

The Second Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 9 AM

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

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OUR VISION

Becoming the Body of Christ at the corner of Bloor & Avenue Road and beyond

Guided by commitment to our shared values, we seek to become the body of Christ, nurturing a lively faith, a persistent hope, and an ever-expanding love for God's world.

- We seek to – open our doors and hearts, embracing all who seek a sacred space. We offer worship in many forms, touching the hearts of those yearning for spiritual connection, in-person or online.
- We seek to – listen deeply, hearing the stories of Jesus and of one another with open minds and hearts. Through faithful questioning, reflection, and shared learning, we grow together in wisdom and grace.
- We seek to – serve with generous hospitality, gathering at the table with our physical and spiritual hunger. We walk alongside one another with compassion in the seasons and conditions of life, sharing our needs and thanks.
- We seek to – embody Jesus' teachings that all people are God's children, worthy of love, and that all of creation is interconnected. Where structures or attitudes threaten or diminish, we advocate for justice, peace, equity and ecological responsibility.
- We seek to – reach out in-person and virtually to the world around us. We dare to love in word and action so that others see something of God in their midst.

OUR VALUES

- Compassion:** meeting every soul with tenderness and dignity
- Openness:** welcoming questions, embracing differences, and following the movement of the Spirit
- Respect:** honouring each person's unique story and gifts, and the inherent worth of all Creation
- Inclusion:** making room for all to enter, find a place, and participate fully
- Stewardship:** nurturing respect for our resources and partnerships for long-term vitality



Christ has no body now but ours, no hands, no feet on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Teresa of Avila (Adapted)

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

Who We Are

We are followers of Jesus: children, young adults, families, and seniors who come from a variety of backgrounds. We are long-time members and newcomers; people of deep faith and those still searching; people shaped by many traditions—and sometimes seeking a deeper sense of faith and community. We are not limited by ability, age, economic status, ethnicity, gender identity, personal history or sexual orientation.

Where We Stand

Dwelling on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, Church of the Redeemer stands at the crossroads, physical and virtual—of neighbourhoods and nations, of government, education, arts, culture, and commerce—in the heart of Toronto.

From this place we seek to live into our identity as the body of Christ: living our faith, offering hope, and sharing love for God's world.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to <https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524>.

theredeemer.ca

[instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO)

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President: Liska Stefko

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement



Your support of the ministries of the Church of the Redeemer allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Donations can be made through the QR code. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.

Opening Song: #590 (Gather) "We Walk by Faith"

Led by Redeemer Music



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight: no
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, And
4. That when our life of faith is done In



gra - cious words we hear Of him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; Yet in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound; To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found;
as you are In full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt. Tune: SHANTI, CM; Marty Haugen (1950-), © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Easter Greeting

Liska Stefko

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Priest: The stone is rolled away.

All: **Death has been vanquished.**

The Collect of the Day

Liska Stefko

Priest: Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Catherine Emerson

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

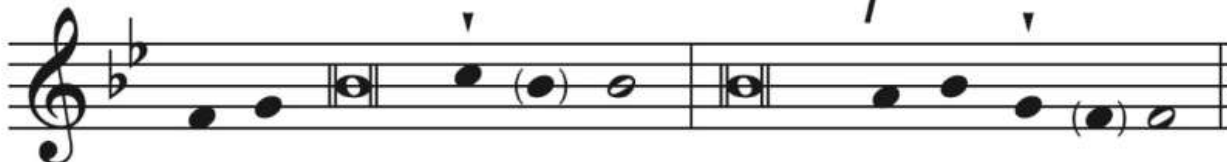
1 Peter 1.3-9

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 16 (Plainsong)

Led by Redeemer Music Team



it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless my God, who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

O God, I have set you always before me; *
because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Gospel Acclamation

Led by Redeemer Music Team

The Gospel

Liska Stefko

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you. 'Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

John 20.19-31

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily: Tom More (Director of Common Table)

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Elli Howard

Leader: As we gather in prayer we rejoice that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Jesus offers Shalom or Peace to those who believe. In that spirit, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,

