

# GREAT EASTER VIGIL



*This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

## GATHERING

*The service begins at nightfall. Please have a candle by you at home, ready to light, if possible. Please also have a cup of water at the ready for later in the service, if possible.*

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

*The presiding minister will introduce and welcome the assembly to the vigil.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word and through our gathering, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

## PRAYER

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Candles are lit at home, when prompted by the Pastor*

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

*The pastor sings and assembly responds:*

The image shows three staves of musical notation, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a double bar line in the middle. The second and third staves have a double bar line at the end. The lyrics are: 'The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.'

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

*The Exsultet is chanted.*

## **EASTER PROCLAMATION**

*The proclamation begins with “Rejoice, now...  
...echoing the song of all God’s people...”*

*The proclamation ends with ...“now and forever, Amen.”*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*Vigil Readings and Prayers*

**First Reading Introduction:** *Our first reading from Genesis comes to us in the literary genre of an epic poem, in which we hear how God created the world and all that is in it, and saw that it was good. Listen for how God’s love shines through this story.*

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a**

Creation

1: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said

1,2: Let there be light

1: And there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said,

1,2: Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.

1: So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said

1,2: Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.

1: And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said

1,2: Let the earth put forth vegetation:

2: Plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.

1: And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said

1,2: Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night;

2: and let them be for signs

1: and for seasons and for days and years

2: and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth

1: And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said

2: Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.

1: So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them saying,

3: Be fruitful and multiply

3,4: and fill the waters in the seas

4: and let birds multiply on the earth.

1: And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said

5,6: Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind

5: cattle and creeping things

6: and wild animals of the earth of every kind.

1: And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said

3,4: Let us make mankind in our image,

3: according to our likeness;

4: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

3: and over the birds of the air,

4: and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,

3,4: and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth

1: So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them,

2: Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it

5: And have dominion over the fish of the sea

6: and over the birds of the air

5,6: and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

1: God said,

2: See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth,

3: And every tree with seed in its fruit;

4: you shall have them as food.

5: And to every beast of the earth,

6: and to every bird of the air,

2: and to everything that creeps on the earth

1,2: everything that has the breath of life,

2: I have given every green plant for food.

1: And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

## FIRST PRAYER

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silent reflection.*

**Second Reading Introduction:** *Our second reading also comes from Genesis, and is important both as one of the stories of God creating a covenant (in this case with Noah), and also because Noah is an ancestor to Jesus, the Messiah. A covenant is a promise, and in this case, it shows God's ever ending love for Noah and for us.*

## SECOND READING: Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

*The Flood*

3: The Lord said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.

4: And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life, And those that entered, male and female of all flesh went as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out a raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

3: Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.

4: So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

3: Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

## **SECOND PRAYER**

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silent reflection.*

**Third Reading Introduction:** *In this reading from Exodus, listen for how God’s mercy miraculously delivers the Israelites from the pursuing Egyptian army despite their fears and doubts, and for how Moses’ sister Miriam dances with joy in praise to God for their safe passage across the sea and deliverance from their enemies.*

## **THIRD READING: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21**

*Israel’s Deliverance at the Red Sea*

5: As Pharaoh drew near

6: The Israelites looked back,

5: and there were the Egyptians advancing on them.

6: In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses,

5,6: “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

5: But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the

deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

- 6: Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”
- 5: The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- 6: It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel.
- 5: And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night;
- 5: One did not come near the other all night.
- 6: Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.
- 5: The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- 6: The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 1: The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- 5: At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army,
- 1: and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”
- 6: Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out you hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.”
- 5: So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to it normal depths.
- 6: As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
- 5,6: The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the



entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; no one of them remained.

5: But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and their left.

6: Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians;

5: And Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians.

6: So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

5: Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."



**THIRD RESPONSE: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618, verses 1 & 3)**

*Sung by the Assembly*

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er-more, ev - er-more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might-y arm, might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er-more, ev - er-more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

### THIRD PRAYER

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silent reflection.*

**Fourth Reading Introduction:** *Listen to this joyful invitation to come and receive the bounty that God desires to provide, body, heart, mind, and soul as part of living in relationship with God, who will accomplish all of God's purposes. Remember that David, like Noah, was an early ancestor to Jesus.*

### FOURTH READING: Isaiah 55:1–11

*An Invitation to Abundant Life*

2: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come,

1: buy

2: and eat!

