

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 5th, 2026

Easter Sunday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts "See, What a Morning"

Choir

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Exclaim with Delight

Pastor Dave: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Many Voices: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pastor Dave: This is the day of resurrection.

Many Voices: Let us rejoice and celebrate!

Pastor Dave: Jesus is Risen Today!

Many Voices: Alleluia! Amen!

Response "What a Mighty God We Serve"

W&S #3016

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Glenn: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Many Voices: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Glenn: Sin and death shall reign no more.

Many Voices: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Glenn: Let this place resound with joy.

Many Voices: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

All: Thanks be to God!

***Opening Hymn** "Up from the Grave He Arose"

UMH #322

***The Apostle's Creed**

UMH #881

Opening Prayer

Glenn: Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

"Crown Him Lord of All"

Choir

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: God of New Beginnings, you roll away more than stones. You roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure. On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in

gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ. Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently -- eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve. May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive, love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained. Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson

Acts 10:34-43 (CEB)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10 (CEB)

Glenn: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

TFWS #2088

Proclaiming

"He is Lord of All"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession of Sin & Pardon

Many Voices: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Silent Prayer]

Pastor Dave: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ; you are forgiven!

Many Voices: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Dave: The Lord be with you.

Many Voices: And also with you.

Pastor Dave: Lift up your hearts.

Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Dave: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Dave: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love

remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor Dave: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor Dave: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Many Voices: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn**

"He Lives"

UMH #310

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World