

Easter Sunday  
Spiritual Communion  
Sunday, April 5, 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>.

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**President:** Steven Mackison

**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.*

**Introit:** “Exultate Justi” (*John Williams*)

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Laudamus te, Laudamus  
Exsultate justi in Domino  
Rectos decet laudatio  
Alleluia, Alleluia !  
Salvator Dominus, Salvator mundi  
Qui tollis peccata mundi  
Cantate ei canticum novum  
Bene psallite ei in vociferatione

We praise you, we give praise!  
Rejoice in the Lord, you just;  
Praise befits the upright.  
Alleluia, Alleluia !  
The Lord is Saviour, Saviour of the world,  
Who takes away the sins of the world.  
Sing a new song,  
Sing well, with a loud voice.

## **The Easter Greeting**

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

*Priest:* The stone is rolled away.

**All: Death has been vanquished.**

## **✠ Proclamation of the Word**

### **First Reading:**

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Acts of Apostles.

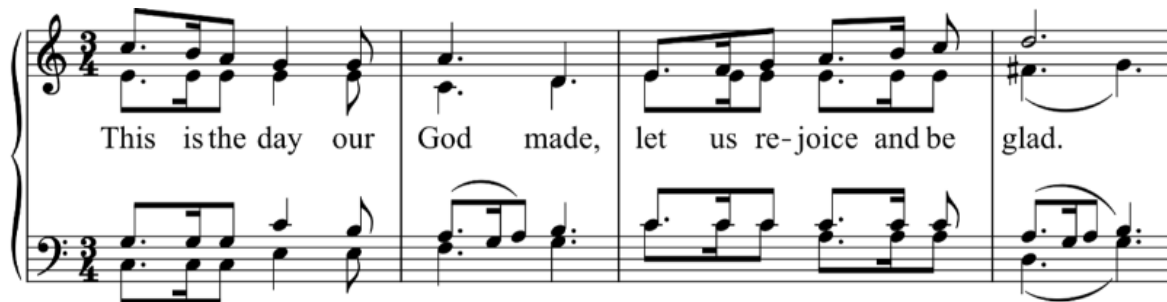
Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

Acts 10.34-43

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*



This is the day our God made, let us re-joyce and be glad.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Give thanks to God who is good;  
whose mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim,  
"God's mercy endures for ever." **Refrain**

God is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.  
There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Most High has triumphed!  
the right hand of the Most High is exalted!  
the right hand of the Mighty One has triumphed!" **Refrain**

I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of God.  
God has punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death. **Refrain**

Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to God.  
"This is the gate of the Holy One;  
those who are righteous may enter." **Refrain**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone. **Refrain**

This is God's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
On this day our God has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **Refrain**

**Second Reading:**

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hid-den with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

Colossians 3.1-4

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Song:** “Home” (*Greg Holden / Drew Pearson*)

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Hold on to me as we go  
As we roll down this unfamiliar road  
And although this wave is stringing us along  
Just know you're not alone  
'Cause I'm gonna make this place your home  
  
Settle down, it'll all be clear  
Don't pay no mind to the demons  
They fill you with fear  
The trouble - it might drag you down  
If you get lost, you can always be found  
Just know you're not alone  
'Cause I'm gonna make this place your home

## 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.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord": and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

John 20.1-18

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

**Homily:** Liska Stefko

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*At this time you are invited to offer prayers for the concerns of your heart in the chat.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Laura Boast*

**Leader:** Let us pray. Because you, God, love the world, because in Christ you walked it, we dare to pray;

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

**Leader:** God, send your spirit:

**All:** **O Lord hear my prayer.**

**Leader:** To connect the words of ancient scripture to the life of the world today; to let the urgent summons of Jesus surpass our reticence to respond, God, send your spirit: to awaken the minds of those in power to the realities of those they govern; to confront the arrogance of the privileged with the vulnerability of the poor,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

**Leader:** God, send your spirit:

**All:** **O Lord hear my prayer.**

**Leader:** To engage the fragile state of the planet with those who carelessly abuse it; to let the pain of those who are hurting awaken the caring potential in the healthy,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

**Leader:** God, send your spirit:

**All:** **O Lord hear my prayer.**

**Leader:** To eradicate the distance between our convictions and commitments, our potentials and our performance, our prayers and our politics, our faith and our discipleship,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

**Leader:** God, send your spirit:

**All:** **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* To hold before God in confidence the ones for whom we weep,  
and the ones who, in joy or sorrow weep for us;  
the ones who reveal in themselves what is hidden,  
and the ones who treat as precious all we confide in them,  
the ones who, today, we want to pray for, and the ones who, unasked,  
today will pray for us,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* Convince us, gracious God, that all is up for redemption.  
And since in Jesus you destined all to be changed and made new,  
enable us to be agents of your purpose. We pray in Jesus' name:

