



# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the First Letter of John. Holy Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Jesus the Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

Prelude

Prelude in C Minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

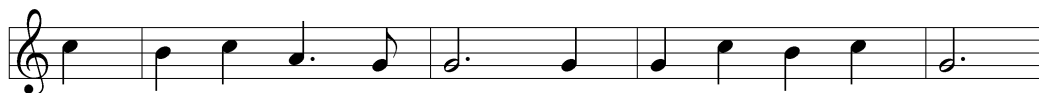
## ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

### When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love pos - sessed:  
4 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! What - e'er my hands be - gin,  
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
this bless - ing shall break in: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!

5 Let all of humankind  
in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space,  
sing, all who see his face,  
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
today and evermore,  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.  
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

### Easter Acclamation & Apostolic Greeting

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C: **And also with you.**

### Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

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



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: 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.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



☐ A - men

### Hymn of Praise



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

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

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

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

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

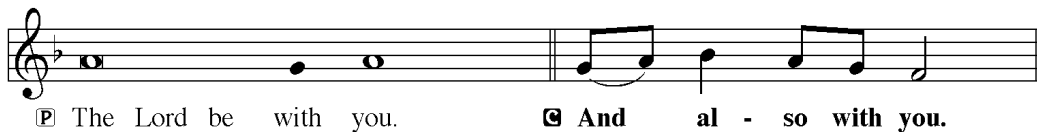
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

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

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

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

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

**ALL: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### First Lesson - Acts 8:26–40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him, which leads to the Ethiopian's baptism.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalms 22:24-30

(sung in unison)

*This psalm is a song of praise to the Lord who rules over all and cares for the downtrodden.*

**My praise is of him in the | great assembly;\***

**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.**

<sup>25</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | LORD shall praise him:\***

**"May your heart | live forever!"**

<sup>26</sup>**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,\*  
and all the families of the nations | bow before him.**

<sup>27</sup>**For kingship belongs | to the LORD;\*  
he rules o- | ver the nations.**

**<sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;\*  
all who go down to the dust | fall before him.  
<sup>29</sup>My soul shall live for him; my descen- | dants shall serve him;\*  
they shall be known as the | LORD's forever.  
<sup>30</sup>They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn\*  
the saving deeds that | he has done.**

**Second Lesson - 1 John 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating others whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**L: The word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia Verse**

**Holy Gospel - John 15:1-8**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

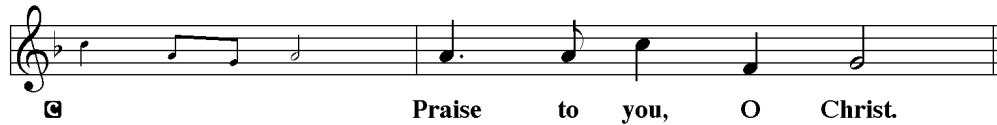
*On the night of his arrest, Jesus of Nazareth taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love will bear fruit. Apart from him, they can do nothing.*



Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If

you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

*silence for reflection*

Hymn of the Day

## O Blessed Spring



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

### The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: O God, we pray for the Church around the world, for all the baptized, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep us all in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen**



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## LITURGY OF THE MEAL

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### The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### Offering

*Lord, what can grow upon this soil  
Watered by your bitter tears:  
Thorns, dear heart, are kept for me  
And all flowering things for thee.*

*Ah, where such tearful brooklets flow,  
Ah, will a garden ever, ever grow?  
Yes, and know this, many wreaths of different kinds are woven there.*

*Oh, my Lord, for whose adornment  
Will these different wreaths appear?  
Those of thorns are meant for me.  
Those rich flowers I give to thee.*

(Text: Anonymous, Spanisches Liederbuch, 1852)

Offertory

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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

