

# Easter

March 31, 2024

9:30 am



Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. If you are a guest this morning, please fill out a visitor sheet. It is a blessing to have you with us today. We hope you will stay for brunch. "Come and have breakfast." (John 21:12)



## Easter 2024

### Welcome!

*And a special greeting to those who are our guests this morning! We ask that you fill out a yellow visitor's card (available by the front door and from our greeters) if you would like information about Messiah sent to you. You may put it in the offering basket. Please linger for a while after worship so we can get to know one another! We hope you will stay for brunch.*

*A nursery is available down the hall. Rest rooms are also down the hall to the right.*

Messiah Lutheran Church  
303 Route 101  
PO Box 488  
Amherst, New Hampshire  
603.673.2011 [www.messiahnh.org](http://www.messiahnh.org)



Ministers: All God's people at Messiah  
Rev. Karl Hester, Pastor  
Jon Abrams, Music Director

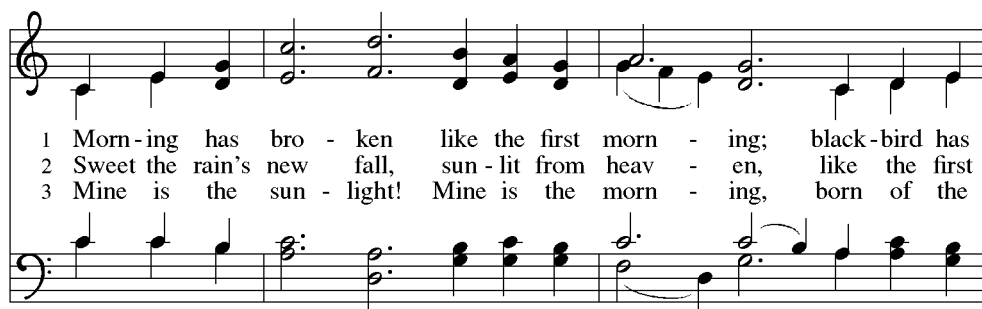
## PRELUDE

*"Thine Is the Glory"* as interpreted by Jon Abrams

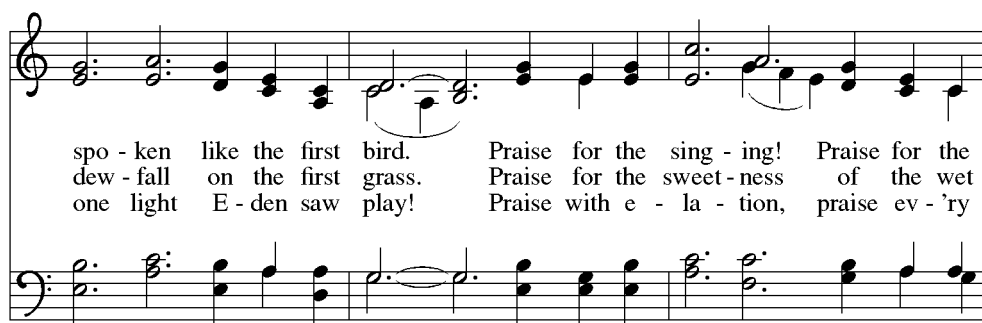
## WORDS OF WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

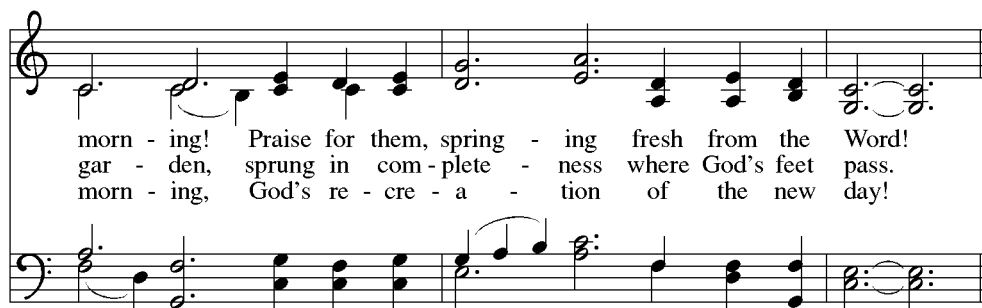
*"Morning Has Broken"* ELW 556



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has  
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## EARLIEST CHRISTIAN LITURGY

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

# ENTRANCE HYMN

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" ELW 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## GREETING

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

**All: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

One: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **All: Amen.**

One: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

**All: Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

*Water is poured into the font*

One: We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly.

