Sixth Sunday of Easter + May 25, 2025 + 9:00 am

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
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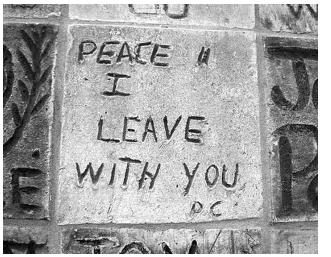


Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

GATHERING

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ☩ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Gathering Song *"Drawn to the Light" ELW #593*

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

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.

Canticle of Praise

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading — Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the regions of Phrygia and Galatia because the Holy
Spirit kept them from speaking the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they approached the
province of Mysia, they tried to enter the province of Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus wouldn't let
them. 8 Passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas instead. A vision of a man from Macedonia
came to Paul during the night. He stood urging Paul, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"
10 Immediately after he saw the vision, we prepared to leave for the province of Macedonia,
concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

11 We sailed from Troas straight for Samothrace and came to Neapolis the following day. 12 From
there we went to Philippi, a city of Macedonia's first district and a Roman colony. We stayed in
that city several days. 13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the riverbank, where we
thought there might be a place for prayer. We sat down and began to talk with the women who
had gathered. 14 One of those women was Lydia, a Gentile God-worshipper from the city of
Thyatira, a dealer in purple cloth. As she listened, the Lord enabled her to embrace Paul's message.
15 Once she and her household were baptized, she urged, "Now that you have decided that I am a
believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

1 May God be merciful to | us and bless us; may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
2 **Let your way be known | upon earth, your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
3 Let the peoples praise | you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.
4 **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.
5 Let the peoples | praise you, O God; let all the | peoples praise you.
6 **The earth has brought | forth its increase; God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
7 May God | give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

Second Reading **Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5**

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

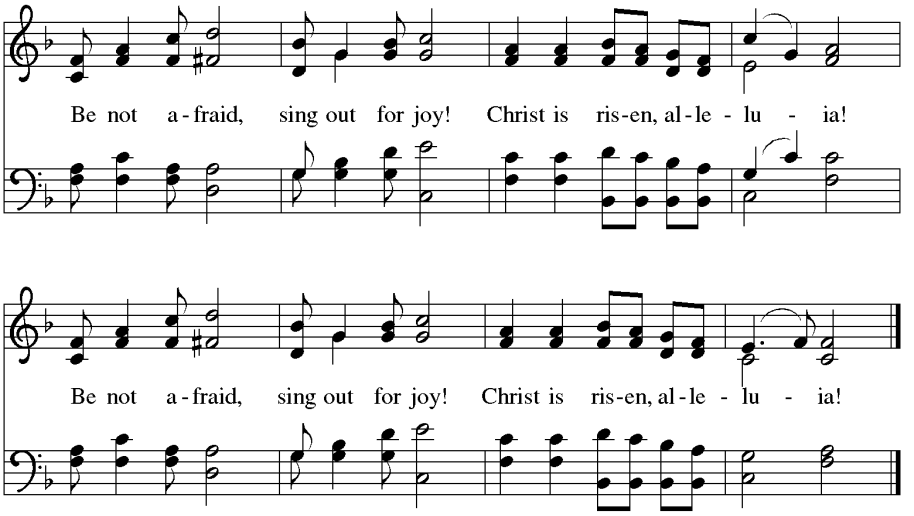
[One of the angels] took me in a Spirit-inspired trance to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

22 I didn't see a temple in the city, because its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb.
23 The city doesn't need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day, and there will be no night there. 26 They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. 27 Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is vile and deceitful, but only those who are registered in the Lamb's scroll of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, shining like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb 2 through the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life, which produces twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit each month. The tree's leaves are for the healing of the nations. 3 There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 Night will be no more. They won't need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine on them, and they will rule forever and always.

At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Gospel Announcement
The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord

Gospel **John 14:22-31**

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, "Lord, why are you about to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered, "Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever doesn't love me doesn't keep my words. The word that you hear isn't mine. It is the word of the Father who sent me.