1: Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

2: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

3: Listen carefully to me,

4: and eat what is good,

3: and delight yourselves in rich food.

4: Incline your ear, and come to me;

3: listen, so that you may live.

4: I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

5: See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

6: See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

5,6: FOR HE HAS GLORIFIED YOU.

5: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

6: let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

5: let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

6: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

3: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

4: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered  
the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my  
word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

1: but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,


2: and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

1,2: the thing for which I sent it.

#### **FOURTH RESPONSE: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (ELW 484, verses 1 & 5**

*Sung by the Assembly*

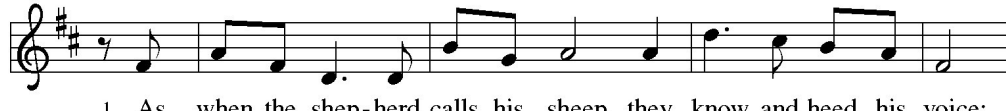
*Refrain*



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.




Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;  
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude  
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?  
4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:  
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

*Refrain*



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

## FOURTH PRAYER

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silent reflection.*

**Fifth Reading Introduction:** *Our next reading is a first person narrative of God speaking to the prophet Ezekial, and this is where the children's song, "Those bones, those bones, those dry bones," originates. Ezekial is told to prophesy to the bones for the glory of God, and as he does so, the dry bones are brought to life, a foreshadowing of the resurrection promise that Christians believe has been fulfilled in the action and person of Jesus.*

## FIFTH READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Valley of Dry Bones*

4: The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me,

3: "Mortal, can these bones live?"

4: I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me,

3: "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>1</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath<sup>1</sup> in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

4: So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me,

3: "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:<sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>2</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

4: I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me,

3: "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say,

3,4: ***'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'***

3: Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

#### **FIFTH RESPONSE: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* (LBW 488)**

*Sung By The Assembly*

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new,  
2 Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, breath of God; so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love all that you love and do what you would do.  
un - til with you I will one will to do and to en - dure.  
but live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835–1889

Music: DURHAM, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

#### **FIFTH PRAYER**

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

God of holiness and mercy, in the dying and rising of Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation for us all – you have given these dry bones new life. Cleanse our hearts and give us a new spirit, that by your saving grace we may live as your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*Silent reflection.*

**Sixth Reading Introduction:** *Our next reading highlights God's desire for mercy as we follow Jonah on his journey to Nineveh, where he will call the people to repent, and the people listen, and God relents. How often have we as people and as communities and as nations needed to ask God to forgive us?*

## **SIXTH READING: Jonah 3:1-10**

### *The Call of Jonah*

5: The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."

6: So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh,

5: according to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

6: Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

5: When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:

6: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

5: When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

6: And he did not do it.

5/6: And he did not do it.

## **SIXTH PRAYER**

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

Gracious God of second chances, as you had mercy on the people of Nineveh, so, too, have mercy on us, and guide us back to your loving embrace. Support us in building the practices to be a changed people, changing the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Silent reflection.*

**Seventh Reading Introduction:** *For a modern audience, this reading stands apart from the others. In this final, lively story, and in what would have been understood in its time as a humorous reading, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remain faithful to God even when faced with the threat of death. Remember that King Nebuchadnezzar is very proud and pompous; this is what makes this reading light hearted. He's not a thoughtful king at all. When you hear his name, if you have an instrument or noise maker, that's when you use it. By the end of the story, the King does accept the notion of our one God, but even then, he threatens to destroy those who don't believe. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are steadfast in their faith. They not only survive flames, they maintain their commitment to God when set upon by a very fickle and silly King.*

**SEVENTH READING: Daniel 3:1–29**

*The Fiery Furnace*

- 1: King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
- 2: Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors,
- 4: The counselors, the treasurers,
- 3: the justices, the magistrates
- 3,4: And all the officials of the provinces,
- 1: to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
- 2: So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors,
- 5: The counselors, the treasurers,
- 6: the justices, the magistrates,
- 5,6: and all the officials of the provinces,
- 1: assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.
- 2: When they were standing before the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up,



4: the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, then when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire."

3: Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples

4: nations,

3: and languages

3,4: fell down and worshipped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

1: Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar,

1,2: O king, live forever!

2: You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue,

5: And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.

6: There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon:

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: And Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king.

