



*"^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you."
³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He
said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look
at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself."*

-Luke 24:36b-39

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 18, 2021

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin. **Hymnals with the songs we will be singing are available in the front of the sanctuary. For Covid-19 safety, please take one from the side of the church with the baptismal font and return it to the pulpit side following worship.** Those who are able, please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in bold. In order to participate fully in worship you are encouraged to softly sing behind your mask the hymns and liturgical music. Please place your offering and attendance cards in the baskets by the doors.*

HOLY COMMUNION

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 18, 2021

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

PRELUDE: *Prelude in G – J.S. Bach*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

As an alternative to the assembly's spoken response, a sung refrain may be used.

Just as God's work of creation never ends,
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:
for water to bathe in, water to drink,
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,
for water that gives life to our planet.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place:
for water from our tap, for rain [and snow].

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water:
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,
and for all who gather here;
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,
for children and grandchildren,
for our brothers and sisters in Christ
whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #390 –The Risen Christ (All)**



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark-ened cit - y street,
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

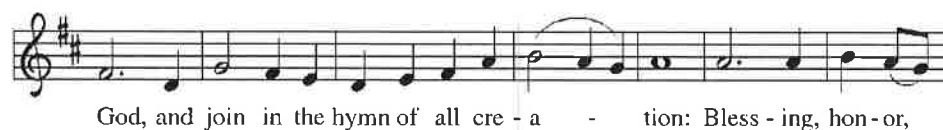
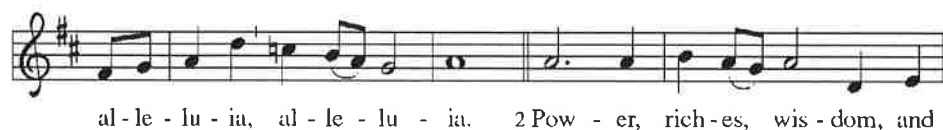
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*THIS IS THE FEAST



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12–19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?" ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know;

and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4 *Read responsively*

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and | do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed. R**

⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices,
and put your trust | in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness | in my heart,
more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure. R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:3-1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

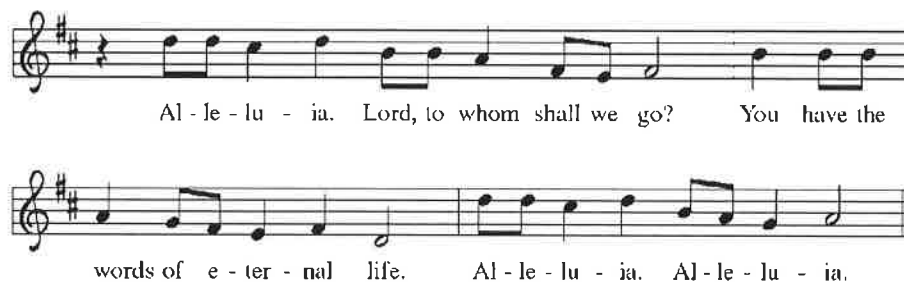
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 24: 36b-48

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #579 – Lord, You Give the Great Commission (All)**



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing.

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give, May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 fer vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty;
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty;
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty;
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty;

Refrain
 With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially, Frieda, Marcia, Zach, Geneva, Cherry, Bob, Winnie, Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Karen, and Ellen, for those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Be close to the hearts of the lonely.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Risen One,

as you broke bread with the disciples on the shore,
meet us now in this meal.

Nourish us to follow you,
using our gifts to feed the hungry and tend the weary,
and all for your love's sake.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

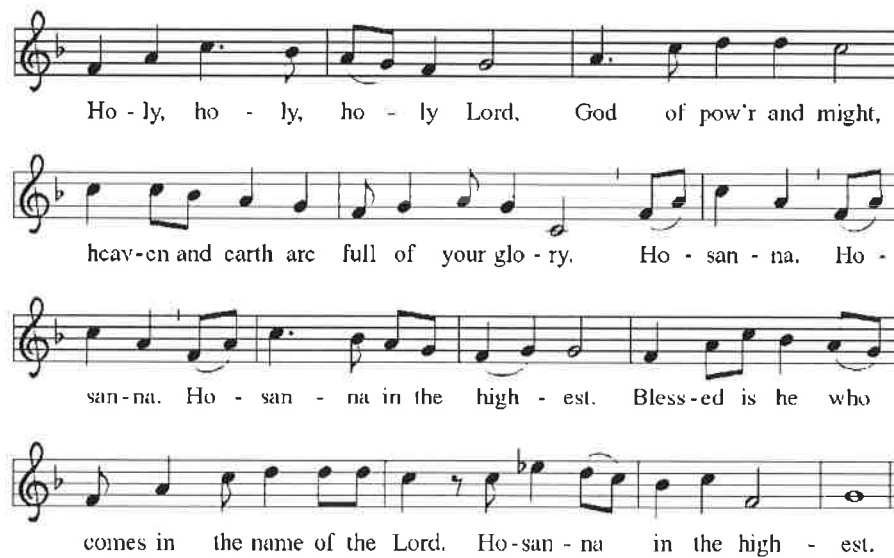
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast.

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. Come forward by family to receive the elements, please keep your masks on and maintain at least six feet distance from those ahead of you. Gluten free wafers are available. When you have received the elements, proceed to the small table and then remove your mask to consume them. Replace your mask and return to your seats.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*COMMUNION HYMN #646 – *The Peace of the Lord (All)*



1 La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the

paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the

ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to

rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not

mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



Thank-ful hearts and voice-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ,

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Living God,

you have greeted us in our brokenness

and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us.

Risen to new life with you,

send us now to bear your healing love

into the wounded world,

in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

The leader stands with those who are leaving and addresses those who are gathered.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Pastor Bob and Carol as you leave our community of faith, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from Exodus: The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." (*Exodus 23:20*).

A representative of the congregation addresses the pastor whose call is concluding.

Pastor Zimmerman, on May 24th 2015, we of St. John Lutheran Church called you to be pastor in this place, beginning that July: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you, Carol and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we thank you for Carol and Pastor Bob
and for the time we have shared with them.

As they have been a blessing to us,

so now send them forth to be a blessing to others;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The blessing of the living God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG #389 – *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (All)*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring, Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die,
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time,
loves the more, and lives, where c - ven hope has died,
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all,
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

*DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Postlude in G* – J.S. Bach

The altar flowers this week were given by Marlene & Clarence Strabel in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward

Attendance Last Week: 35

