



**WESLEY**  
**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Weems, Virginia*

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”**

Matthew 28:19 NIV

**April 20, 2025**

*Easter Sunday*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn #45 Crown Him with Many Crowns** 1<sup>st</sup> verse only

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: The Lord is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

**Opening Prayer**

Dear God, as we celebrate the resurrection of Your Son, we are filled with joy, a joy that surpasses all understanding. Help us to carry this joy in our hearts and to share it with those around us. May the message of Easter bring light to those who are struggling and hope to those who are lost. Help us to trust in Your plan, even when life feels uncertain. May Jesus' victory over death remind us that You are always working for our good. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we place our hope in You. As we celebrate the resurrection, we're reminded of the depth of Your love. The sacrifice of your son on the cross is the ultimate expression of love, and we are forever grateful. Help us to love others as You have loved us, and to share Your love with those around us. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen

**Hymn #367 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today** 1<sup>st</sup> & last verses

**Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the

stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors. In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter. Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Gloria Patri**

### **Affirmation of Faith: 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.

### **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 and ever. Amen.

## **Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

### **Doxology**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

You plant the seeds of grace, peace, love, and justice into our hearts, God of every morning, and with the tangible gifts we have as well, we can offer new hope and healing to those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Hymn #358 Because He Lives** 1<sup>st</sup>. & Last verses

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Savior God, we need your good news. We need the challenge of your Holy Spirit. We need this time of Word and worship. Help us to tune our hearts and minds to your will and your way as we approach the Scriptures today. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.

## **Children's Church**

### **Scripture Readings:**

The Psalm - Psalm 103

The Prophecy - Isaiah 53

The Gospel - John 20:1-21

### **Sermon: Risen with Christ**

### **Hymn #337 Nothing but the Blood**

### **Benediction**

**Sending Song:** May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and keep you forever