

We welcome you as we gather in the name of Christ! [Please switch your mobile devices to silent mode.]

Regular Print: Leader      **Bold: Congregation**      \*Asterisk: Please stand if able

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone  
but in every leaf of springtime.” – Martin Luther

✠ WE GATHER AROUND GOD’S WORD ✠

Preservice Music      French Creek Brass Quintet (11:00)

Welcome and Announcements

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Choral Introit (11:00)      *Easter Acclamations*      Kevin Dill (2019/2026)  
text: verses from Psalm 118

Easter Litany:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.**  
God has claimed us as his own.  
**He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.**  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Adoration

\*Opening Hymn: #232      Jesus Christ Is Risen Today      EASTER HYMN

\*Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

\*Silent Confession:

In the quiet now, we offer you our silent confessions from the depths of our hearts...

In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (from Ephesians 2)

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospels.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*The Gloria Patri      tune: CWM RHONDDA

Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to God the Son,  
glo - ry be to God the Spi - rit, ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and  
one in glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run, while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

✠ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✠

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 25:6–9      *Pew Bible p.798*  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem (11:00)      *How Lovely Are the Messengers*, from *St Paul*  
Felix Mendelssohn (Germany, 1809–1847)  
text: Isaiah 52:7 [paraphrased]

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1–20      *Pew Bible p.41*

Sermon: "THE 'EMPTY' PROMISES OF EASTER"      *The Rev. Benjamin Black*

✠ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✠

\*Sung Affirmation of Faith: #250      In the Bulb There Is a Flower      PROMISE

Offertory Interlude

French Creek Brass Quintet (11:00)

(You are invited to write your prayer requests on the blue prayer cards and place them in the offering plate.)

\*Hymn of Thanksgiving:

Pastoral Prayer and the 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.

✠ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✠

\*Hymn: The Lamb's High Banquet Called to Share PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Latin, 6th century

trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

German melody, 14th century

adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)



1. The Lamb's high ban - quet called to share, ar - rayed in  
2. Up - on the al - tar of the cross, his bod - y  
3. Now Christ our pass - o - ver is slain, the Lamb of  
4. We hail him ris - ing from the grave, from death re -  
5. All praise be to our ris - en Lord, from death to



gar - ments spark - ling fair, the Red Sea past, we  
has re - deemed our loss; and, tast - ing of his  
God with - out a stain; his flesh, the true un -  
turn - ing, strong to save; his own right hand the  
end - less life re - stored; all praise to God the



long to sing to Je - sus, our tri - um - phant King.  
pre - cious blood, our life is hid with him in God.  
leav - ened bread, is free - ly of - fered in our stead.  
ty - rant chains, and pa - ra - dise for us re - gains.  
Fa - ther be, and Ho - ly Spi - rit e - qual - ly.

\*Benediction

Postlude

French Creek Brass Quintet (11:00)



First Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026 ■ 8:30 & 11:00 AM



The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania ■ *founded 1800*

www.meadvillefpc.org ■ 814-333-2161

The Rev. Benjamin Black · Senior Pastor

Mary Zahora · Administrative Assistant

Kevin Dill · Director of Music

Kris Lubomski · Financial Secretary

Chris Wade · Custodian