



Easter 4

May 11, 2025



9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ on this Fourth Sunday of Easter! In today's readings, we find that the gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It's the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa; it was true for those "who've come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision; and it's true for us and for all God's baptized children: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Congregational responses are printed in *indented boldface italics*.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives!"
[v. 1-4, 7-8]

ELW 619

*I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!*

*He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above; He lives to rule His church in love.*

*He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with his eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.*

*He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.*

*He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.*

*He lives— all glory to His name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!*

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

We gather today just as God has gathered us into His family in our Baptism:
in the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known; from You no secrets are hid.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth's not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who's faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
So let's confess our sin against God and one another:

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

***We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.***

We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

***Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will
and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.***

Listen to the Good News, brothers and sisters:

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for His sake, ✝ God forgives you all your sins!

To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God
and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.


Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast of Victory!"

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

→

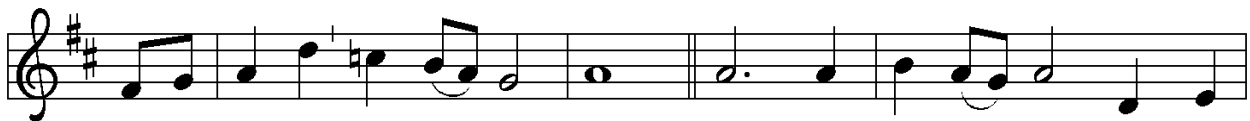


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain



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



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

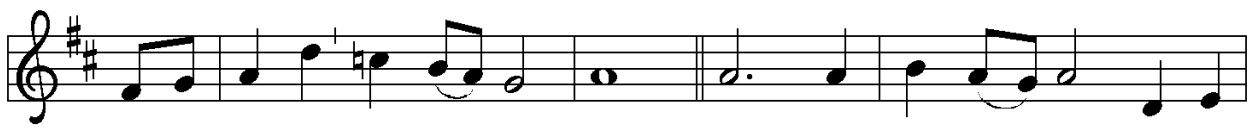


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



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



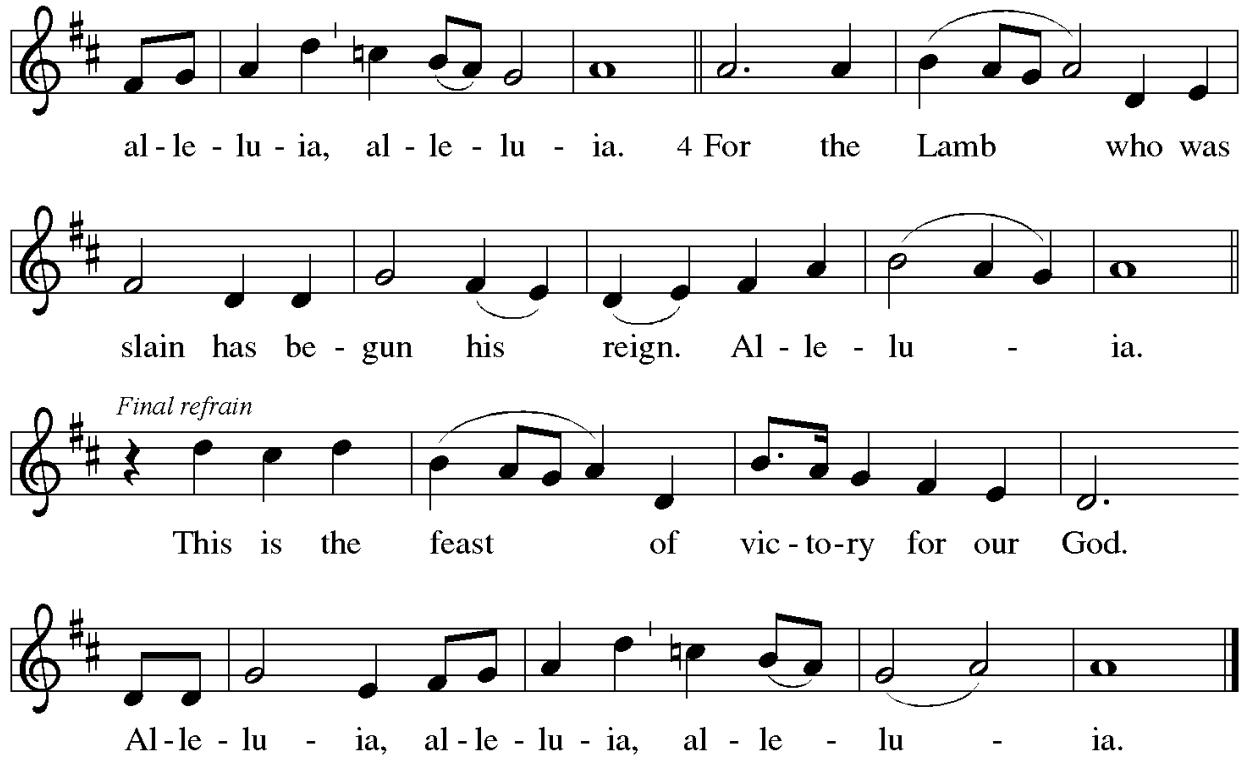
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