**All: Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.**

One: All life is sustained by you, our Source.

**All: We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life. Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.**

One: Here, death is washed away forever. Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation.

**All: Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions. Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through 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 10:34-43 , NRSV

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”* ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.  
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615  
Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.  
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**PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24, NRSV**

One: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

**All: Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

One: The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

**All: Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

One: The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

**All: I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**All: This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

**All: The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.**

One: This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

**All: This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, NRSV**

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise for the Gospel*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

**GOSPEL Mark 16:1-8 , NRSV**

One: The holy Gospel according to Mark the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

One: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

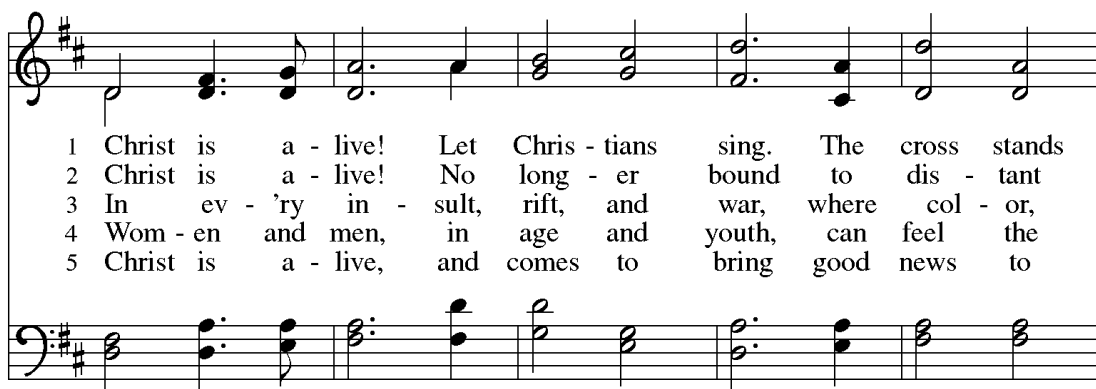
**BLESSING OF THE WORSHIP BINDERS IN MEMORY OF TAFFY CONLEY**

**SERMON**

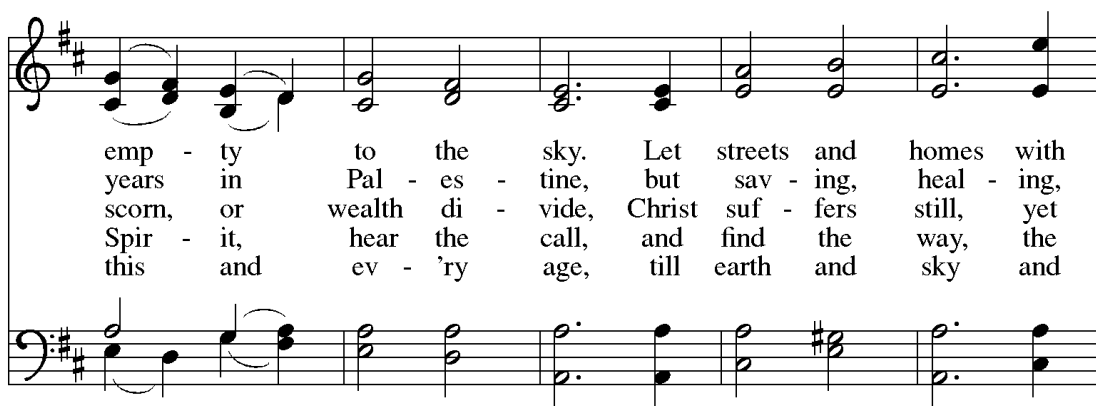
Pastor Karl Hester

# HYMN OF THE DAY

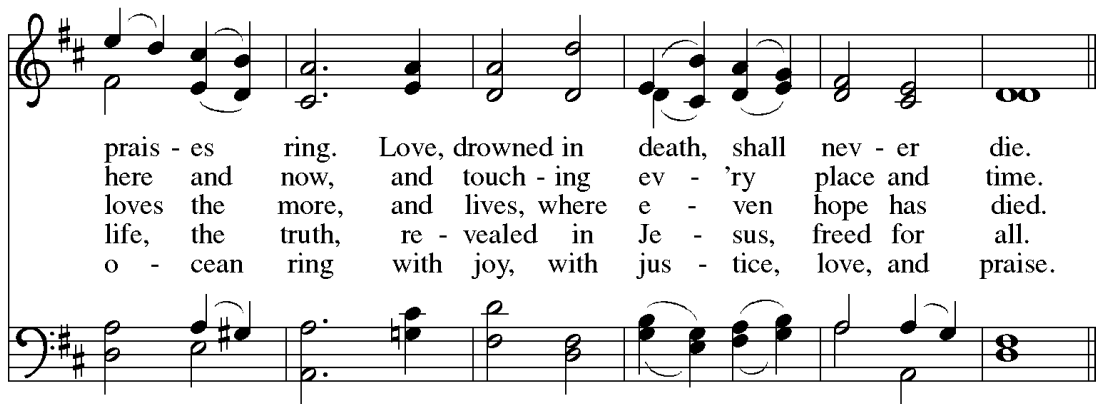
"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" ELW 389



