



ST PAUL PINE GROVE MILLS

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY

MARCH 31, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

PRELUDE: "Trumpet Tune"

(S. Drummond Wolff)

Trumpet- Keith Kling

GATHERING

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

A: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN:** *"Hail Thee, Festival Day!"*

(ELW 394)

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;

day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.

1 All the fair beau - ty of earth from the death of the win - ter a - ris - ing!
 3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, the rul - er of earth and the heav - ens
 5 Spir - it of life and of pow'r now flow in us, fount of our be - ing,

Repeat refrain once after each stanza

Ev - 'ry good gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns:
 guard us from harm with - out; cleanse us from e - vil with - in:
 light that en - light - ens us all, life that in all may a - bide:

2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of
 4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our
 6 Praise to the giv - er of good! O Lov - er and

life and cre - a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of
 minds, great re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -
 Au - thor of con - cord, pour out your balm on our

Repeat refrain once after each stanza

death, new life you give to us all:
 preme, on - ly be - got - ten of God:
 days; or - der our ways in your peace:

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
 Music: SALVE FESTA DIES. R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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*GREETING

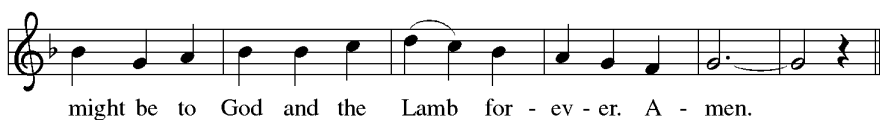
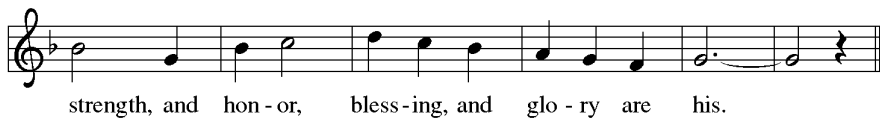
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

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**

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray, O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

ANTHEM: *"Sound the Trumpet"*

(Mark Patterson)

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 25:6-9

One of the themes of the whole book of Isaiah is the notion that God's love, and God's desire for a relationship which transcends even death, extends not simply to Israel, but to all of humanity and indeed all of creation.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

(Sung to the Tune Ellacombe ELW 361)

While this psalm fits well in the mouth of Christ, it is our song of triumph as well.



O thank the LORD, for He is good—His love en-dures al - ways.



Let those of Is- ra- el now say, “His love en- dures al - ways.



The LORD is both my strength and song; and my sal- va - tion He.



In dwell- ings of the right-eous ones is heard the joy - ous shout:

The LORD’s right hand does mighty things, salvation brings about.

The right hand of the mighty LORD is lifted up on high;

The LORD’s right hand does mighty things, and so I shall not die.

I shall not die, but live and tell His works with every breath;

The LORD has chastened me, but has not giv’n me o’er to death.

Now open unto me the gates, the gates of righteousness;

Then I will enter and give thanks, and ever the LORD bless.

This is the gate of the LORD God; the just shall enter there.

I will give thanks—You answered me and my salvation prayer.

That stone is made head cornerstone which builders did despise;

This is the doing of the LORD, and wondrous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made; rejoice exceedingly.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Some Christians in Corinth were teaching that faith in Jesus made one immortal, so that anyone in the community who died could not have been a true Christian. Paul quotes a well-known tradition about the resurrection appearances to show that some of those witnesses, obviously truly faithful, had died. And he adds his own experience of the resurrected Christ to the tradition to emphasize his authority in the matter.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

R: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Christ, our paschal lamb, [†] has been sacrificed.*

Therefore, let us [†] keep the feast.

*GOSPEL READING: MARK 16:1-8

Mark's account of the crucifixion is the most stark of the Gospel writers. Jesus had been deserted by all his followers except three women (the same ones who come to the tomb in today's reading), and he dies accusing God of abandoning him. The only hint that this execution is not defeat is the confession of the centurion in charge of it: "Truly this man was God's Son!" While different manuscripts end Mark's Gospel in a variety of ways, today's description of the empty tomb and the message for the disciples seems to be the actual end Mark intended.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the sixteenth chapter. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (ELW 367)



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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*INVITATION TO BAPTISM

*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 INTERCESSION**

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

L: 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.

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: 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. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **A: Amen.**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also, with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING

***OFFERTORY:** "O God beyond All Praising" (Verse 2)

(ELW 880)

2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—

though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.

