

**First Presbyterian Church
Libertyville, Illinois**

**Easter Sunday Worship
April 5, 2026**

Do Not Be Afraid



Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead

He Is Risen!

*Today you are not to be given fear of life but courage;
and so today we shall speak more than ever of hope,
the hope that we have and which no one can take from you.*

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Confirmation Sermon, March 13, 1932

The Order of Worship
Easter Sunday ~ April 5, 2026
9 & 11 AM

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Resurrection Praise
First Pres Orchestra - Gloria Song, director

Camp Kirkland

◆ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Brian Paulson

Leader: ... Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All: **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

◆ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today***

EASTER HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen 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 heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

**Mighty God, by your power Christ is raised from death to rule this world in love.
We confess that we have not believed in him, but fall into doubt and fear.
Gladness has no home in our hearts, and gratitude is slight.
Forgive our dread of dying, our hopelessness,
and set us free for joy in the victory of Jesus Christ,
who was dead but lives, and will put down every power to hurt or destroy,
when your promised and renewed world arrives.**

(Silence for personal confession)

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

◆ **EASTER RESPONSE HYMN #233 *The Day of Resurrection!* (vv. 1 & 3)**

LANCASHIRE

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns
of victory.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin; the round world keep high triumph and all
that is therein. Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ the Lord has
risen, our joy that has no end.

◆ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

On this day of resurrection, offer peace to your neighbor and respond with the traditional Easter greeting:

"Christ is Risen." "Christ is Risen indeed!"

EASTER GREETINGS

Rev. Amy Heinrich

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S 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.**

♦ **EASTER HYMN #244** *This Joyful Eastertide* (vv. 1 & 3) VRUECHTEN

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. **Refrain.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:1-6

9 AM - Evie White

11 AM - Lily Maxie

ANTHEM

Easter Dawn

Zebulon Highben

Chancel Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, organ

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON

Do Not Be Afraid

Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

♦ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG - HYMN #234** *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*
(vv. 3 & 4) ST. KEVIN

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY - Congregational Gathering, April 12 9 AM - Session Elder Becky Nelson
11 AM - Session Elder Bob McKelvey

OFFERING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Easter Festival
Chancel Choir

Michael Bryson

◆ **RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN #234** *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* (v. 2) ST. KEVIN

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

THE SENDING

◆ **HYMN #245** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!* (vv. 1, 2, 4)

LLANFAIR

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joy and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ triumphant now. Alleluia!

◆ **THE BLESSING**

◆ **SENDING FORTH**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

POSTLUDE

Majestic Fanfare
First Pres Orchestra

David Winkler

◆ Please rise in body or spirit.

Cross Bearer: 9:00 AM
Larry Slight
Banner Carrier: Terry Jackson

11:00 AM
Mark Esquivel
Scott Baird

First Pres Orchestra - Gloria Song, director

Trumpet: Adam Gohr, Lizzie Hamilton, Will Hamilton; **Euphonium:** Annabelle Gohr, Kendra Gohr;
Clarinet: Kelly Meyer; **Horn:** Michael Wagner; **Tuba:** Jocelyn Brame; **Violin:** Jasmine Horton;
Viola: Bree Summers; **Saxophone:** Dan Brame, Aiden Cummings, Ted Rock, August Stickrod;
Flute: Judy Brame, Claire Cummings; **String Bass:** Michael Riggs; **Percussion:** Grace Cummings,
Adam Hendrickson, Gary Holland, Ed Koehler; **Organ:** Rose Snyder; **Piano:** Kitty Snyder

The church office & building will be closed Easter Monday, April 6, 2026

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers	The Congregation
Officers	The Session and the Board of Deacons
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Amy Heinrich
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Pastoral Resident	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Department Head	Gloria Song, M.Mus.

A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org