

# Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

10:15 a.m.

(\* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

EASTER PROCLAMATION & REKINDLING OF THE  
CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor: From the Gospel of John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the Word was life and the life was the light of the world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

May the light of Christ, rising in glory illumine our hearts and minds.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen Indeed!**

RESPONSE *He Is Lord*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Children of God and people of promise, come and see: the stone has been rolled away!

P: **The tomb is empty! Christ is risen from the dead!**

L: God is with us. Jesus has defeated death!

P: **The Prince of Peace reigns in victory over violence.**

**Hallelujah! Love wins!**

L: Followers of Jesus, hold fast. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

P: **Let us rejoice with all creation and worship the living God!**

\*HYMN

*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*

W&R 288

\*OPENING PRAYER: **Living God, God-with-us, and triumphant One who holds all things with love, we celebrate the risen Christ today, who was born to live among us and show us the way, who was obedient to the point of death, yet more powerful than anyone before or since. You sent us your Son to live, and he lives now and forever. We gather today to proclaim to the poor, to declare to the dust, and to shout to the suffering, "Hope reigns today, for Christ is risen and death has been defeated." Draw our hearts and minds to be fixed upon your vision and will, as we worship together. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*The Day for Rejoicing*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

## GOD'S WORD FOR US

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

MESSAGE

*When Dawn Breaks*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN

*Christ Arose!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Open Our Eyes, Lord*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*All Things Are Yours*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **Holy God, you gave us your Son to teach us to love generously and without prejudice. We now take this opportunity to respond to the good news of Easter with generous love through the act of sacrificial giving. We give, not from a sense of obligation or pressure, but because you have been so good to us that we must**

**share that goodness with others. Take this offering and use it to bless this faith community and our neighbors. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

...With faithful people in every time and place we say,  
**"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

**\*CLOSING PRAYER: Spirit of the Living God, you have met us in the bread of life and cup of blessing. Your life and blessing save us, liberate us, deliver us from the shackles of sin, and challenge us to liberate others around us. In the spirit of the common meal, we join the common cause of liberation. Amen.**

### **WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME**

\*HYMN      *He Lives!!*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Announcements

### New Prayer Requests

Logan, health

Bonnie, health

Randy, health

Donna, health

Mark Harkins family

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Mark Harkins. Mark, Zach Freschi's grandfather, passed away March 31.

Altar flowers this week were given in memory of Mabel Ousec by her granddaughter Jane Ousec

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments after worship this morning. There is a new sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide treats after worship.

\*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

We are looking for volunteers to help with Communion set up on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to sign up please see Phyllis Bender!

**Join the CREW!** Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for

stories, games, crafts, and activities that help build faith and friendships. We're excited to see you this Sunday!

**Bible Study** is on Tuesdays! We start at 6:30pm and you can participate in person at the church or Zoom on-line. The Zoom link can be found on our WEB page, zionperu.org. We will be discussing season 5 of The Chosen. Let's continue to grow in faith and community together. See you Tuesday! All are welcome!

Choir practice will be on **Sunday morning at 9:00** through the month of May. **NO MIDWEEK PRACTICE**

2026 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support. Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion. God loves a cheerful giver!

**Zion Diners** will meet again on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Jan & Arnie Watkins will host. Venue is to be announced. All are welcome!

**Ladies Tea & Luncheon** – There will be future news so keep your calendar open for May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00

**Women's Guild** met on Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> and will continue to meet every first Thursday of the month. Next meeting will be Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Feeding the Future** – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is in the midst of a major fundraiser to fund their new building purchase, necessary renovations, and expanded food programs —so that we can continue to serve the growing number of individuals and families in need across our region. Local individuals, churches

and businesses are joining together to make this vision a reality. Learn more or donate at [www.ivfoodpantry.com](http://www.ivfoodpantry.com) or by contacting the Pantry directly.

**Did you know?** Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

**Prayer Requests In the Bulletin** We are grateful for the privilege of praying for one another. To help us keep our prayer list current, each new request will be included in the bulletin for four weeks. After that time, we will remove it unless we are asked to continue sharing it longer. If you would like a request to remain, please let us know—we want to walk alongside you in prayer for as long as you need.

Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals.**" Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

**HELP WANTED!** Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email [ushers@zionperu.org](mailto:ushers@zionperu.org) to be added to the ushers list. Evangelism: We are updating our visitor

information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting.

If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email [evangelism@zionperu.org](mailto:evangelism@zionperu.org).

**Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group)** meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

**The Compassionate Friends Group** meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

**Weight Watchers** is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: \*Bar soap \*Shower gel \*Shampoo Razors \*Deodorant \*Toothbrushes \*Toothpaste \*Combs or Brushes \*Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

**You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954**

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it's the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

New copies of "These Days" are available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ

6<sup>th</sup> & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Brianna Kupperschmid
Liturgist	Shelly Garncarz
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Happy Easter!!

**Attendance March 29<sup>th</sup>** 34 In Person 12 children

On YouTube: 6

**This week:**

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

NO CHOIR

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:00 Choir Practice

10:15am Worship in person or on You Tube Followed by

Fellowship Refreshments