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Steven Mackison*

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

*All:* **And also with you.**

# Hymn: #204 (Common Praise) "Truly, He Comes to Us (O Quanta Qualia)"

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. Truly, he comes to us: dark - ness is end - ed;  
2. Night has made way for the great pro - cla - ma - tion;  
3. Stripped of the grave - clothes, the bo - dy now glor - ous  
4. Weep - ing is ov - er, and death is de - feat - ed;  
5. High - est, most ho - ly, once lost and for - sa - ken:  
6. Give God the glo - ry and glad a - dor - a - tion,



now night is ov - er, his light is as - cend - ed:  
morn - ing has bro - ken, with songs of e - la - tion.  
ris - en im - mor - tal, for - ev - er vic - to - rious;  
life is re - cov - ered and joy is com - plet - ed.  
now, from the sleep of the dead you a - wa - ken;  
from whom and through whom and in whom, cre - a - tion



ul - ti - mate sun - rise, that floods all cre - a - tion,  
Christ comes in light from the depths of his pris - on,  
comes to ful - fill all the pro - phets have spo - ken;  
Guards, at the sep - ul - chre scat - ter be - fore him;  
an - gels ap - pear at the tomb with the sto - ry:  
looks for the joy which, in Christ, we in - her - it:



bring - ing his se - cret from death's des - o - la - tion.  
death is a - ban - doned, and Je - sus is ris - en.  
pro - mise of life that will nev - er be bro - ken.  
Je - sus is ris - en, and an - gels a - dore him.  
"He is not here, but is ris - en in glo - ry."  
prais - ing the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Spir - it!

## The Lord's Prayer

Steven Mackison

*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

Steven Mackison

*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

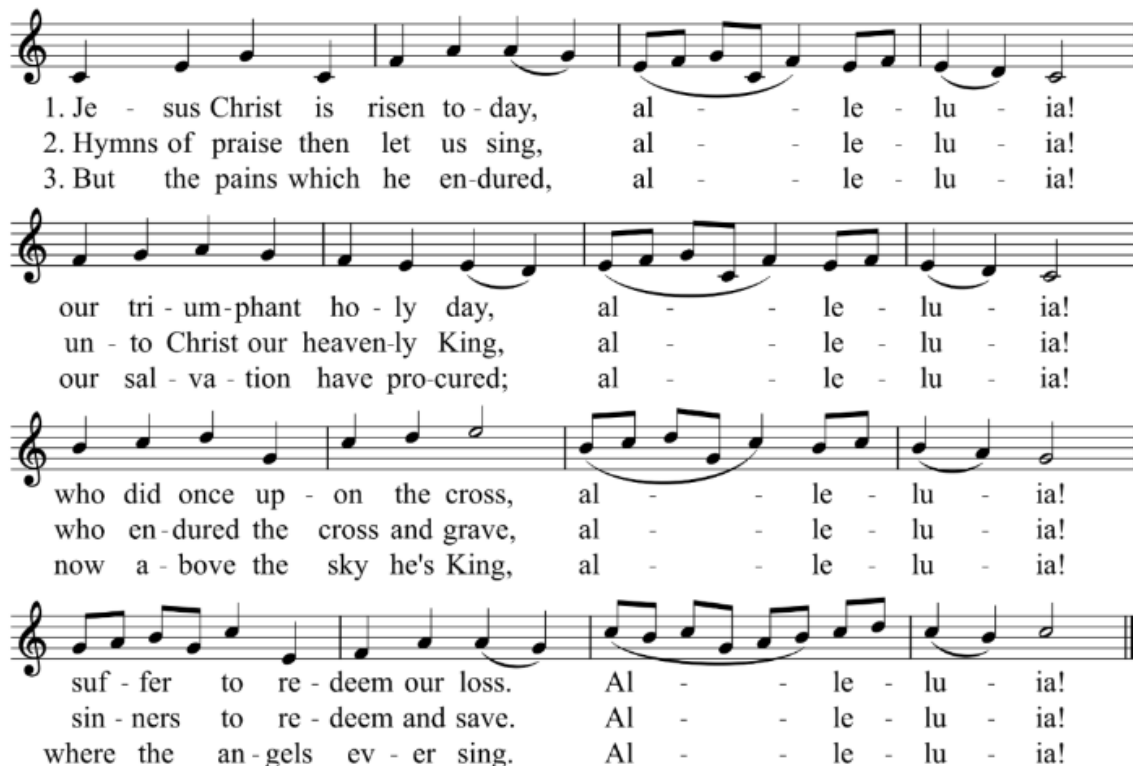
Steven Mackison

*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: #203 (Common Praise) “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, al - - le - lu - ia!  
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, al - - le - lu - ia!  
3. But the pains which he en-dured, al - - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um-phant ho - ly day, al - - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ our heaven-ly King, al - - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro-cured; al - - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, al - - le - lu - ia!  
who en-dured the cross and grave, al - - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's King, al - - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Lyrus Davidica*, 1708, alt. Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyrus Davidica*, 1708; desc. Derek Holman (1931-2019) ©.

## Dismissal

*Liska Stefko*

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

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## **WORSHIP WITH US**

### **EASTERTIDE**

**Sunday April 12 (Second Sunday after Easter)**

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

**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)

**10:30 AM** – Holy Eucharist (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.