25 "I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. 26 The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

27 "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid. 28 You have heard me tell you, 'I'm going away and returning to you.' If you loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than me. 29 I have told you before it happens so that when it happens you will believe. 30 I won't say much more to you because this world's ruler is coming. He has nothing on me. 31 Rather, he comes so that the world will know that I love the Father and do just as the Father has commanded me. Get up. We're leaving this place.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"O Spirit of Life"*** *ELW #405*

Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.
Music: O HELIGER GEIST, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln*, 1623

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.

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.
Each petition ends with: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Darlene Sorensen, Erna Joswig Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Marie Miller, Sandy Monefeldt, Pat Quale, Estie Marnell, Tim LaPointe, Michelle Haws, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Merlin Gandrud, Chuck Julius, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

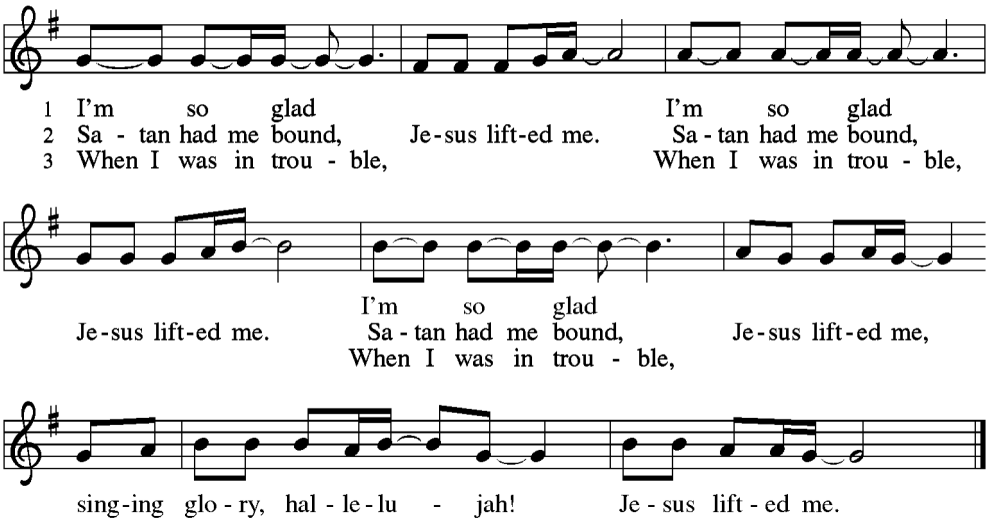
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

There are many ways to give to support Redeemer! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the left with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



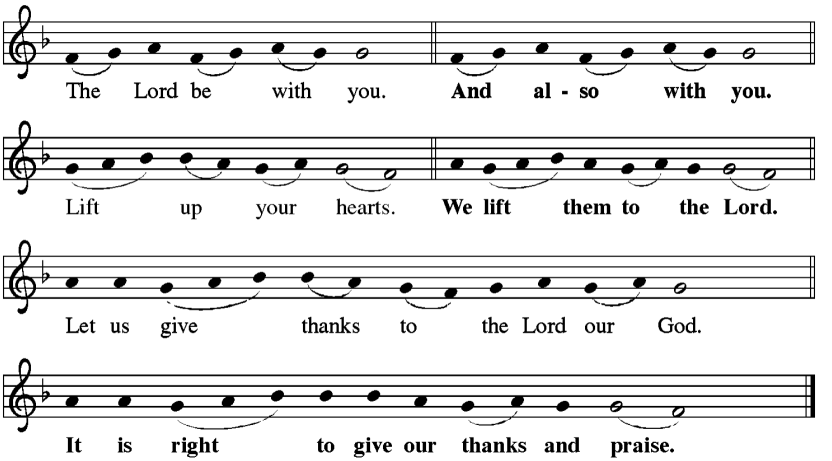
Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

