

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

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**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Unlikely Life: Resurrection

Easter – April 5, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: Barbara Sabath

Welcome

Prelude

St. Anthony Chorale

Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We come, ready to embrace God's unexpected blessings.**

Leader: God often works in the unexpected.

People: **Easter is proof of that. The tomb is empty! That was unexpected. Jesus is alive! That was unexpected. The women preached! That was unexpected. We will embrace the unexpected!**

Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

(verses 1 – 4)

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, 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!
 * 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him 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!
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - tory, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, come in the most unexpected ways, using the most unexpected people in the most unexpected places. Only you can bring life from nothing. Only you can bring life from death. Only you can bring grace from sin. Only you can bring all of us together in one time and place. Help us to see the signs of resurrection around us every day. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

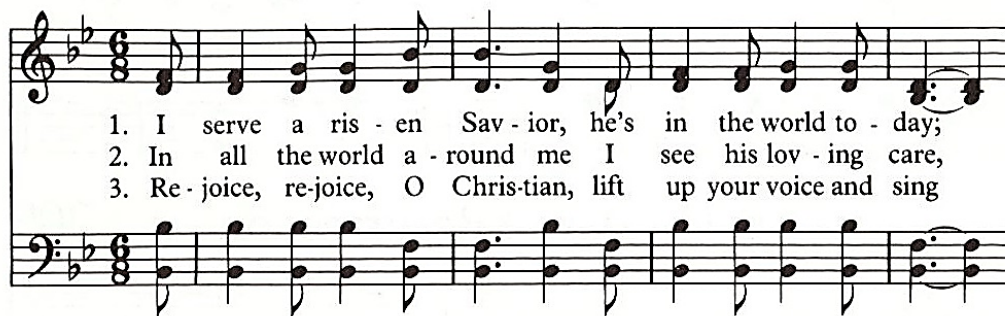
Sunday School Singers

God's Not Dead

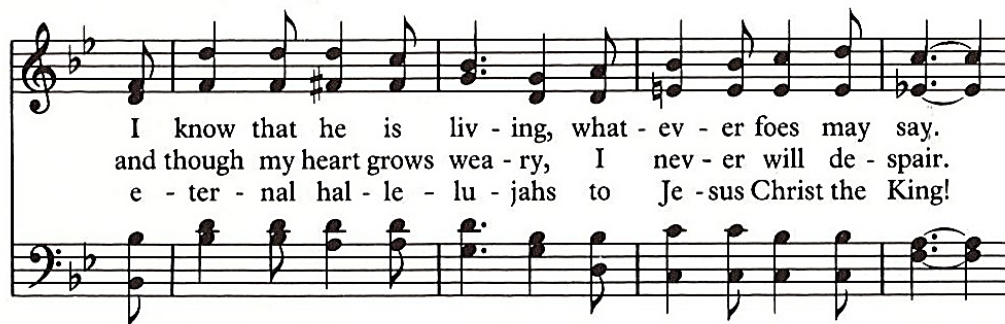
Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Hymn No. 310

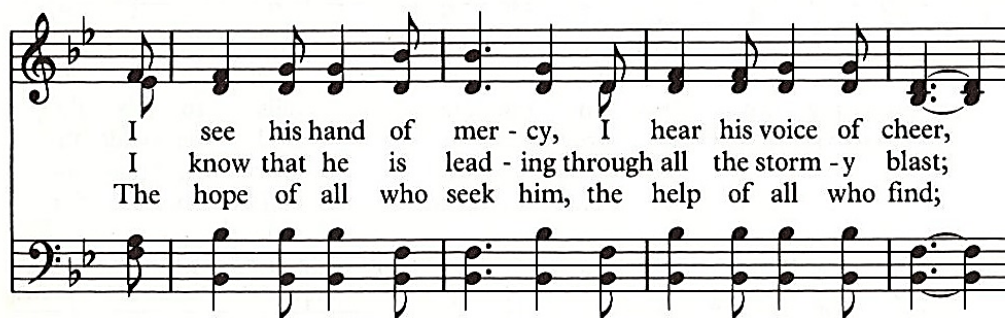
He Lives



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
3. Re - jice, re-joyce, O Chris-tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er foes may say.
and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair.
e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast;
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;

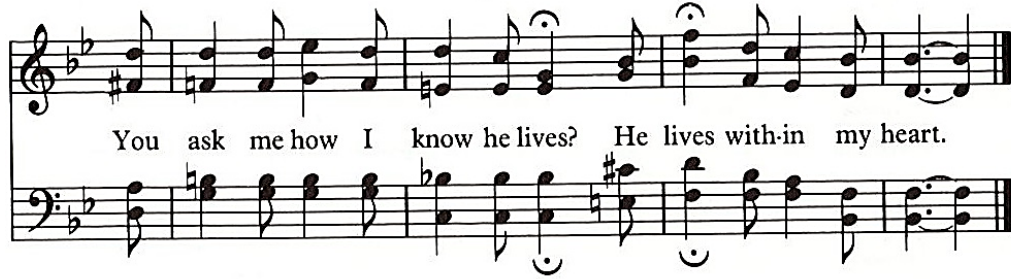
and just the time I need him, he's al - ways near.
the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!
(he lives) (he lives)

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.

He lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
(he lives) (he lives)



Senior Choir

O What a Glorious Day

David N. Davenport

Scripture Lesson

John 20:1-16

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Unlikely Life: Resurrection

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Peter Benjamin

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn

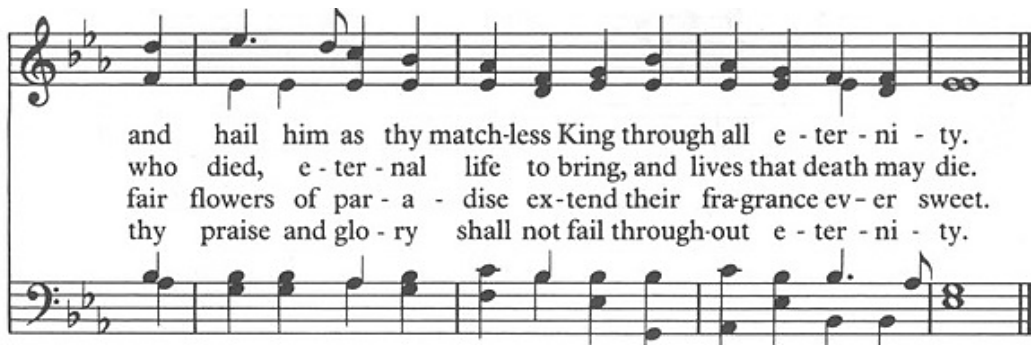
Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system contains four verses. The second system contains the main body of the hymn. The third system contains the final lines of the hymn.



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex-tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata Classique

Dennis Janzer

Instrumentalists:

Organ – Priscilla Cunningham Clarinet – Howard Isaacson
Violin – Susan Elsayed Trumpet – Jeremiah Paton

Instrumental Arrangements – Jim Daly

2026

EASTER

DEDICATIONS



FLOWERS

Bette Alsobrook – *In loving memory* of my husband, Frank; my parents; and Jennifer. *In honor* of my daughter, Julie and her husband, Keith; and my grandchildren, Luke, Jackson, Ashley, and Zachary.

Susan G. Brownhill – *In loving memory* of my grandparents, parents, and Jim.

Mike and Barbara Combs – *In loving memory* of Donald Combs and Reba Lee Combs. *In honor* of our grandchildren Callie and Colton.

Tom and Paula Crawford – *In loving memory* of Barbara Virden; John Gorman; Janet Angerman; Uncle Tom Gorman; our parents; and our grandparents. *In honor* of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Priscilla Cunningham – *In loving memory* of Janvier and Evelyn Husted. *In honor* of Becky and Danny; Christy and Linny; Zach Mannel and Ben Mannel (from MomMom).

Edward and Angela Dennis – *In loving memory* of Linda Dennis.

Chip and Lois Garrison – *In loving memory* of our parents; Mary Lou and Frank Jacobs; our grandparents.

Erin, Reagan, J.T., and Jackson – *In loving memory* of John Gorman.

Jean Killion – *In loving memory* of my beloved Laptonak and Van Sant families. *In honor* of the Corkhills: Lissa, Alex, Leah, and Jonah.

Bob and Mary McCarty – *In loving memory* of parents, Charles and Ruth McCarty; parents, John and Louise Roth; grandmother, Lena Sears-Price; son, Robert McCarty II. *In honor* of son, Kevin; grandchildren, Devin, Emily, Bobby, and Ryan.

Sue Reitmeyer – *In loving memory* of my husband, Fred Reitmeyer, gone too soon; our parents, Bob and Raymonde Johnson and Walter and Frances Reitmeyer. *In honor* of our children, Lynne (Shawn), Bob (Susan), John (Mai), and Jennifer (Andrew).

Kris and Frank Rudisill – *In loving memory* of Raymond R. Huber, Jr. *In honor* of Marie A. Huber; Jocilyn and Mike O'Brien; Emilee and Roman Rudisill; Autumn Marie Rudisill.

Barbara Sabath – *In loving memory* of Bill and Melba Owens; Candace Dornan.

Naomi Swan and family – *In loving memory* of husband, James; sons, Philip and Michael Swan.

Gary and Diane Thomas – *In loving memory* of Betty Boyd; Charles and Annie Hemm.

David and Ali Wade – *In loving memory* of our son, Alex; and parents and grandparents.

If you have donated toward Easter flowers, please feel free to take a plant home after Easter worship. (Either the 9 AM or 11 AM service.)

Any flowers left over will be planted in our church gardens.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS

Joseph Brzuszkiewicz – *In loving memory* of deceased members of the Brzuszkiewicz family.

Joan Dearborn – *In loving memory* of Donald Dearborn; Dorothy and Richard Dearborn; Jay Davis; Margaret and Wendell Davis; Rachel Goldberg; and Tracey Powers.

Chip and Lois Garrison – *In loving memory* of our parents; Irene Fineberg; Margaret Garrison; Helen Gaskell.

Carmen, Johna, and Mike Infante – *In loving memory* of John and Martha Gregg; Mike and Laura Infante; and our beloved parents.

Kyung Sook Kwon – The first woman missionary, Mary Scranton, who founded Ewha Hakdang, the first girls' school in Korea in 1886.

Mary Poulsen – *In honor* of my children, Cassie and Erica Poulsen; and my grandchildren, Jonah and Daphne Esser.

Sue Reitmeyer – *In honor* of our grandchildren: Bailey, Tanner and Gianna, Mary, Colleen, and Clay; our loving church family; and Faithful Fingers.

Barbara Sabath – *In honor* of Jackson, my grandson; Emersyn, Rowen, Nora, Maddy, Jax, Jamie, Parker, and Ilah.

Karen Ubbens – *In loving memory* of my husband, Arthur A. Ubbens, Jr. *In honor* of my grandchildren: Daegan, Everett, Peyton, and Carter.

David and Ali Wade – *In honor* of all our children and grandchildren.

Your gifts of Spiritual Bouquets are given to the AUMC Scholarship Fund.

This fund gives scholarships to members of our church who are pursuing higher education.