



*“...Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”*

*- John 20:26-27*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday of Easter – April 24, 2022**

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Mars, PA 16046-0411

[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

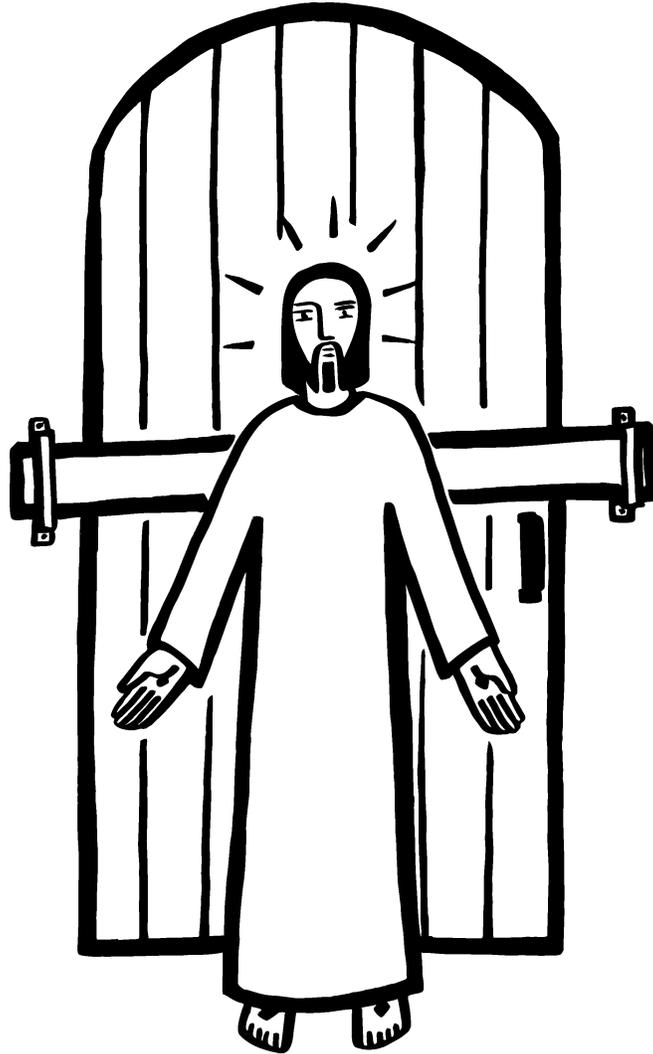
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Rev. Sem. Katie McNeal, Worship Leader

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? You are most welcome here at St. John!  
Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**.*



In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen; it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (ELW 382)**



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turs to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris-ing of to - day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**\*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.**

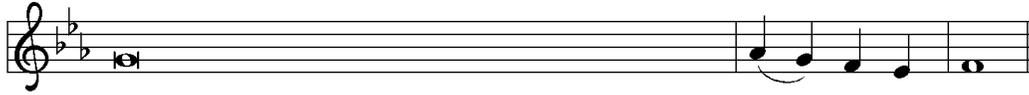
**\*KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



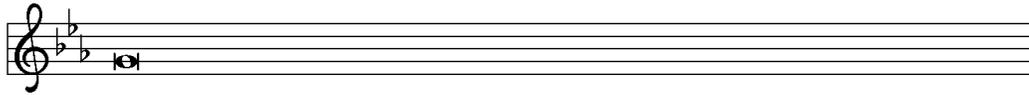
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



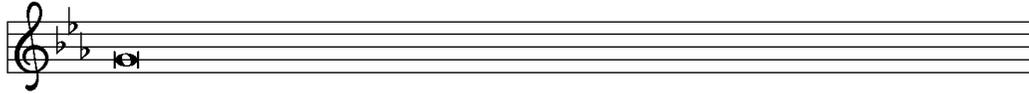
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, a - men.

# \*THIS IS THE FEAST



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy and strengthen us to be the body 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.**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32**

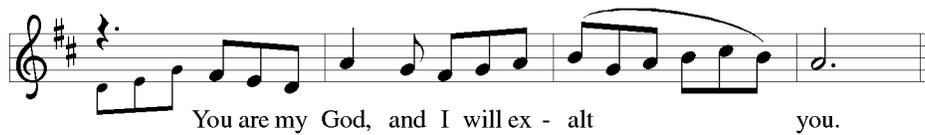
A reading from Acts.

