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THE GATHERING

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Chiming of the Hour

Prelude to Worship

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Liturgist: Christ is risen from the dead forever trampling down our greatest enemy.

People: **Hallelujah!**

Liturgist: This is the Good News – the grave is empty and Christ is risen.

People: **Hallelujah!**

Liturgist: Let us worship God with Easter joy!

**\*\*Procession of the Floral Cross**

**\*\*Prayer of the Day**

\*Hymn 123                      *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”*

**\*\*Call to Confession**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips are afraid to name and what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past we cannot change, open us to a future in which we can be changed and give us the grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**\*\*Declaration of Pardon**

**\*\*Hymn 579                      *“Glory Be to the Father”***

*“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.”*

The Reception of New Members—Cecile Stiner and Christa Stiner

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*\*The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another.

*Children are dismissed to their class.*

A Gift of Music

Jim Parrish

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THE WORD

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Unison Prayer for Understanding

Spirit of power and new possibility, open our minds to understanding, our hearts to loving, and our wills to carrying out the mission of the risen Christ who is God’s Living Word. Amen.

The Reading from the New Testament

Colossians 3:1-4

*...see insert...*

Reader: The Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 28:1-10

*...see insert...*

Reader: The gospel of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of Music

*"How Great Thou Art"*

Christa Stiner

Sermon

*"The Message You Have"*

\*\*Hymn 104

*"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"*

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**THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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Responsive Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

(debts/debtors)

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: hear our 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.*

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*\*Hymn

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

DOXOLOGY

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" Amen.*

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

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**THE SENDING**

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\*\*Hymn 536

*"Lord, Make Us More Holy"*

\*\*Charge and Blessing

\*\*Postlude

*\*\*please stand as you are able*

# *First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster*

*Order of Worship for Easter Sunday*

*April 5, 2026 ~ 11 a.m.*

Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

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*Please silence cell phones prior to worship*

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We welcome everyone to this hour of worship. It is our prayer that this time will be meaningful to you as you worship. As we prepare for this holy time, let us center our thoughts on the Christ who loves us supremely.