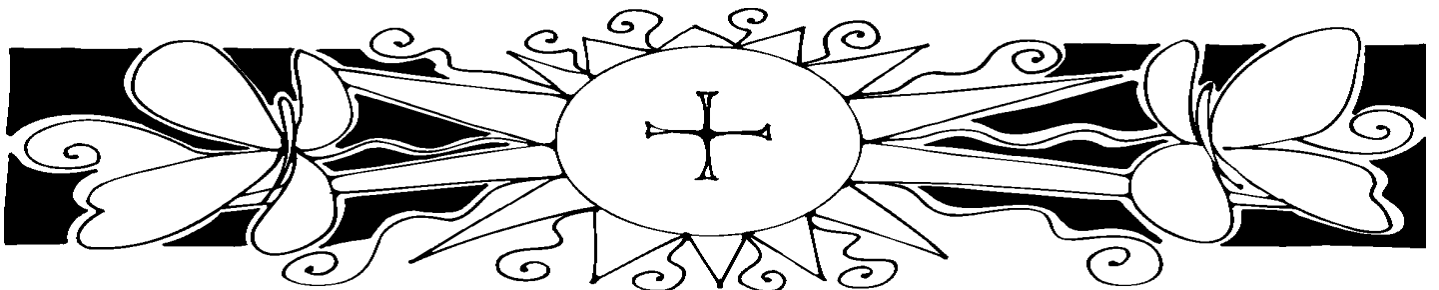
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

And so the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: God of peace, You brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the great Shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of Your eternal covenant,
 make us complete in everything good that we may do Your will,
 and work among us what's pleasing in Your sight through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord,
 who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Fourth Sunday Of Easter

WORD AND PRAYER

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

*Pr Dave will introduce this song to us;
then we'll sing it together two more times to let the tune (and the promise) sink in...*

***Behold, behold— I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold— I make all things new; My promise is true, for I am Christ the Way!***

FIRST READING:

Acts 9.36-43

NRSVUE

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

Revelation 7.9-17

NRSVUE

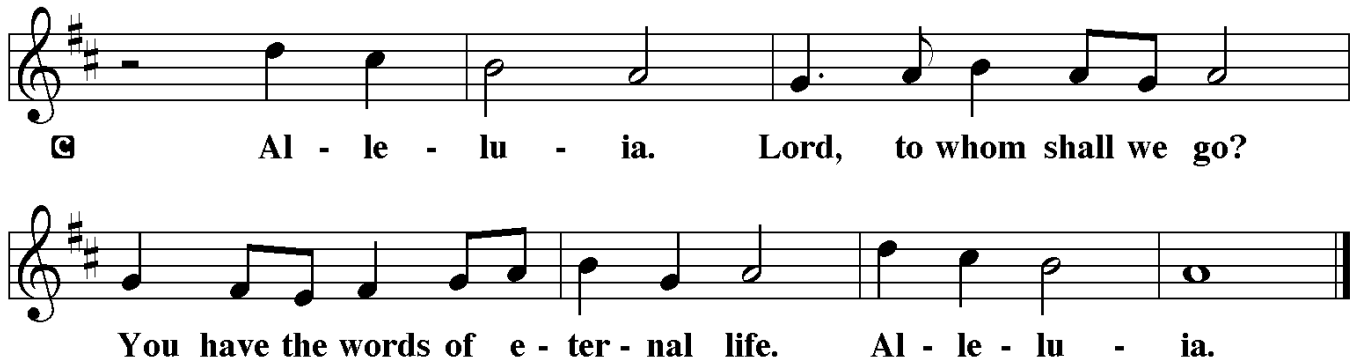
After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who's seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you’re the one who knows.”

Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ For this reason, they’re before the throne of God and worship Him day and night within His temple, and the One who’s seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They’ll hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun won’t strike them, nor any scorching heat, ¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and He’ll guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!



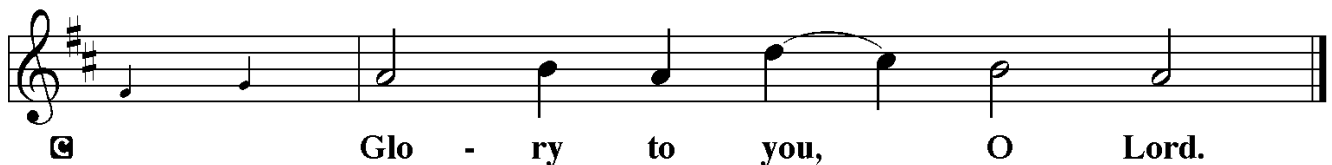
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

John 10.22-30

NRSVUE

The Holy Gospel according to St John, the tenth chapter.

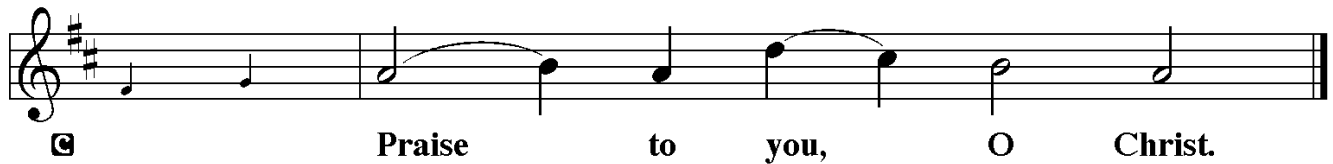


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the *Jewish authorities* gathered around Him and said to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You’re the Messiah, tell us plainly!”

²⁵ Jesus answered, “I *have* told you, and you don’t believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name testify to Me; ²⁶ but you don’t believe because you don’t belong to My sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice. I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they’ll never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, in regard to what He’s given Me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.



PROCLAMATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN OF THE DAY: "My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"

ELW 782



- 1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He 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 AND SHARING OF THE PEACE:

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

Good and gracious God, we give You all thanks and praise for Your Son, Christ Jesus our risen Lord, Jesus, who shepherds all who look to You for salvation, wiping the tears from our eyes and spreading a table before us so that we might feed forever from Your abundant goodness. Shine Your light through this and every congregation of Your people. Reveal to us the light of Your salvation in places of hopelessness and decay; anoint us and make us overflow with Your goodness and mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give You thanks for gentle rains that nourish green pastures and rejuvenate rivers and streams. Provide clean water for thirsty people, animals, and crops; heal places suffering destruction from devastating storms. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Empower leaders at every level of government to be faithful shepherds who lead their communities in pathways of righteousness and peace. Disrupt and deter the work of terrorists, religious and political extremists, and all who'd choose the way of violence over the way of mercy. Let Your peace and freedom triumph in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Libya,

Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, the DRC, and violence-torn homes and communities in our own land, that all may know the blessings of Your grace. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Continue to raise up faithful women as witnesses to Your strength and compassion. Bless our mothers and all who offer mothering care; accompany those yearning to be mothers; and comfort those who mourn this Mothers' Day. Help us heal from broken family relationships; protect victims of sexism, abuse, and gender-based violence; and restore dignity to those who are marginalized because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Give strength and perseverance to those who are struggling with hunger or thirst, unemployment or homelessness, chronic illness or anxiety, addiction or despair. Pour out Your healing Holy Spirit upon them, that they may experience Christ's death-defying life in their own renewal of strength and life. And through our lips and our lives, be their never-failing voice of comfort and encouragement through all their trials of this life. We especially seek Your healing grace for those we remember before You now... Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

We rejoice that salvation belongs to You, our Good Shepherd. You promise to wipe away every tear from our eyes. Give us the assurance, even amidst our grief, that all who live and die in You, will rest forever beside the river of life. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

The peace of the Lord is with you always. *And also with you.*
Reconciled to God and one another, let's share with one another a sign of God's peace.