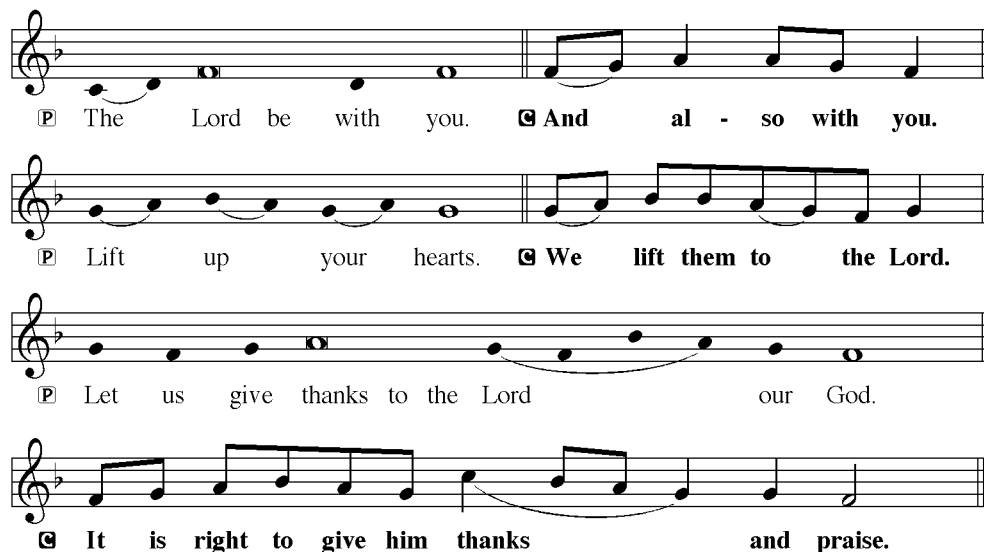
Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



## Great Thanksgiving



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

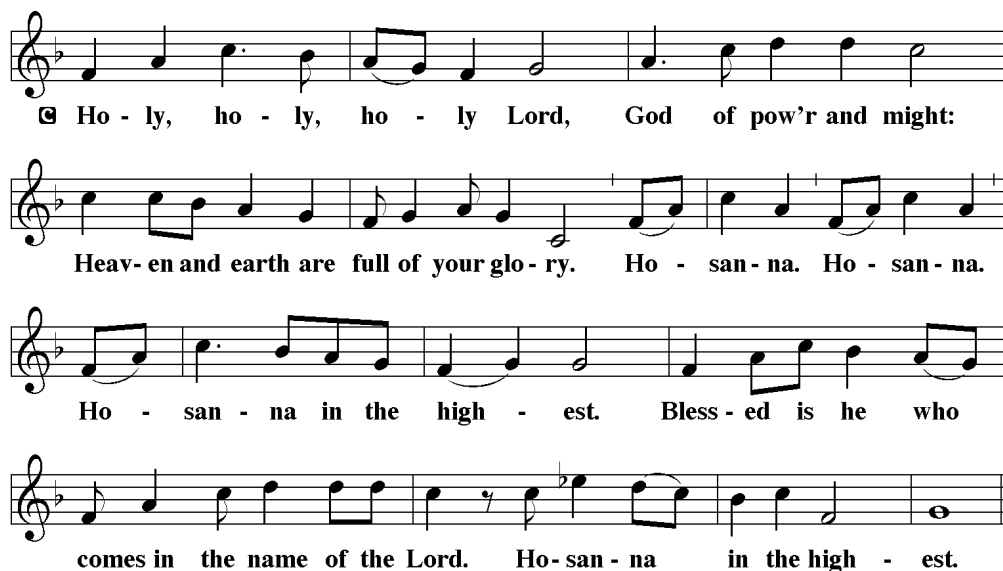
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