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 e - 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.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Jonathan & Leigh Ann Rosse

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.**



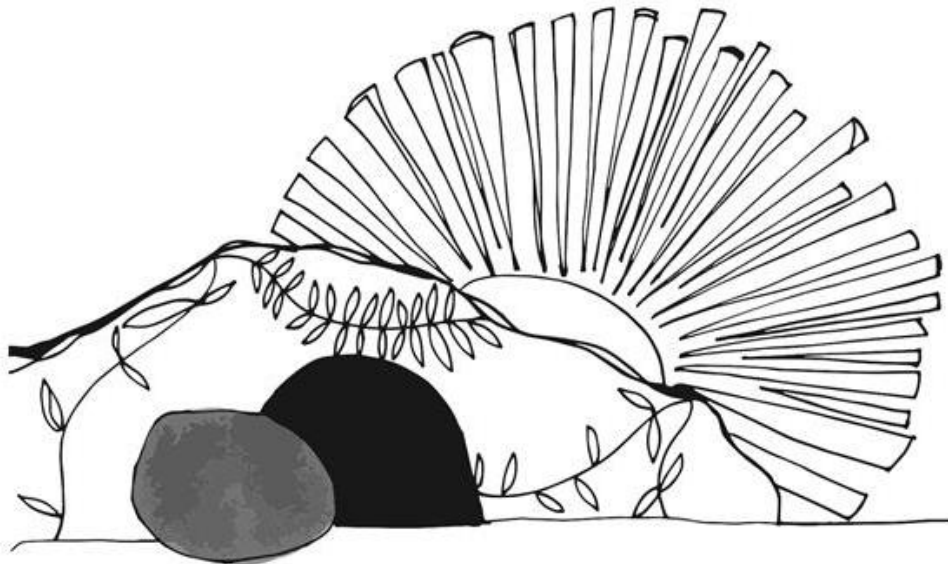
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**One:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** And also with you.

### OFFERING



*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERING SONG

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final note of the sixth staff is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## OFFERTORY PRAYER

One: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

One: 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 the 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

One: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to  
pray:

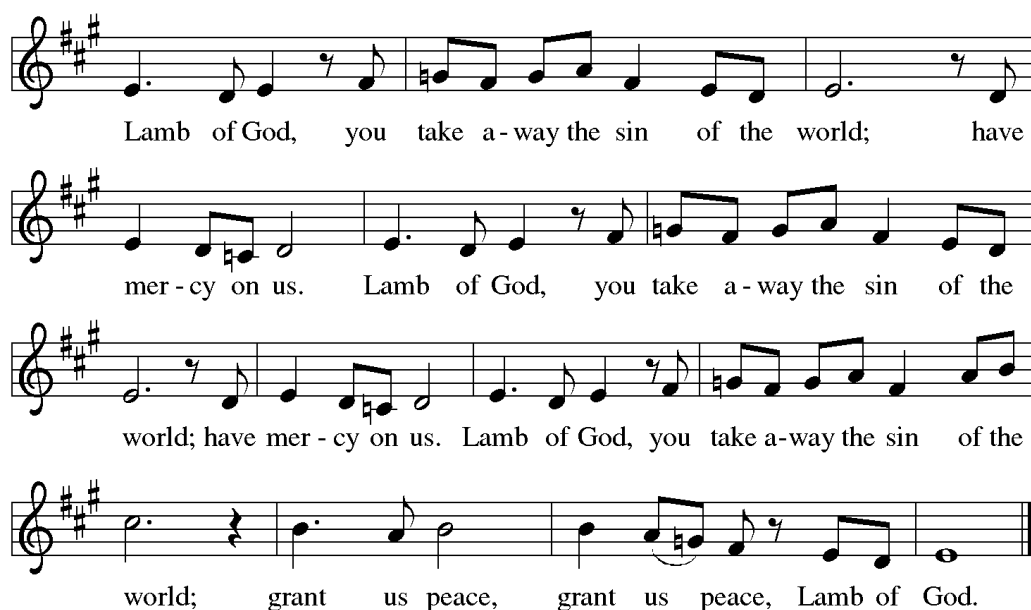
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*Please come forward in the center aisle to receive the bread. If you need gluten free please let the pastor know when you come up. The move to the side to receive wine (outer rings) or grape juice (inner rings) of the tray. Please dispose of your used cup in the basket at the end of the aisle on the way to returning to your seat via the side aisle*

