

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
Pastor Kim Swenson



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Worship Volunteers
Assisting Minister: Doug Hanson
Reader: Dawn Schroeder
Altar Guild: Terri Hilbert & Marilyn Meister
Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder & Gayle Peot
Ushers: Howard & Dawn Schroeder
Video Tech: Pegi BeDell

Call to Worship

While it was still dark.

While it was still early.

While the women could not see.

While they thought death held sway.

While they grieved.

While they wept.

While it was still dark, resurrection began.

Bless the light, O God; **may it restore our vision, rekindle our faith,
and renew our hope in your kingdom vision for all.**

*As the paschal candle makes its way through the sanctuary,
the verse below is repeated three times:*

Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.

The light no darkness can overcome.

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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!

Thanksgiving for Baptism & Renewal

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 by whose hand we are given new birth,
 by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Beloveds in Christ, through the waters of baptism we are brought into the family of God. This body of Christ is rich in Divine creativity, a community of people of many genders, races, body types and sizes, abilities and gifts, each a glimpse of God from a different angle.

God claims each of us with delight.

And we claim one another as companions in faith.

In our baptismal vows, we have promised to love and support each other, to gather and learn, and to work together to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all its forms - within us and around us.

We need each other in this shared work of living the dreams of God.

Today, we remember that the love we encounter through these waters cannot be undone by anyone or anything.

We are children of the Holy One, Siblings in the life of God.

These family ties cannot be broken. No one and nothing has the power to remove, erase, or separate us from the body of Christ.

The full embrace of God enfolds us.

And so today, as we remember our baptism, we also remember that through this new life in Christ we are set free:

To love wildly. To live generously.

And to claim the power God has given us.

To turn from everything that destroys.

**Through God's grace, we are claimed as God's own
and rejoice in the Good News that sets the captives free.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This Is the Feast (setting 3)

pg. 140-141

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.

Prayer of the Day

The grace we discover on Easter morn,
 the love of God that opens the world to a new day,
 and the community that gathers in the Spirit of the Risen One,
 be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, God of new beginnings,
 on that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt
 clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple
 shake of their heads. So open up our minds to the mystery and joy of Easter.
 Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, may
 we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good
 news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray. **Amen.**

Tone Chimes

Jesus Shall Reign
Jubilate

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. 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.**

Choir

Christ Is Risen Indeed

The Word for All Ages**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

WOV 671 vs 1

Refrain F Dm Gm C

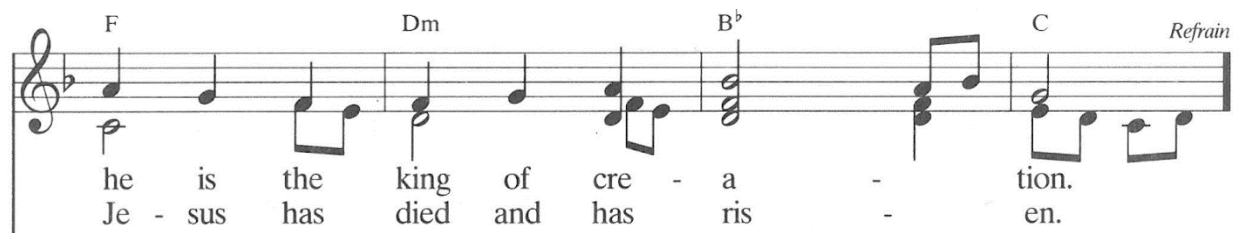
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

F Dm Gm C F

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

F Dm B^b C

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:



Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

The Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.