MEAL

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES, WITH ANTHEM:


"God Leads Us Along"

-- George A. Young

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Living God, You gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in Your peaceable Reign, and You welcome us all at Your table.

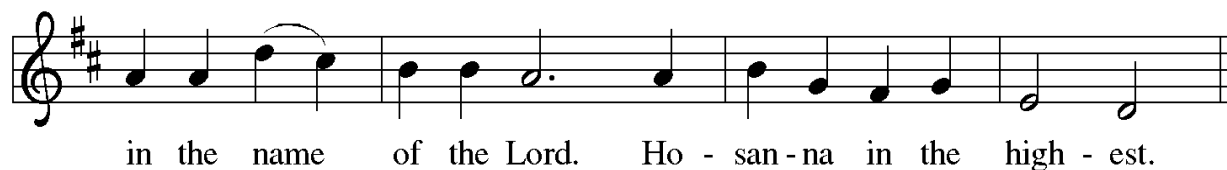
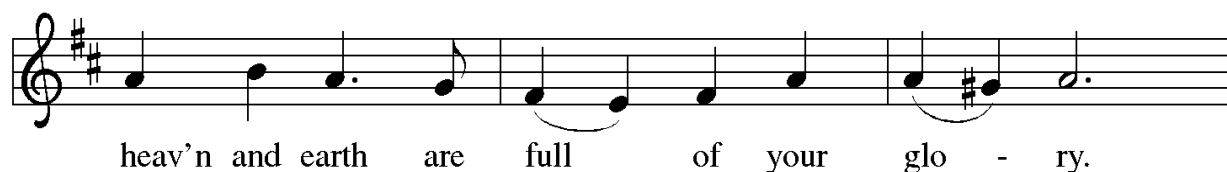
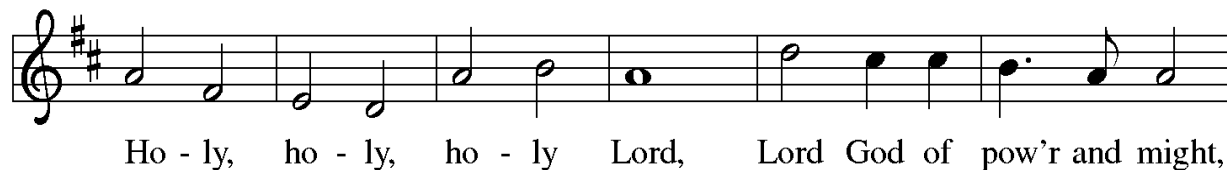
Reach out to us through this meal, and show us Your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE 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's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:



In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

And so, remembering all that our Lord has done for us, believing the witness of His resurrection, awaiting His final appearing in glory, we share this foretaste of the feast to come. Now send Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy Supper. Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive,

that our lives may anticipate that day when You'll make all things new.
All this we pray with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who's taught 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.*

CANTICLE: "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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ by "tables": When the usher bids you, come forward via the left side aisle, take an empty glass from the tray (or a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary), and kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive "the body of Christ, given for you" from the Pastor; receive "the blood of Christ, shed for you" from our communion assistant (or drink the grape juice you already have in hand). Pr Dave will dismiss each "table" with a blessing, at which point the next "table" will form. Once we've all communed, our service

continues with thanksgiving...

SENDING

THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION:



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



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks 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.

We give You thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup
we've tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to Christ's resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Now may the God of life, who raised Christ Jesus from death,
empower you by the Holy Spirit to walk in newness of life;
and almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

ELW 865

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing.*

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the
everlasting King!***



***Praise Him for His grace and favor to our forebears in distress.
Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness!***

***Tenderly He shields and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as His mercy flows.***

***Angels help us to adore Him, who behold Him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before Him; all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, serve in joy, and live out the new life of our risen Lord!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Liturgy, Lyrics, Music, and Graphics reprinted
under the following copyright licenses and permissions:**

- One License music license number 731531-A
- CCLI music license number 2280004
- New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition [NRSVUE] © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