*All who believe Jesus is present in the wine and bread, and who believe in the words, "Given and shed for you," are prepared to receive the gift of communion. Those who wish may come up for a blessing instead. Keeping your hands folded will signal that.*

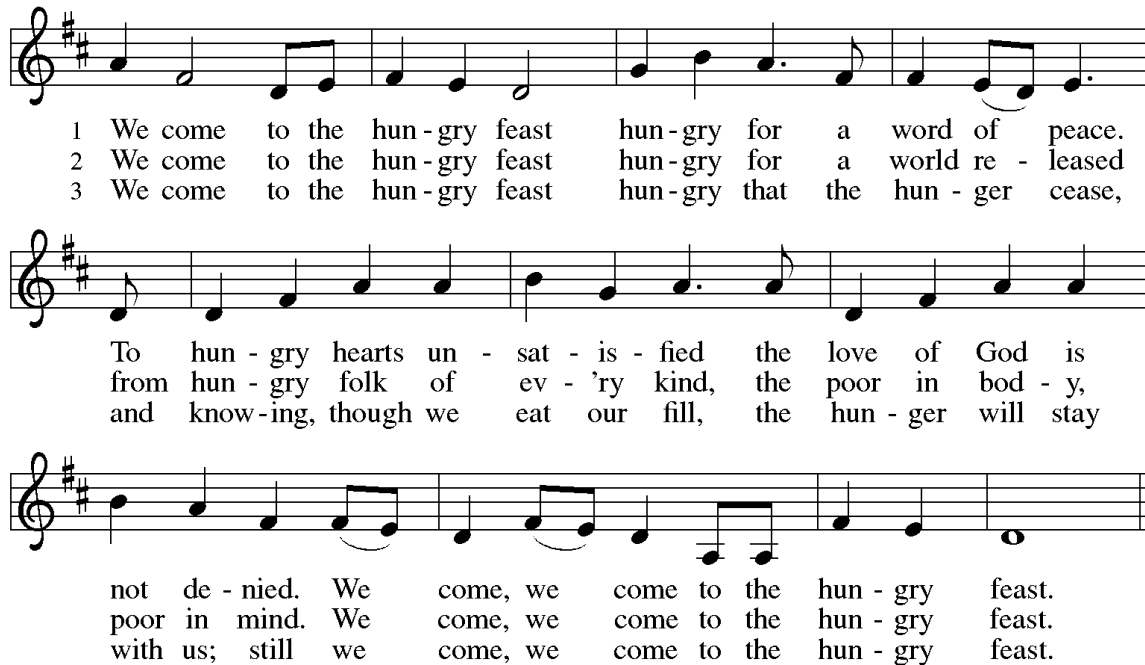
## LAMB OF GOD



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, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*"We Come to the Hungry Feast" ELW 479*



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,  
To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay  
not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever  
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

## SHARING OF MEAL

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

One: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Living God,

All: 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.

## BLESSING

One: The blessing of the living God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*  
 where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

## DISMISSAL

One: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and  
 serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:**

*“The Day of Resurrection” as interpreted by Jon Abrams*

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

***Thank you to all who faithfully give of their time, talent  
and treasures to support the ministry of Messiah and t  
help us be able to worship and serve to the glory of God.  
Thanks to all for today’s music!***

***Choir:***

Trudi Costa, Karl Hester, Bill Mitchell,  
Karla Seckinger & Ed Stinnett

***Horns:***

Kenneth Duesing, trombone  
Jonathan Rosse, tuba

<b>Presider:</b>	Pastor Karl Hester
<b>Musician:</b>	Jon Abrams
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Trudi Costa
<b>Reader:</b>	Kathy Brundage
<b>Bread:</b>	Trudi Costa
<b>Ushers and Greeters:</b>	Glenn De Noble & Carly Hoeni
<b>Altar:</b>	Barbara Scholz
<b>Tech:</b>	Rande Neukam
<b>Head Counter:</b>	Bill Mitchell