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

Acclamation


Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

WOV 671 vs 2


Sermon




M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



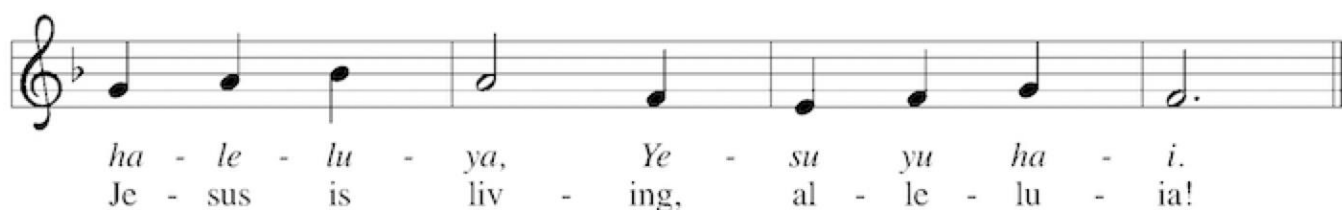
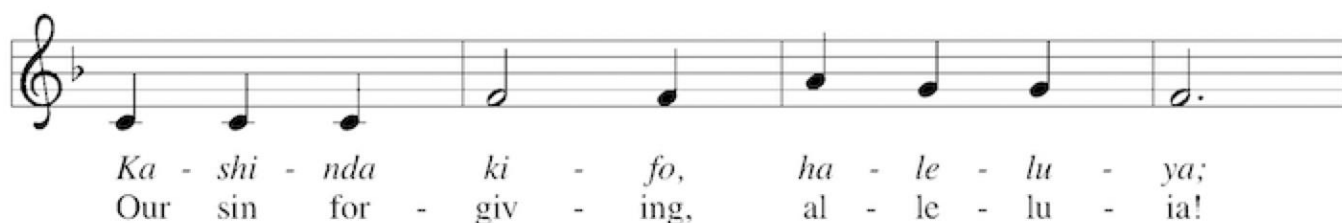
m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
 Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.



A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go,
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.



m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 and in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."



4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won."
Refrain

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
Refrain

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: MFURAHINI, HALELUYA, Tanzanian 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,
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 the People

Let us pray, God of today and tomorrow, God of the garden and the tomb, God of our faith and our doubt, we are running toward you. Like Peter on that Easter morning, we simply cannot stay away. So with beating hearts and wide eyes, we have arrived in this sanctuary, bringing with us questions, hopes, joys, and concerns. Hear these prayers as we draw closer to you.

God of the dawn, we start with our hopes: Thank you for the gifts of this world that instill buoyancy in us. Thank you for the curiosity of children, for the sound of your people singing in unison, for crowded tables and neighborly kindness, for the sun after the rain, the spring after the frost, love after loss, and faith after doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Like Peter, we have countless reasons to hold onto hope. Highest among them is the joy and promise of this day. Thank you for these holy breadcrumbs on the journey of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

However, before we found ourselves in the garden, before the joy and the alleluias of this day, we found ourselves at the foot of the cross. So for the things that erode our hope, for the things that stitch doubt and fear into our hearts, we ask for your comforting hand. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Wrap your arms around all who are still locked in that upper room. Wrap your arms around all who cannot find healing after their longest night. Wrap your arms around all who look for reasons to hope, but cannot find those breadcrumbs amidst reasons to grieve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, like Peter, fan the flames of our faith. Like Peter, invite us to step out of our boats. And like Peter, use us to care for those in need, to tell your story, and to build a better world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

We remember, and we believe. So with awe-struck, wildly-beating, grateful hearts, we run toward you. In Jesus, the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always, **And also with you.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

Cranberry 531

Verses



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.

Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.

Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

The feast is read - y to be - gin;
the feast is read - y to be - gin.

