



# EASTER

2026

April 5, 2026 Easter

A Reflection Before the Service

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

– John Chrysostom (Easter sermon ca. 400AD)

One must keep on pointing out that Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C.S. Lewis, "Christian Apologetics" (April 1945; as found in the book *God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics* (1970)

Worry and fear our first cousins. They vary in intensity but are both forms of the same emotion. What causes them?

Different people, fear, different things with different levels of intensity, but all of us fear what we cannot control. Fear is our response to uncertainty about our resources in the face of danger, when we are assaulted by a force that overwhelms us and compels us to face that we are helpless and out of control. Fear is provoked when the threat of danger (physical or relational) exposes our inability to preserve what we most deeply cherish.

Dan B. Allender and Tremper Longman III, *The Cry of the Soul: How Our Deepest Emotions Reveal Our Deepest Questions About God* (1994; pp 80-81)

## The Prelude

## The Welcome and Announcements

### The Call to Worship: *John 20.1-18*

*Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. And so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Peter therefore went forth, and the other disciple, and they were going to the tomb. And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. Simon Peter therefore also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he beheld the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb entered then also, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.*

*But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because 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 beheld Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.*

Reader: Christ is Risen!

**People: He is Risen Indeed!**

**(Prayer)**

## The Opening Hymns of Praise

**9:00 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (all 5 verses) #277 & top of opposite page**

**“Worship Christ, the Risen King” (vv. 1-2, 4-5) #286**

**11:15 “Christ is Risen/Blessing”**

Wickman/Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtik

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
For I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave. Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave.

The prodigal is welcomed home, the sinner now a saint  
For the God who died came back to life and everything has changed  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave. Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave.

O death, where is your sting? O fear, where is your pow'r?  
The mighty King of kings has disarmed you  
Delivered and redeemed, eternal life is ours. O praise His name forever  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave.  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave  
And all throughout eternity our song will be the same  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave

And on the day You call me in to heaven's sweet embrace  
I'll see Your scars, Your open arms, the beauty of Your face  
Through tears of joy I'll lift my voice in everlasting praise  
Hallelujah! Christ is risen from the grave

Amen! Amen! Amen!

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
And make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn His face toward you  
And give you peace.

**(Repeat)**

Amen! Amen! Amen!

**11:15 “Living Hope”**

Wickman, Johnson

How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the mountain I could not climb.  
In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your Name into the night.  
Then through the darkness Your lovingkindness tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame.  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

**Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!**  
**Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!**  
**You have broken every chain, there's salvation in Your Name**  
**Jesus Christ, my living hope**

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body began to breathe.  
Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the grave has no claim on me.

**(Repeat)**

Jesus, Yours is the victory!

**(Chorus)**

Oh God, You are my living hope!

## The Prayers of God's People:

*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection... - Romans 6.4-5*

We praise You for claiming us through baptism and for uniting us with the Beloved:  
(Silence)

We ask that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ be displayed in us leading to selfless generosity and the new motivation living: (Silence)

We pray for the needs of the poor, the lost, the sick and those far from home: (Silence)

In war-torn regions of the world and for places where corruption and mismanagement have led to great suffering, Lord, have mercy: (Silence)

Now we pray in the way our Savior taught us to pray, saying: (aloud)

*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.*

## **The Declaration of Faith and Offering**

(We use the Declaration of Faith and Offering to “preach to ourselves” the reason for our hope. The Christian’s confidence is in God’s truth and in God’s care. Because Park Road is a church for both convinced Christians and for people at different stages in their spiritual journey, we invite you to use this time and the musical reflection to think, pray, offer and consider what God is doing in your life.)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:\***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**He descended into hell;**

**the third day He rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;**

**from thence He shall come to judge the quick \* and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,**

**the holy catholic church,\*\***

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Response: “The Doxology”**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host,**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Although not written by the apostles, the *Apostles’ Creed* is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century. \*\*i.e. “living” \*\* ‘Catholic’ means international unlike the Old Testament Church which was a single nation.

9:00 “Crown Him”

arr. Forrest

**(Congregation will sing words in the bold print)**

*CHOIR:* Alleluia!

*MEN:* Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

*CHOIR:* Alleluia!

*WOMEN:* Crown Him the Lord of love: behold His hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;  
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his wond’ring eye at mysteries so bright.

*CHOIR:* Alleluia!

*ALL:* Crown Him the Lord of life! Who triumphed o’er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save;  
His glories now we sing Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

*CHOIR:* Alleluia!

*ALL:* Crown Him the Lord of heav’n: one with the Father known,  
one with the Spirit through Him giv’n from yonder glorious throne.  
To Him be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died.  
Be Thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified!

*CHOIR:* Alleluia!