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29**



- <sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength<sup>1</sup> and my song,  
and has become<sup>1</sup> my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup>**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents<sup>1</sup> of the righteous:**  
**“The right hand of the<sup>1</sup> LORD acts valiantly!**
- <sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD<sup>1</sup> is exalted!  
The right hand of the<sup>1</sup> LORD acts valiantly!”
- <sup>17</sup>**I shall not<sup>1</sup> die, but live,**  
**and declare the works<sup>1</sup> of the LORD. R**
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed pun-<sup>1</sup>ished me sorely,  
but did not hand me o-<sup>1</sup>ver to death.
- <sup>19</sup>**Open for me the<sup>1</sup> gates of righteousness;**  
**I will enter them and give thanks<sup>1</sup> to the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup>“This is the gate<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
here the righ-<sup>1</sup>teous may enter.”
- <sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have<sup>1</sup> answered me**  
**and you have become<sup>1</sup> my salvation. R**
- <sup>22</sup>The stone that the build-<sup>1</sup>ers rejected  
has become the chief<sup>1</sup> cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has<sup>1</sup> this been done;**  
**it is marvelous<sup>1</sup> in our eyes.**
- <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the<sup>1</sup> LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be<sup>1</sup> glad in it.
- <sup>25</sup>**Hosanna!<sup>1</sup> O LORD, save us!**  
**We pray to you, LORD, pros-<sup>1</sup>per our days! R**
- <sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house<sup>1</sup> of the LORD.
- <sup>27</sup>**The LORD is God and has giv-<sup>1</sup>en us light.**  
**Form a procession with branches up to the corners<sup>1</sup> of the altar.**
- <sup>28</sup>You are my God, and<sup>1</sup> I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I<sup>1</sup> will exalt you.
- <sup>29</sup>**Give thanks to the LORD, for the<sup>1</sup> LORD is good;**  
**God’s mercy en-<sup>1</sup>dures forever. R**

## SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

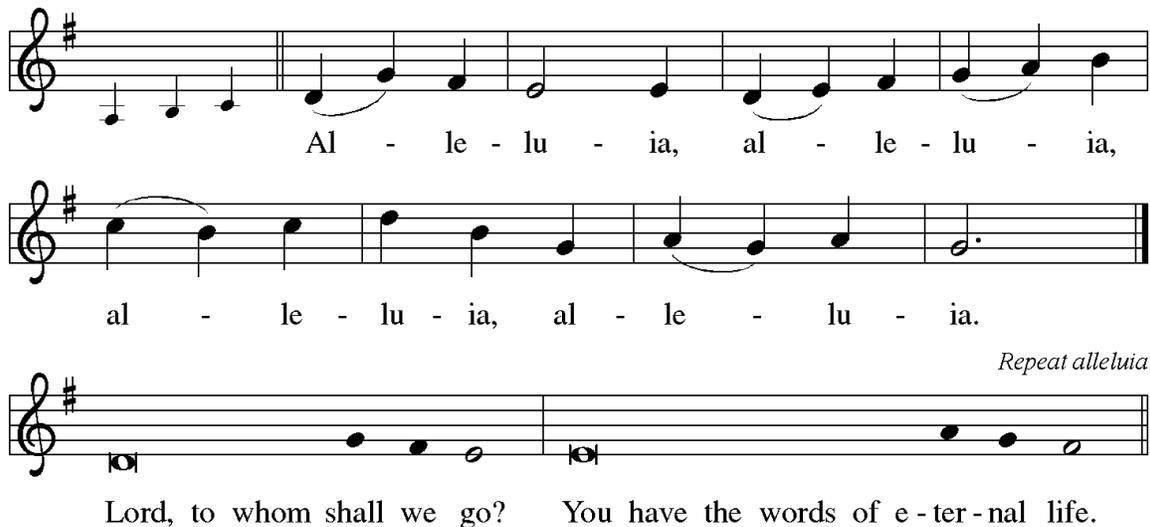
So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **\*GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY *The Risen Christ* (ELW 390)**



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.