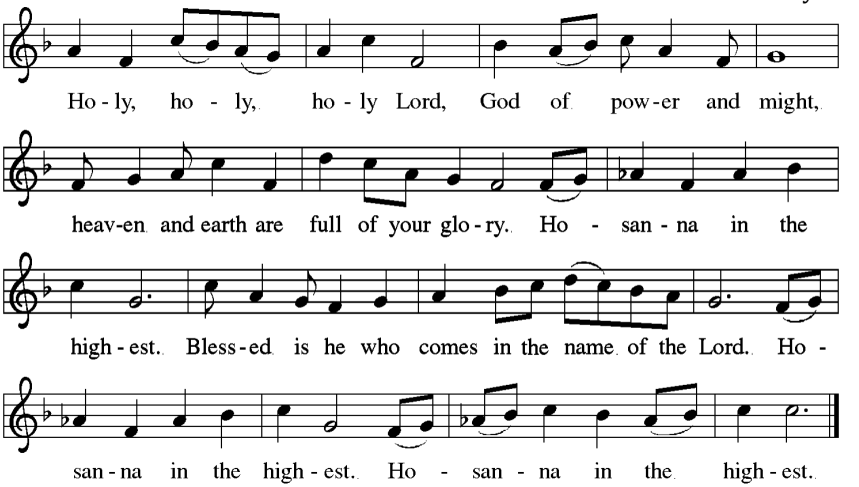
Great Thanksgiving



The Presiding Minister continues:

We lift our hearts in praise to you, God of glory,…

… So with angels and archangels we join the praises sung
forevermore in that eternal city.

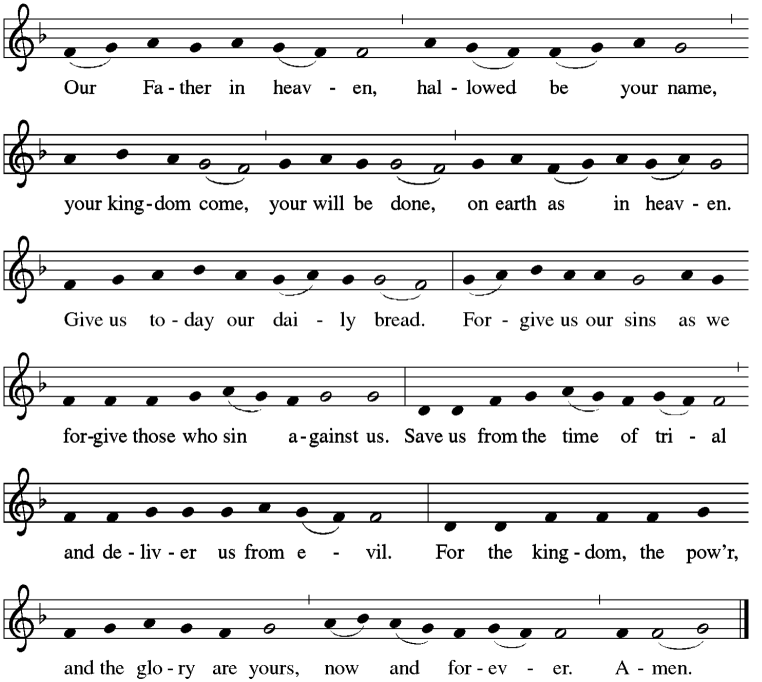


The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.
The Assembly responds when prompted:

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

The Lord's Prayer

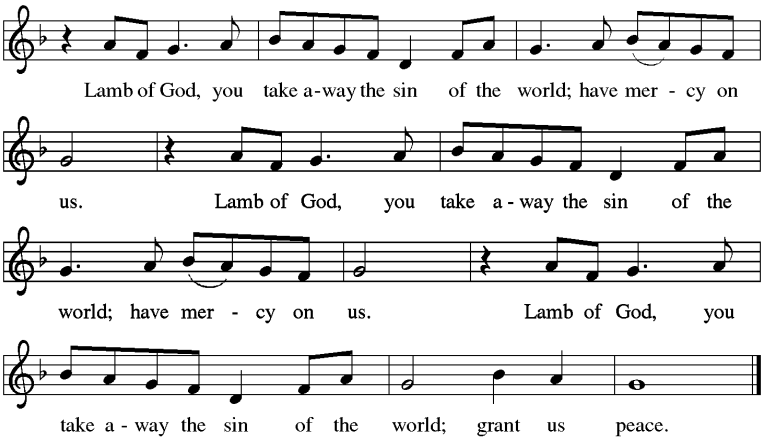


Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

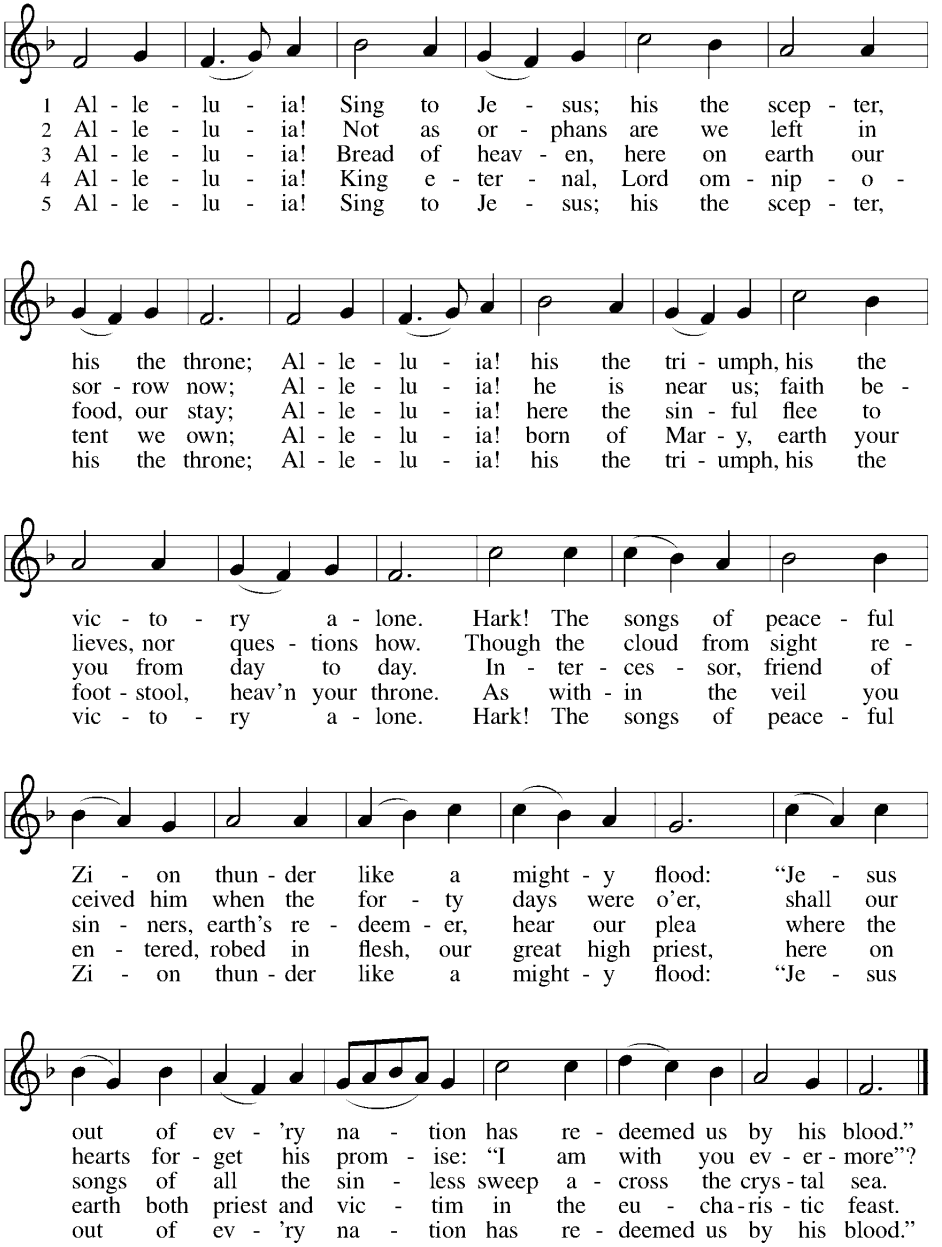
Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.



Communion Song

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" *ELW #392*



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion
Let us pray. Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing
The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"*** *ELW #377*
Words on rear page.

Dismissal
Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	John Weit & Matt James
	In Honor of Our 15th Wedding Anniversary
Usher:	Linda Bagley & Bernie Osborne
Assisting Minister:	Charles Julius
Readers:	Susan Krikau Sorensen
Altar Guild:	Jeanne Schierstedt & Susan Krkau Sorensen
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

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Sending Hymn ***"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"*** *ELW #377*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
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