6: They do not serve your gods

5: And they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.

6: Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: And Abednego

1: be brought in;

2: so they brought those men before the king.

1: Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: And Abednego

6: answered the king.

5,6: O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter.

3: If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us.

4: But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.

2: Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted . He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: and Abednego

2: and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

1: So the men were bound,

2: Still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments,

1: And they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire.

2: Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: and Abednego.

3: But the three men, Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: and Abednego, fell down

6: bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

1: Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king,

1,2: "True, O king."

1: He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god."  
Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

3: So Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: and Abednego,

5,6: came out from the fire:

1: And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men;

2: the hair on their heads was not singed,

1: Their tunics were not harmed,

2: and not even the smell of fire came from them.

1: Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of

3: Shadrach

4: Meshach

5: and Abednego,

1: shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.

## SEVENTH PRAYER

*The Pastor leads the assembly in prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*The assembly makes affirmation:*

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

I now invite you to dip your finger or thumb into the cup of water, if you have it by you, making the sign of the cross on your forehead and remembering the power of God through Christ that has claimed us all through baptism for new life.

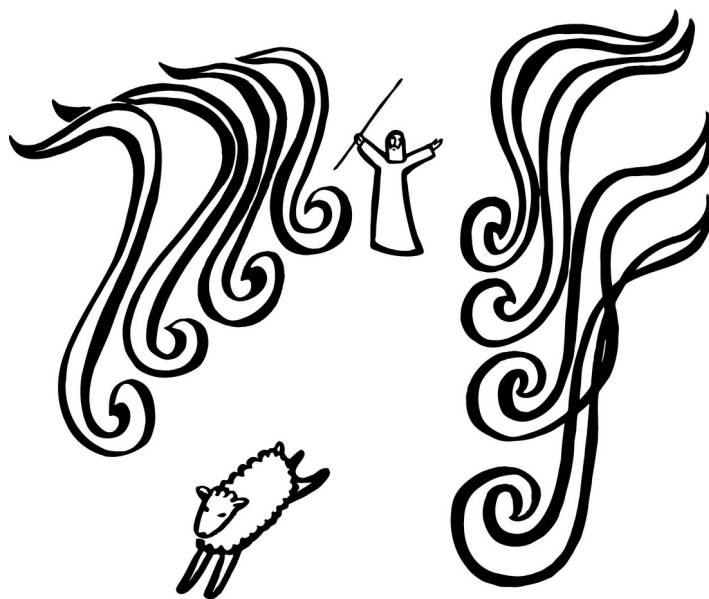
*The assembly joins the ministers in a procession outdoors to begin the final procession around the church, this is done S L O W L Y as members of the Altar Guild set up the inside of the church with flowers and light. If weather permitting proceeds through the hallway out to the parking lot and back in the main entry doors, KNOCKING THREE TIMES!!*



## 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. A - men.

*The service continues with the Gospel acclamation, found on the next page.*



# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (HYMN 367, Verses 1 & 4)

*The assembly stands as they are able to welcome the gospel.*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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## **GOSPEL: Luke 24: 1-12**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **HOMILY**

*The presiding pastor proclaims...*

CHRIST IS RISEN!!

**HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!!**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day.

Be especially with all those we name now: *(especially Tim R., Susann, Lois M, Lauren B, Janice, K, Pamela M [3.2.25])*, and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith (*name/s may be spoken here*) and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts of time, talents, and finances, which we receive from your bounty that we might, as good stewards, share them for the feeding, nurture, and healing of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death (*especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith*). Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION**

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

**Amen.**



## MEAL

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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.**