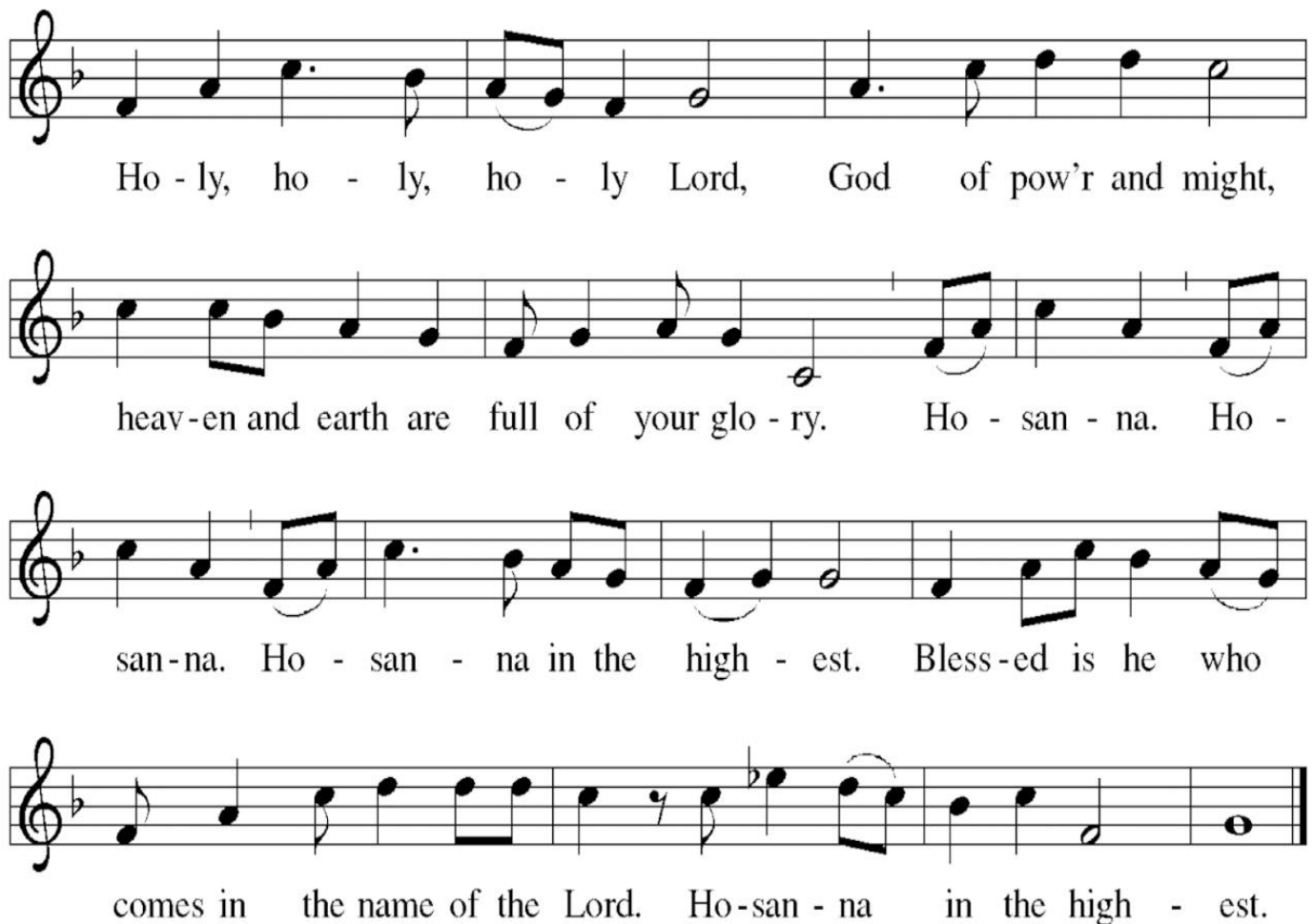
Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
in the breaking of this bread
Reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our 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.

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, Almighty God, for you are the Lord of creation and new creation, of covenant and new covenant. You brought your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land, and you brought your Son from the depth of death to the glory of resurrection life. And so we gladly thank you, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the corresponding syllables. The text of the hymn is: '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.'

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.

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you.

For on the night before Jesus was arrested, he gathered with his friends for a meal. This was not their first meal together. These disciples had eaten with tax collectors and on mountainsides. They'd had fish and loaves in mixed company and meals on the road. For them, this was another night with another meal.

But on this night, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup. Again he gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God, for you have rolled away the stone of despair, the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief, the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.

Shape your church to be your risen body; make our scars beautiful like your scars, make our lives life-giving link your life, and make our communion holy with your saints, until you come again in glory and we earth with you in your kingdom, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, ever one God. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.

7 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.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 he lives and loves me to the end;
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 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!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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Prayer after Communion

Christ has shown himself among us.

God has made a dwelling place in the midst of us.

The voice of peace has spoken and love has reached every heart.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's grace.

Let us pray, Living God, **provider of all things, we thank you for this bread and cup, signs of the presence of the risen Lord. Strengthen us through your Holy Spirit, that we may live in unity as Christ's body and proclaim your love to all the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* **Cranberry 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!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

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Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Fellowship hour continues in the lounge.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 3/26/24 \$ 20,678.50

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 2/29/24..... \$ 41,661.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in April, sign up in the hallway. Thank you to Cindy Michalski, Linda Wery and Mary Hansen for hosting today.

Church Office: Will be closed Monday, April 1st for the Easter Holiday.

NEW Shelter Meal: Is April 14. Please see sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin.

Bethel Photo Directory: If you haven't already done so, please submit a recent photo for the new church directory. It can be emailed to the church or brought to the office for scanning.

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Liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
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