*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

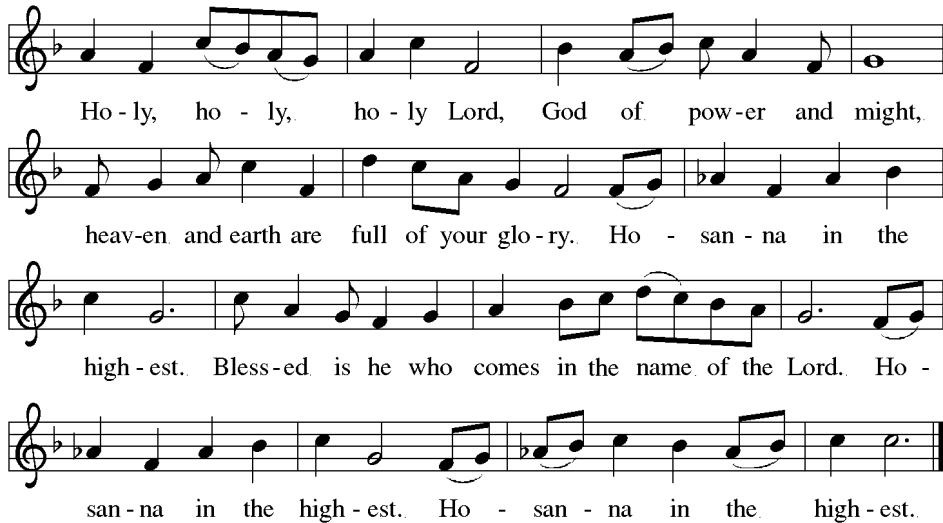
* DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was handed over,

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.

Through our remembrance we proclaim the mystery of our faith

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

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones,
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

A: Amen. Alleluia!

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus has 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.

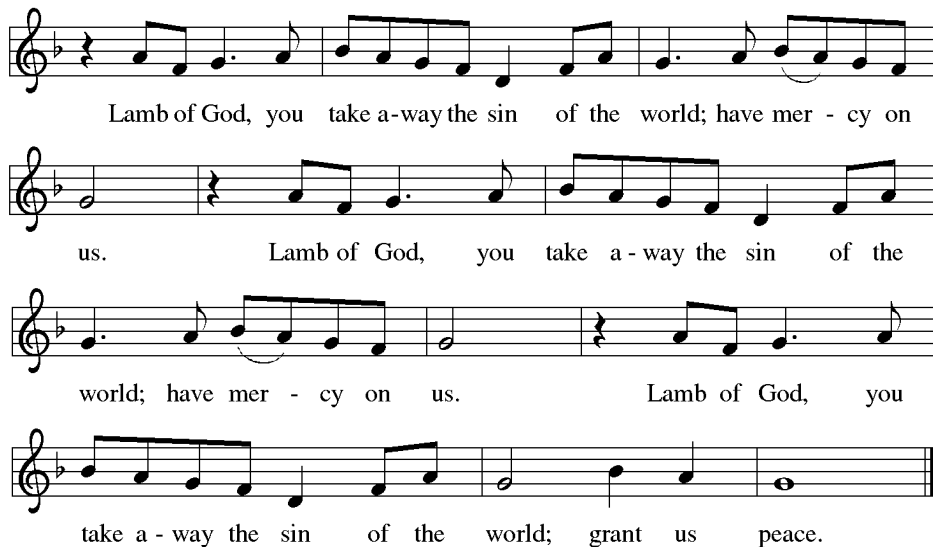
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

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

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

*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.

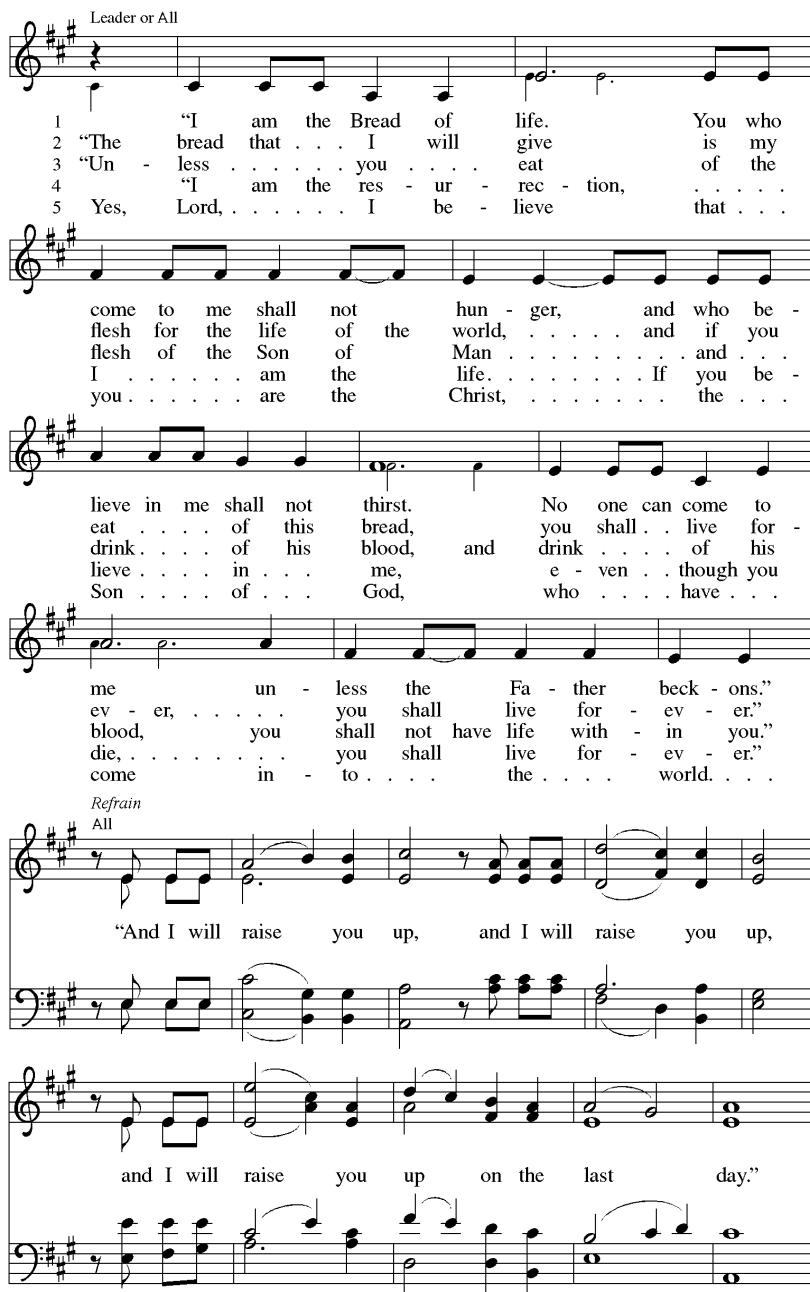
COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "I Am the Bread of Life"