### PREFACE

*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

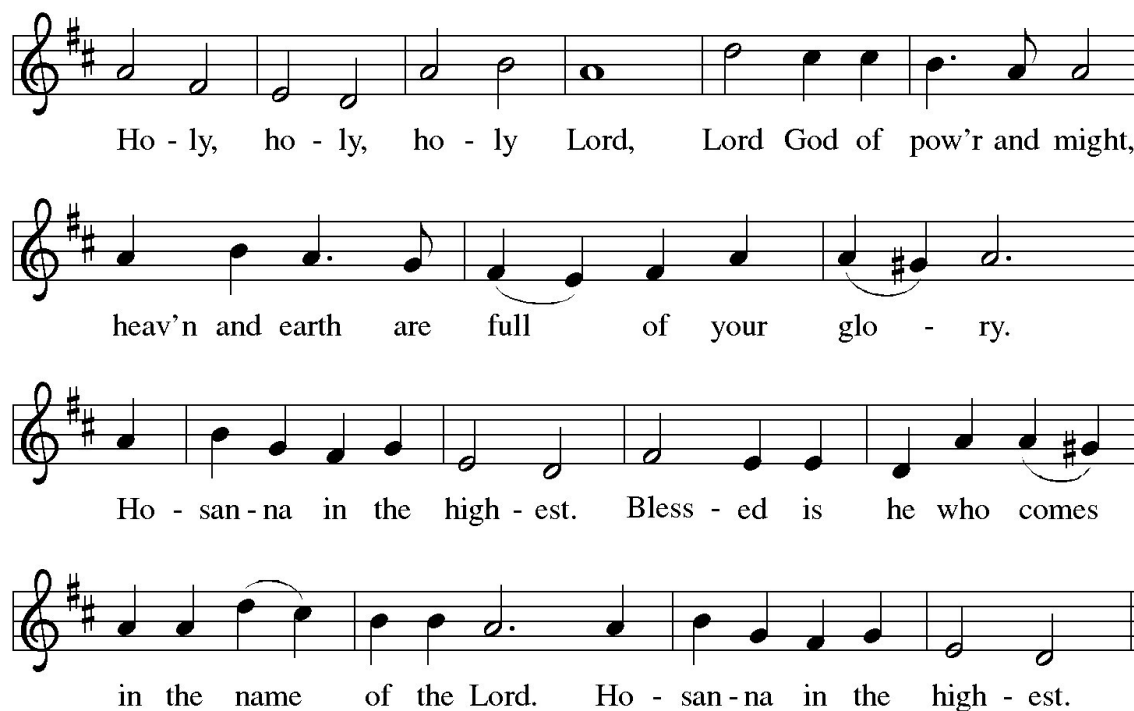
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The service continues with the Sanctus, found on the next page.*



## SANCTUS

*"Holy, Holy, Holy" maybe sung.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

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

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

With [ name/s and ] your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the bread.*

*The service continues with the Agnus Dei, found on the next page.*



## AGNUS DEI

*"Lamb of God" may be sung.*

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.

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

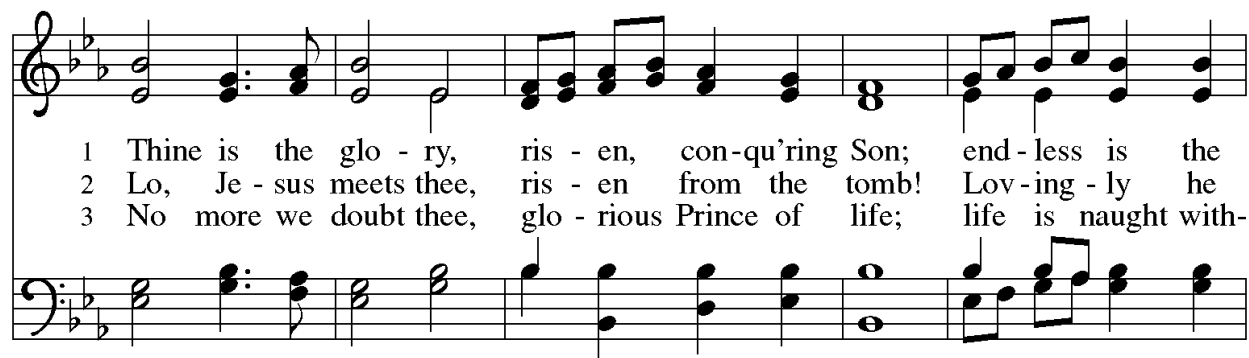
*The presiding minister leads the following prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

