

***BLESSING:**

L: On the night of his betrayal, trial, abandonment, Jesus gathered for the Passover with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, blessed it and passed it around, saying, "Take, eat, for this is my body broken for you." Then he took the cup of blessing, blessed it anew and passed the cup around, saying, "Take, drink, for this is my blood, a symbol of the new covenant with you, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me always!"

***ACCLAMATION: (unison) O Lord, may you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that we may be the body of Christ. AMEN.**

***SONG:** "Graced with Garments of Great Gladness" #334

***THE MEAL IS SERVED:* (please be seated)**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (unison)**

To the witness of new life emerging, to the work of new world building, to the power of love persisting, to answering the call of faith rising up, God opens, commits, dedicates and equips us. AMEN!

***BENEDICTION: (unison)**

Our Lord tells that even now, new life; even now, resurrection; even now, rise up. Christ, you have risen indeed. Let us go in peace to rise up in praise until new life is witnessed, known and enjoyed by all creation. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

***SENDING FORTH SONG:**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" #240

***POSTLUDE:** "Echoes of Triumph"
Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE TOMB

Easter Sunday, 2025

Peace United Church of Christ Elkader, Iowa

PRELUDE: "Cross of Sorrow" by Susanna Keeney

BELL, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION TO EASTER

THE GATHERING LITANY:

L: At early dawn, when the light was just emerging, the shadows still long and deep, the earth began to sing a tender, persistent hallelujah.

P: And the resurrection smelled like death and dirt. Christ, the Power of Love, is risen, is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

L: At early dawn with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes, the women began to sing a grieving, faithful hallelujah.

P: And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions. Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

L: At early dawn, when no one could remember the sounds of hope or the promise of a new day rising, the world began

to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

P: And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing. Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

L: At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies and injustices, we gather to hear the grateful, liberating hallelujahs.

P: And this Easter feels like protest and praise. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE GATHERING EASTER SONG: Chancel Choir
"Alleluia, Praise the Lord" Words-Nancy Price, Don Besig
Music by Don Besig

***PASSING THE EASTER PEACE AND JOY! (then sit)
SINGING ON THIS DAY:**

"The Day of Resurrection" #245

THE JOYOUS WORD ON EASTER

THE EASTER EPISTLE: Acts 10:34-43 Laura Moser

THE EASTER GOSPEL John 20:1-18 Pastor Paula

THE EASTER MESSAGE:

"I Have Seen the Lord! How About You?"

EASTER SONG: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #233

EASTER PRAYER: (unison)

God of the morning star, the rising sun; God of darkness banished, we praise and worship you! For empty tombs, for disciples running with good news, for your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected: thank you! We celebrate your victory over death and all the powers that would defeat us.

May you help us to grasp the power of resurrection, to see its force at work in our world, overturning evil empires, changing the hatred within us, moving the world, bending us toward love and truth.

On this day of great gladness, empower us to be your ambassadors, proclaiming good news in our kitchens, living rooms, offices, workshops, fields, factories,

schools, sports events. May you help us to live that good news, walking softly on this good earth, caring gently for all people, living with hope.

Today we remember all whose needs are known to us on our prayer list; we remember the places in the world torn by war and bloodshed, those in prisons throughout the world, those struggling in areas hit hard by nature's fury. In this world of broken hopes and dreams, we catch glimpses of your kingdom in our midst. We ask that you help us grow your kingdom until the glimpses become a way of life.

We lift these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN.

OFFERING. OFFERTORY:

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" Arthur S. Sullivan

***THE DOXOLOGY:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

**INVITATION:*

L: God is with us! Let us lift up our hearts, giving thanks and praise. Blessed are all who come in your name, O risen Christ!

P: Jesus brought healing where there was brokenness, love where there was fear, life where there was death.

L: He was crucified, but the life in him was eternal and could not be taken; you, O God, have raised him from the dead.

P: Christ has died, is risen and will come again in love!

WELCOME

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Worship Leaders

Today-April 20th

Worship: Pastor Paula
Reader: Laura Moser
Fellowship: Cookie Cupboard
Organist: Laura Moser
Ushers: McCorkindales
**Opening/
Closing** Carl, Laura Moser

Next Sunday, April 27th

Pastor Paula
Mary Webber
Kristina Bente
Laura Moser
Kristina Bente
Gary Kuehl

PRAYER LIST: Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Ruth Grau, Ruth Olson, family of Lucena Phelps, Elaine Radloff, Sharon Reichert, Alice Reimer, Payton Renschler, Father James, Jerry Koons

MAY 8—9 A.M. WOMEN'S MAY BREAKFAST at First Cong. church in Elkader. Guest speaker is Julienne Friday. Sign-up sheet and more information is on table at rear of church. Reservations needed by Monday, April 28th.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m.-noon-----Monday, Wednesday. Thursday

8 a.m.-10:45 a.m.—Tuesday

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Monday: Office hours: 9-noon

Tuesday: Office hours: 9-10:45 a.m.

Clergy Text Study: 11 a.m.

Wednesday: Office hours: 9-noon

5:30-6:30 p.m. Bell Choir practice

6:30-7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

Thursday: Office hours: 9-noon

BULLETIN DEADLINE AND

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8 a.m.

Friday: Pastor's Day Off

Saturday: Worship Prep

NEEDED: *The Church History work group is updating the church's history especially from 2016 to the present. ALSO, pictures and news focused on the Christian Education unit and the parsonage will be greatly welcomed. Thank you!*

Graveside Service for Jenny Olson will be held next Saturday, April 26th at 10:30 a.m. in Eastside Cemetery. A luncheon will be held afterwards at Johnson's Restaurant.

ALTAR VASES

Altar vases are given in memory of Kenny and Gerry French, Roy and Florence French from the French family.