## 11:15 “Empty Grave”

Smith, Williams, Nohe

Oh I see an empty grave

Wipe away those tears, child, there's no need to cry  
Stand up on your feet, now, lift your head up high

Don't wait 'til tomorrow to lay down your sorrow, freedom is here today  
Wipe away those tears, child, put down your shame

Oh, I see an empty grave  
I hear the heavens waking, angels in jubilation  
That stone's been rolled away  
I feel the darkness breaking, I bet the devil's shaking  
Somebody celebrate, I see an empty grave  
**(Repeat)**

Wipe away those tears, child, go and tell the news  
What started in the garden was finished in the tomb

It's all reversed-the apple, the curse. Three days in the ground  
Christ our Lord is risen. Death couldn't hold Him down

## The Scripture Reading: *The Gospel According to Matthew 27.62—28.15*

*Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' <sup>64</sup> "Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.*

*<sup>28.1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. <sup>2</sup> And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. <sup>3</sup> And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards **shook** for fear of him and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. <sup>6</sup> "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. <sup>7</sup> "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." <sup>8</sup> And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me." <sup>11</sup> Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. <sup>12</sup> And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, <sup>13</sup> and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks Be to God!

**The Sermon**

— T. J Campo

**The Longest Journey** | *Good News According to Matthew*

**Shook**

## The Closing Hymn

### 9:00 & 11:15 “In Christ Alone/The Solid Rock”

Getty/Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babel!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand  
(Repeat)

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

## The Benediction and Amen

## The Postlude

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## SUNDAYS at PARK ROAD

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### **APRIL COMING SUNDAY CLASSES | 10:10-11:05 AM**

#### **All Church Sunday School | April 12,19, 26 | Fellowship Hall**

For the month of April, we will all be meeting together in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for hot coffee, delicious pastries, and great community. Tables will be equipped with sample ice-breakers to get us talking OR your table may decide to “freestyle” and just chat. This is a great opportunity to connect with new friends and families at Park Road. Get to know the people sitting by you each Sunday! Nursery care is available for children 3 and younger. We encourage your children to join you for our Combined Sunday Class.

#### **Inquirer’s Class | Led by T. J. Campo | Begins April 19**

This is our "Park Road 101" class where you have the opportunity to hear from TJ about the belief statements of our Church, the membership commitments, and foundational beliefs of the Christian faith. This 8-week class is required for anyone interested in membership at our Church. Please join us or invite others! If you would like to be a part of this class. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form if you are interested in joining the class.

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## THIS WEEK AT PARK ROAD PRESBYTERIAN

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Welcome to Park Road Pres! We are glad to have you with us today.

<b>Sunday</b>	8:30, 11:15 AM	Worship Service
	9:45 AM	Easter Brunch (Fellowship Hall & Rec Room)
<b>Monday</b>		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30-8:30 PM	PRYouth
	6:30-8:30 PM	Women's Online Bible Study Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30-7:30 AM	Men's Online Bible Study Contact Nate Dorn at ndorn1@gmail.com
<b>Thursday</b>	9:15-11:00 AM	Women's In-person Bible Study Contact Grace at Grace@parkroadpres.org
	11:15- 12:15	Women's Prayer Time via Zoom Contact Mary Diaz at 954-249-6635
	6:30-8:30 PM	ESL
	7:00-8:30 PM	Young Adults Bible Study

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### **Women's Bible Study on Titus Starts This Week**

Join us Tuesday evening online (7-9 PM) or Thursday morning in-person for a women's Bible study on the New Testament book of Titus. In this 8-session Bible study, Courtney Doctor and Hunter Beless team up to explore every verse of Paul's letter to his friend Titus. You'll see the essential connection between right belief and right character and the way both testify to the goodness of the gospel. Childcare is provided for the in-person study. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. Study books will be available for a suggested donation of \$15.

### **Young Adults Bible Study | Thurs., April 9 | 7:00-8:30 pm**

Young Adults (18-25) looking for community and direction, join us for a Bible study on Galatians. The study is led by Joseph Dehmer and it meets at his home located at 11960 Brim Way, Cooper City, 33026. Any questions contact Joseph at 954.558.5047.

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## HAPPENINGS at PARK ROAD

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### **Woman's Book Study Starts Monday, April 13 | 7:30 pm | Rec Room**

On Monday evenings at 7:30 PM, join an in-person group in the Rec Room as they begin a book called "*J-Curve: Dying & Rising with Jesus in Everyday Life.*" Childcare is provided for in-person groups. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alexa Cannella.

### **Women's Ministry Retreat: "Made for More" | April 17-19th, Port St. Lucie**

This is a reminder to those who registered, to send in your payment of \$200 by April 13th. If you have any questions, please contact [alexa@parkroadpres.org](mailto:alexa@parkroadpres.org).

### **S.A.L.T. (Sr. Adults Living Triumphantly) Lunch & Learn | Wed., April 22 | 11:30 AM**

Join the S.A.L.T. group as they gather on Wednesday, April 22nd to watch Louie Giglio's *Indescribable* film. This is a mind-blowing video that combines science and theology, with amazing pictures of the cosmos and vivid displays of God's magnificent creations. Please bring your own snack or bag lunch. Sign up on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

### **Orchid:**

The orchid is given today by Barry Tellian in celebration of his wife, Jenetta's birthday. If you would like to purchase (\$30) an orchid for 2026 to be placed in the Sanctuary for a special occasion, fill out your request on the ***Keeping in Touch*** form.