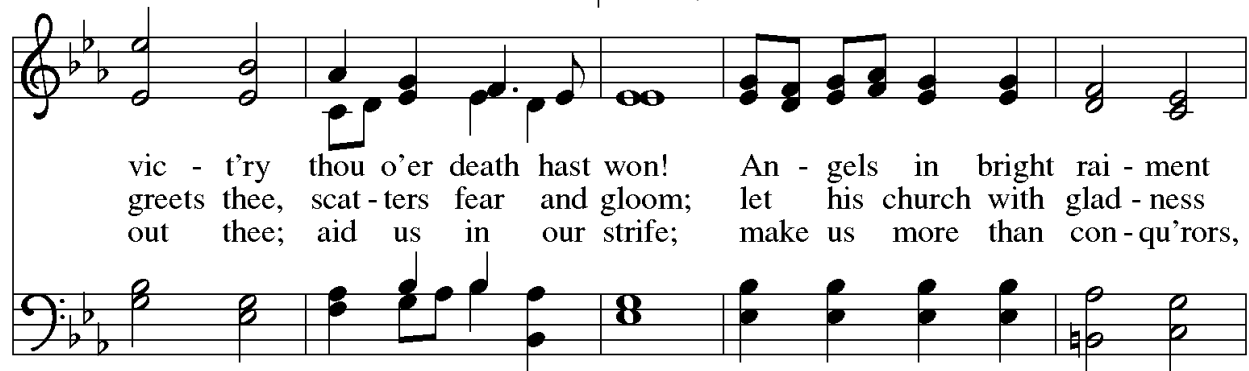
Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

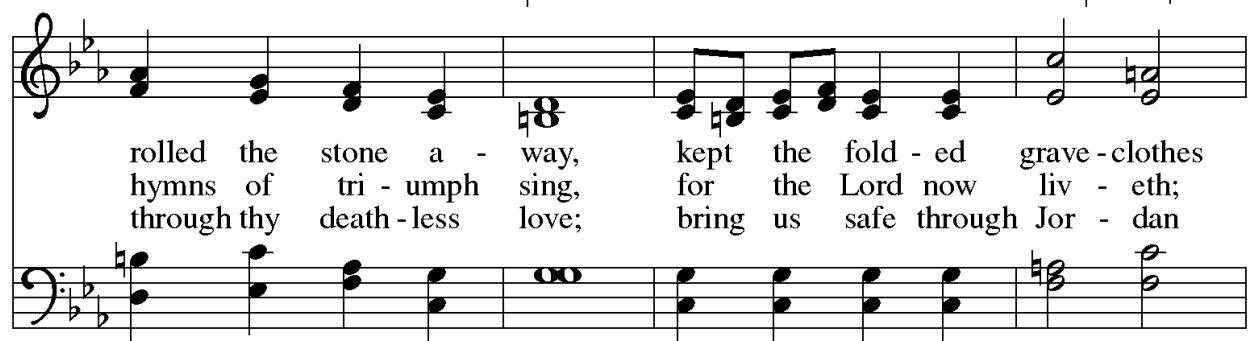
SENDING HYMN: *Thine Is the Glory* (ELW 376)



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!

## BLESSING

God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Almighty God, the Father, the ✙ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to life, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## DISMISSAL

*The assembly is sent into mission.*

Christ has risen!

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you. Amen.**



## Easter Commemorations

### In Loving Memory of

Our parents & spouses - Jackie Anderson & Wayne Eble  
My dad, John Barton, Stripey our cat, all of our family, friends and pets - Heather L. Barton  
My parents, Ruth & Martin, my brother Marty, and my nephew, Joshua ~ Gwendolyn Feldt  
Loved ones no longer with us - Stephen Honicki & Pr Tobias Anderson  
Monika Foxworth & Erika Decker - Klaus Jonietz  
All of my loved ones ~ Virginia LaFalce  
Loyd Lee, my husband - Cynthia Lee  
Louis and Theresa LaMarca, Mary Lecesce, Marge Peplow, Melius Opson - Laura & Peter Olson  
My grandmothers ~ Therese Paff  
Jeremy & Lisa, Evelyn & Earl, Helen & Bob, Grandparents ~ Patti & Rockey  
Our parents - Sylvester Taliaferro  
Linda Upright & Delores McLaren ~ Douglas & Christine Upright  
Greg Upright, James, Edith, Marge & Ed Peplow ~ Shirley Upright  
Malcolm & Edna Walley - Pastor Paul C. Walley  
Harold R Green, my father - Shelley Wright



**In Thanksgiving to God for:**  
God's love - Connie Dodd

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**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

The Reverend Tobias V. Anderson, Pastor

90 State Route 32 South  
New Paltz, New York 12561-3912  
(845) 255-0051 | [Worship@RedeemerNewPaltz.org](mailto:Worship@RedeemerNewPaltz.org)

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