## **\*NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those in need. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Uphold your children who cry out to you. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. Comfort those who grieve and offer solace to those who suffer in mind or body, especially Jeff, Larry, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, George, Roy, Pastor Storm, Karen, and Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise especially Pastor Katie and Maizy Fisher. Lead us into praise that we cannot keep to ourselves and empower us to live according to your way. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers and to those in our hearts, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN *Now the Green Blade Rises* (ELW 379)

*\*Rise on verse 4*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

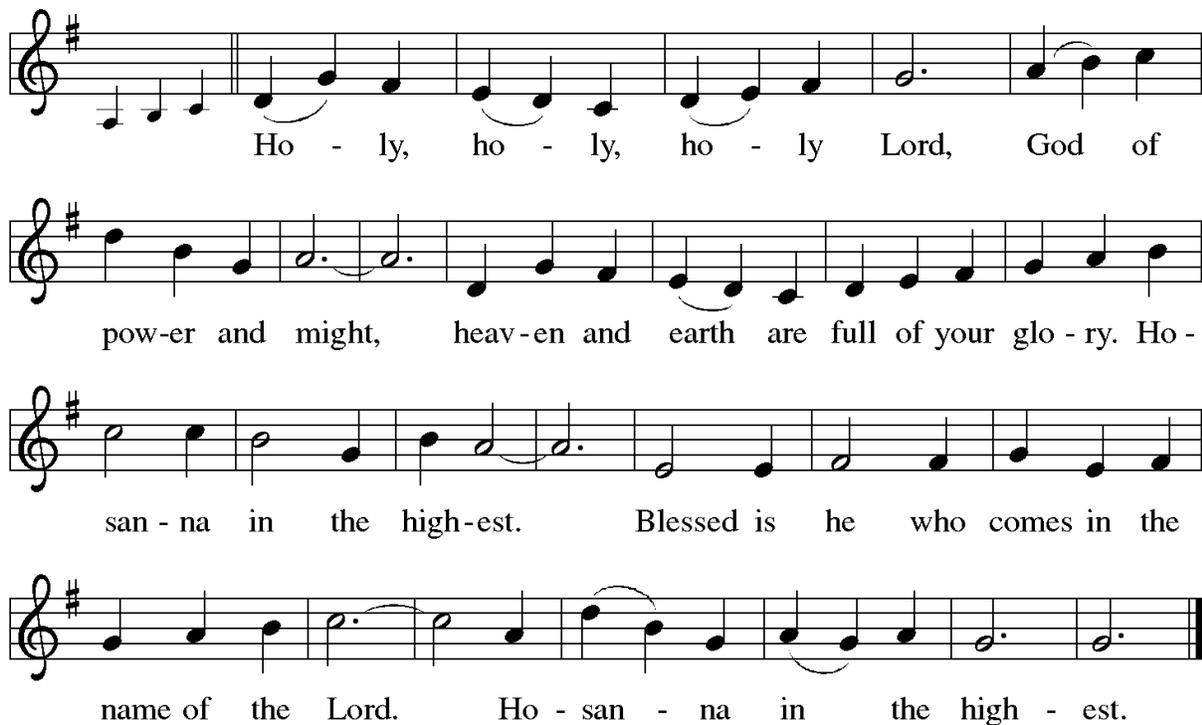
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

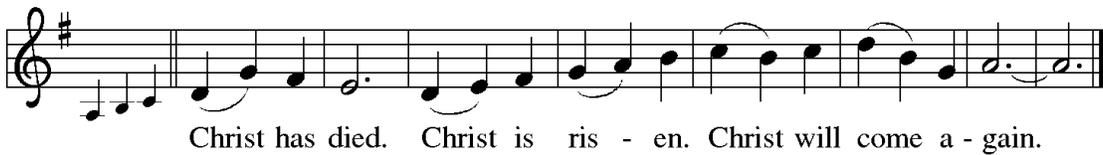
Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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:



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.  
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as we have been taught.

**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**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. 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. Those who do not receive the elements of bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

## 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, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN *With High Delight* (ELW 368)

1 With high de - light let us u - nite in  
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth  
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to  
songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all  
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now  
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by  
bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To  
van-quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And  
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So  
set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says  
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and  
all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.  
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG, *This Joyful Eastertide* (ELW 391)



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - row.  
wake the dead in num - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**The flowers on the alter today are from Dan & Laura Kramer in celebration of Rhonda & Bill's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**Additional flowers are in memorial of Frieda Carbo.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Martha Ward**

**Acolyte: Emma Niklewicz**

**Ushers: John and Ruth Ann Tully**

**Offering: Eva Knauff & Jules Knauff**

**Attendance last week: 80 + 7 zoom**

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