information was, in part, modified from the practice of Redeemer PCA in NYC (2008) and Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA (2015).

* Congregation standing, as personal ability allows.



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA)

is a member congregation of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).



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