All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We pray for your church throughout the world. We pray particularly for those churches that preach the Good News of Jesus Christ in places of war and repression. We give thanks for the new ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally, that she may be an instrument of peace, truth, and reconciliation throughout the world.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you

All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We pray for the world. Where there is war, bring peace. Where there is hatred, bring love. Where there is want, bring solace.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,
All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We pray for our country. We pray for wisdom and compassion in those whom we have elected to govern. We pray for continued truth and reconciliation with our indigenous siblings. We remember that we are a country rich in human and natural resources. Remind us always of our baptismal promise to reverence your creation in the decisions we make about the use of these resources.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,
All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We pray for this community. We remember especially those who have been confirmed or renewed their baptismal vows. We welcome those who are receiving the sacrament of baptism, that we may support them in their new life in Christ. We give thanks for the ministries we offer to the marginalized through the Common Table, for refugees throughout the world and the work of our own refugee support committee.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,
All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We offer our prayers for all who are sick, in pain or distress. We pray for doctors, nurses, health practitioners, support workers and those who care for family or friends.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,
All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: We give thanks for the lives of those known to us who have died. Comfort those who mourn. Bring them peace and new light to shine upon them.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.

Leader: Peace be with you,
All: **our Lord and our God.**

Leader: All these prayers we offer in thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received from you, our God the Creator, Jesus Christ who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us. **Amen.**

The Peace

Liska Stefko

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Song: “By the Mark” (*Gillian Welch*)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

When I cross over
I will shout and sing
I will know my savior
By the mark where the nails have been
By the mark where the nails have been
By the sign upon his precious skin
I will know my savior when I come to him
By the mark where the nails have been
A man of riches
May claim a crown of jewels
But the king of heaven
Can be told from the prince of fools
By the mark where the nails have been
By the sign upon his precious skin
I will know my savior when I come to him
By the mark where the nails have been
On Calvary Mountain
Where they made him suffer so
All my sin was paid for
A long, long time ago
By the mark where the nails have been
By the sign upon his precious skin
I will know my savior when I come to him
By the mark where the nails have been

The Lord's Prayer

Liska Stefko

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

Liska Stefko

Priest: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.

For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion – not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste – but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.

*There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is genuine true desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how.
You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:*

One: O Christ,
I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood,
come spiritually into my heart.
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus,
and let me never be separated from you.
May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Doxology

Liska Stefko

Priest: Glory to God,

All: whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: #210 (Common Praise) “Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son”

Led by Redeemer Music Team



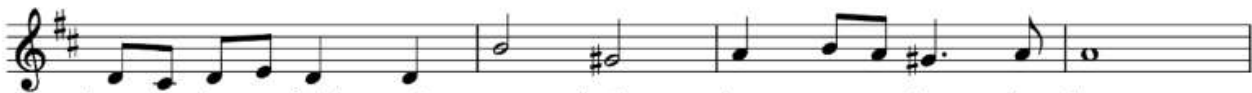
1. Yours be the glo - ry, ris - en con-que-ri-ng Son:
2. See! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb;
3. No more we doubt you, glo - rious Prince of life:



end - less is the vic - tory o - ver death you won.
lov - ing - ly he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom.
what is life with - out you? Aid us in our strife;



An - gels robed in splen - dour rolled the stone a - way,
Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,
make us more than con - querors through your death-less love;



kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where your bo - dy lay.
for our God is liv - ing; death has lost its sting.
bring us safe through Jor - dan to your home a - bove.

Refrain



Yours be the glo - ry, ris - en con-que-ri-ng Son:



end - less is the vic - tory o - ver death you won.

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

EASTERTIDE

Sunday April 12 (Second Sunday after Easter)

10:30 AM – Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist
(in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday April 19 (Third Sunday after Easter)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

9:00 AM – Coffee Church (in the Church)

10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

4:00 PM – Be Still (in the Church and through Youtube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

INTRODUCING



Starting **April 12**, this service at **9AM**
is a meditative time of song and prayer rejoicing in the risen Christ.

Come in to pray, join us in song,
pick up a cup of coffee and enjoy conversation before and after the service. Come and see.