

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church



<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship First Sunday of Easter

April 5, 2026

Worship Theme: *“The resurrection of Jesus—the central event in history—allays our fears and assures us that God’s promises are dependable. The resurrection hope gives our lives purpose and meaning in the present, despite the apparent chaos and futility of our world.”*

** The Congregation should please stand, if you are able to do so*

Welcome, Announcements, and

Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: Jesus Christ is Risen Today.....arr. Berry

Jesus Christ is ris’n today, alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
Unto Christ our heav’nly King, alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

(...continued over...)

----- (please tear off here) -----

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I’d like: ☐ Call from the pastor ☐ Prayer for:

(...continued on other side...)

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Congregation: He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Liturgist: Praise the Lord and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Liturgist: God has claimed us as his own.

Congregation: He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

—based on 1 Peter 1:3-5

***Hymn No. 277:** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today EASTER HYMN*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 110 Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for Children Shirley Wilson

***Hymn of Reflection:**

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death Getty, et. al.

(Please see the Bulletin Insert for the words and music of this song.)

(...continued over...)

-----*(please tear off here)*-----

(...continued from other side...)

Prayers of Confession..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by praying a unison prayer of corporate confession.
Then, we will join in silently, confessing our personal sins.

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, You shattered the power of sin and death. As we humbly confess our sins to You, we confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.

Please forgive our denial of our mortality, our hopelessness, and our sense of captivity to sin. Please set us free by the liberation of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who was dead, but lives among us. Please help us trust Your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may feel and know the joy of life abundant given in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord and King. Amen.

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.
Where O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

Congregation: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

—1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NRSV

***Response Hymn: Gloria Patri**..... *GREATOREX*

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!

***Apostles’ Creed** Thomas Brooks

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the 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 arose again from the dead; He ascended

(...continued over...)

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.

***Passing of the Peace** Thomas Brooks

*Note: The Congregation will please turn to each other and speak these words of common greeting: "May the peace of Christ be with you."
And the reply: "And, also with you."*

**Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and
The Lord's Prayer**..... Rev. Giffone

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.

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:12-21 Lisa Gordon

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Do Not Be Afraid, For He Has Risen"... Rev. Giffone

Sermon Text: Matthew 27:62 - 28:15

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord's Table..... Rev. Giffone

Offering: *This Joyful Eastertide* arr. Larkin

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith would be in vain: but now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen,
But now is Christ arisen.

Note: We welcome the families with children sitting in the rear of the sanctuary to come forward and find seating in the front of the church, so that the children may observe the Celebration of Holy Communion.

(...continued over...)

Offertory Hymn 733: *Doxology* *LASST UNS ERFREUEN
(Sung with an Alternate Tune)

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

***Offertory Prayer** Rev. Giffone

Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution Rev. Giffone

Distribution of the Bread: *The body of Christ, broken for you.*

(Please note that for Communion we use both
gluten-free and dairy-free bread or crackers.)

As you pass the bread/crackers, please say to the next person:
“**The body of Christ, broken for you.**”

Upon receipt of the bread, please hold it until all have been served,
so that we can partake of the bread together, as a sign of our oneness
in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Distribution of the Cup: *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

(Please note that for Communion the juice
we use is non-alcoholic grape juice.)

As you pass the cup, please say to the next person:
“**The blood of Christ, shed for you.**”

Upon receipt of the cup, please hold it until all have been served,
so that we can partake of the cup together, as a sign of our oneness
in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate
rows for disposal of the used communion cups

Prayer following Communion Rev. Giffone

Hymn No. 267: *The Day of Resurrection!* *LANCASHIRE

***Benediction** Rev. Giffone

Postlude: *Thine Be the Glory* arr. Pinkston

(...continued over...)

After the Worship Service

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and cookies after the Worship Service in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to Pastor Benj or to one of our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns.

Monthly Prayer Focus

During the month of April, Session asks us to pray for each other. A list of members and regular attendees will be available on the center table at the back of the sanctuary. If you don't know some of the people listed, ask someone to introduce you and get to know them. As you consider each individual person, please pray:

- Giving God thanks for placing each of these individuals in your life.
- Asking God to strengthen the bond between the two of you, considering what you can share about yourself that will help build your friendship.
- Considering what you know about them:
 - Do they have problems or troubles where you could come alongside them and give them a friend to lean on?
 - Do you know if they have committed their lives to Jesus Christ? If not, please pray for opportunities to witness to them.
- Asking for God's continued blessing on their lives and families.
- Asking God to strengthen their faith, and to protect them from temptation.

Pastor:Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD

pastor@rpcerie.org/724-221-2595

Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks

Accompanist: Shirley Wilson

Ruling Elders: Robert LeSuer, Amy Stearns, Zachary Harvey

Ways to Give to Redeemer:

- *Offering Plate*
- *Mail:* RPC Treasurer, c/o 115 W Lakeview Blvd., Erie, PA 16508
- *Online:* <https://www.rpcerie.org/give>



To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org

CCLI License #11138332

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker and Matt Papa

$\text{♩} = 80$

1. What is our hope in life and death? Christ a-lone, Christ a-lone.
 (What truth can) calm a troubled soul? God is good, God is good.
 (Un-to the) grave, what shall we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He

5 lone. What is our on-ly con-fi-dence? That our souls to Him be-long. Who holds our
 good. Where is His grace and good-ness known? In our great Re-deem-er's blood. Who holds our
 10 lives." And what re-ward will hea-ven bring? E-ver-last-ing life with Him. There we will

14 days with-in His hand? What comes a-part from His com-mand? And what will
 faith when fears a-rise? Who stands a-bove the stor-my trial? Who sends the
 rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be des-troyed, and we will

keep us in the end? The love of Christ in which we stand. Oh, sing "Hal-le-
 waves that bring us nigh un-to the shore, the rock of Christ?
 20 feast in end-less joy, when Christ is ours for-e-ver-more!

-lu-jah!" Our hope springs e-ter-nal; oh, sing "Hal-le-lu-jah!" Now and

25 e-ver, we con-fess: Christ our hope in life and death! 1-2. 2. What truth can
 3. Un-to the

30 death! Oh, sing "Hal-le-lu-jah!" Our hope springs e-ter-nal; oh, sing "Hal-le-
 36 -lu-jah!" Now and e-ver, we con-fess: Christ our hope in life and death; Now and

41 e-ver, we con-fess: Christ our hope in life and death!