(ELW 485)

Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . me, e - ven . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me ev - er, un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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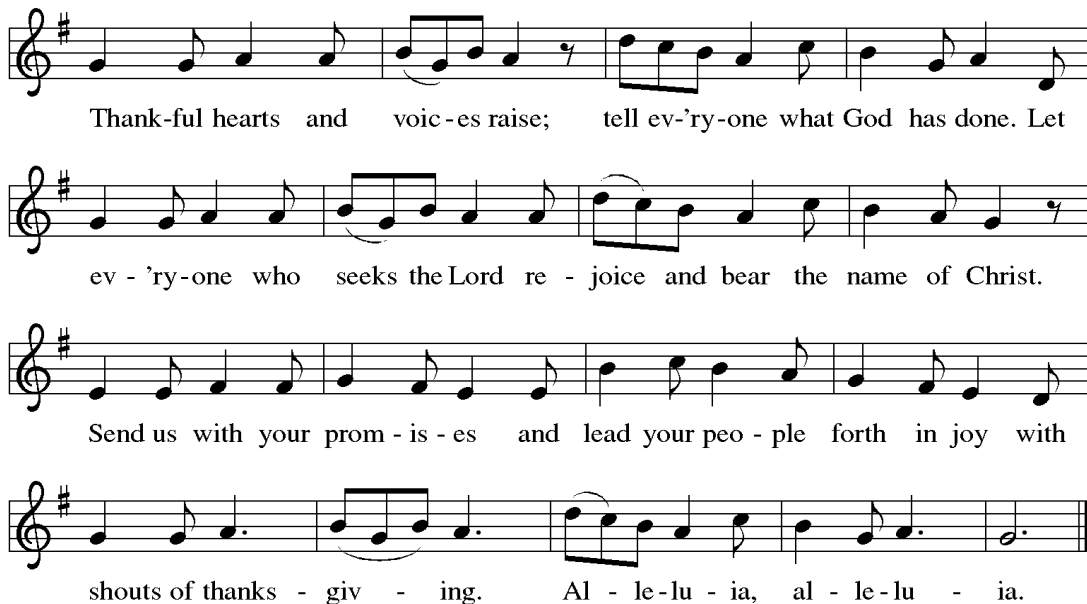
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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE – *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* (ELW 207)



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

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

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

(ELW 365)



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!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

(Jason D. Payne)



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 31

Acts 10:34-43

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8

John 20:1-18

Monday, April 1

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 45 (17)

Psalm 40:5-10 (8)

Hebrews 10:4-10

Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, April 2

Genesis 1:20—2:4a

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Wednesday, April 3

Song of Solomon 3:1-1

Mark 16:1-8

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Thursday, April 4

Daniel 1:1-21

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 133

Friday, April 5

Daniel 2:1-23

Acts 4:23-31

Psalm 133

Saturday, April 6

Daniel 2:24-49

John 12:44-50

Psalm 133



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Lauren Muthler
Musician..... Jim Rearick
Trumpet.....Keith Kling
Sacristan.....Delorse Homan
Reader.....Sydney Bennington
Communion Assistant # 1.....Eleanor Bird
Communion Assistant # 2.....Linda Govere

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity,
and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith ♡ Compassion ♡ Generosity ♡ Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
[Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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