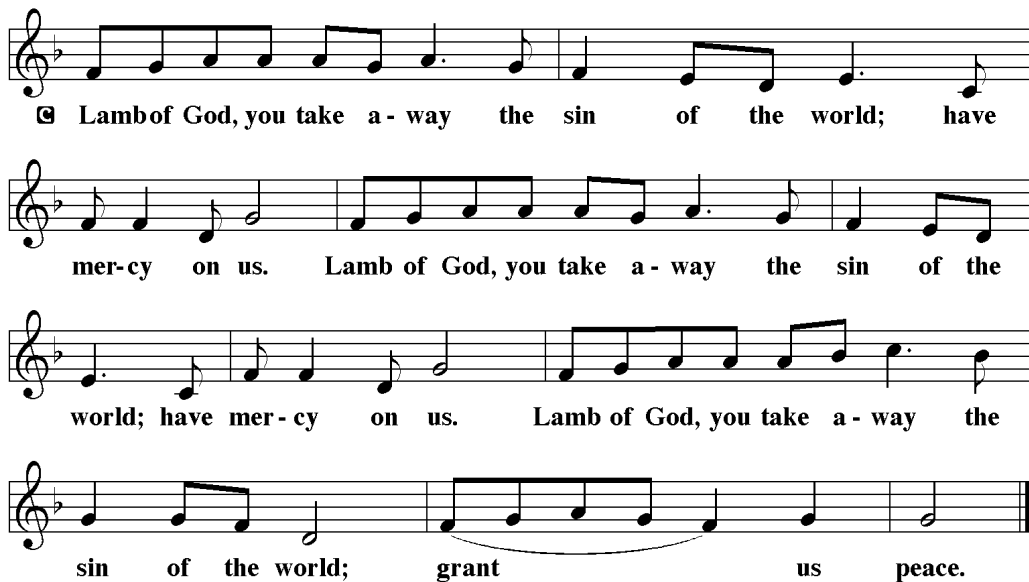
## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**C: 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 with our Risen Lord

### Agnus Dei



☩ 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.

### Hymns

## Come Down, O Love Divine



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
no soul can guess his grace till it be - come the place



and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes his dwell - ing.

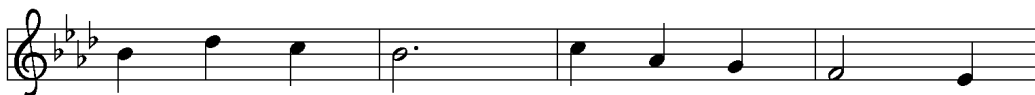
# Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing; O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship I*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

## Post-Communion Canticle



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



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

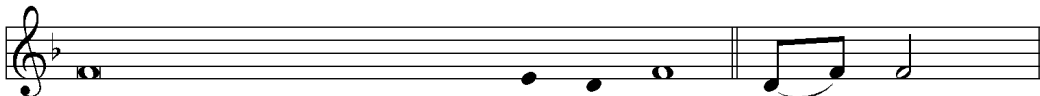
## Post-Communion Prayer

**A:** Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** **Amen**

## Benediction



☞ Almighty God, Father, † Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. ☞ **A - men**

## Hymn

### Let All Things Now Living

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 - Let all things now living<br/>A song of thanksgiving<br/>To God the creator triumphantly raise,<br/>Who fashioned and made us,<br/>Protected and stayed us,<br/>Who still guides us on to the end of our days.<br/>God's banners are o'er us,<br/>His light goes before us,<br/>A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,<br/>Till shadows have vanished<br/>And darkness is banished,<br/>As forward we travel from light into light.</p> | <p>2 - His law he enforces,<br/>The stars in their courses<br/>And sun in its orbit obediently shine;<br/>The hills and the mountains,<br/>The rivers and fountains,<br/>The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.<br/>We too should be voicing<br/>Our love and rejoicing;<br/>With glad adoration a song let us raise<br/>Till all things now living<br/>Unite in thanksgiving:<br/>To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"</p> |
|--|---|

## Dismissal

**A:** Our service now begins. Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



The altar flowers and candles are given to the glory of God by Mae Derrick  
in memory of her husband, William.

<b>THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY</b>	
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube 12:00 p.m. Brunch Bunch (Oliver's; Rivermont Avenue) 4:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Youth
<b>Monday, April 29</b>	9:15 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:50 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study & Dinner (Youth House)
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
<b>Friday, May 3</b>	9:15 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:50 a.m. Chair Yoga Class
<b>Saturday, May 4</b>	10:00 a.m. Altar Guild
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion and Rite of Confirmation with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion 11:30 a.m. Reception for Confirmands 5:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Youth

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**Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1000 Langhorne Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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**President:** Eric R. Kenny  
**Organist-Choirmaster:** J. William Greene  
**Parish Administrator:** Carol Dee Robertson  
**Parish Nurse:** Gail Midkiff

**Pastor:** Dennis S. Roberts  
**Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:**  
Susan H. Williams  
**Sextons:** Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

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