

Offertory Hymn VU 116 v1 Giver of the perfect gift, only hope of human race, hear the prayer our hearts uplift, gathered at thy throne of grace.

Offertory Prayer

In spite of our doubts, may we recognize you in our midst: Wounded and resurrected. In spite of our doubts, may we know when we come face to face with the love that is greater than death. In spite of our doubts, may we reach out to touch the wounds of the world's pain trusting that when grace and love surround them they will become part of Christ's resurrected body.

Communion, The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 185 You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen.

To Depart in Faith

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace, held in the love of God, renewed by the risen Christ, and led by the breath of the Holy Spirit. Walk in the path of life, live in resurrection hope, and may your joy be made full. Amen.

Closing: VU 415 v 5 **God we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways. In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.**

Scripture readings for April 19, 2026 Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-3

United 101 Joint service with Avonlea, Sanford and Starbuck United Churches. Sunday May 24 10am Sanford. Potluck lunch to follow. Everyone is invited.

Sanford Bingo Saturday April 18. Doors open 6:30. Great prizes. Canteen. Silent Auction.

Meridian Pastoral Charge

April 12, 2026 Second Sunday of Easter

Avonlea United Church, Domain MB

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Welcome and Announcements

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Acknowledging the Territory

As a community of faith, we seek to build right relations between all who call Canada home; to learn together and to live on the land with respect and gratitude for its creation and our Creator. **This is our commitment.**

Introit: 166 v.3 **Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun; joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her son, joy comes with the dawn.**

Call to Worship

When Thomas touched the wounds and set himself free
it was Easter day

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials
it was Easter day

When Mary encountered the unknown gardener who turned out to be Jesus

it was Easter day

When Emmaus became synonymous with welcome and the breaking of bread with strangers

it was Easter day

When Paul was blinded by the light and recognised the voice crying out his name

it was Easter day

When the hungry are fed and everyone finds a home
it is Easter day

When weapons are beaten to ploughshares and peace is known in every community

it is Easter day

When the stranger is welcomed in community and the lonely are restored to relationship

it is Easter day...

HYMN: VU 158 Christ is Alive

Christ Candle

God of love, you have raised Jesus from death to life! Lead us always into newness of life. Light of Christ, rising as the sun on a new day, overcoming the darkness of death, shine on our path, chase away all darkness, and lead us to the heart of God. Light of Christ, rising in glory, be the light of our hearts! *(the Christ Candle is lit)*

Prayer of Approach

God of Life, in the beginning you breathed your spirit into the human form and we came to life. On the day Jesus rose he breathed his spirit into the disciples and sent them forth in love. Now with every breath we take you breathe into us you love. We breathe deeply of your Spirit that we may come to life anew in you. Breathe on us, Breath of God.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

During this season of Easter, we affirm our faith in God revealed in Pascal Mystery of Christ Jesus; we renew our commitment to seek justice, to follow the way of Jesus and to serve in the mission and ministry of the church by proclaiming our creed: (VU 918)

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Response VU 327 v5 Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord, and God eternal be by all adored: hallelujah, hallelujah!

Children's Time

Hymn: VU 352 I Danced in the Morning

Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

This is the story of God's people. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 16 VU 738

Reading: John 20:19-31

This is the story of Jesus **All: Thanks be to God.**

To Respond to the Word of God

Reflection

Hymn: VU 170 O Sons and Daughters Let us Sing

Minute for Mission, Prayers of the People

Offertory Invitation The Risen Christ invited Thomas to touch the wounds in his hands and his side. When we give our gifts in Jesus' name, we can touch the wounds of the world with his healing power. Give, knowing that you will make a difference for Christ's sake.