



**Easter**

# **FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor: Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2026 — 9:30 a.m.  
*Welcome to worship, we are glad you are with us!*

## **GATHERING**



### **PRELUDE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's Day.

### **WELCOME**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

**you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us**

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

*"Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!"*

ELW 377 vs.1,4,5

# Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



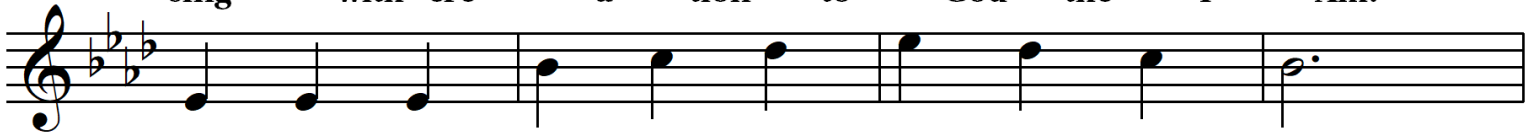
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I Am!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**The strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”* Arr. By Kevin Mcchesne

Brass Angels Bell Choir

## WORD

## READINGS

### **Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Today’s reading is the conclusion of Peter’s sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S TIME

Tyler Stewardson, Program Director, Sky Ranch

**Congregation: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the 13<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Deacon Missie Bonser, Interim Executive Director, Sky Ranch

## MUSIC WITH SKY RANCH

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Today, we welcome Mike Witmore, Pam Wilson, Amanda Fan, Gretchen Bolivar, brothers and sisters led by the Holy Spirit to join us in Mission.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the Apostle's Creed.

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

**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.**

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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.

Sisters in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

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

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

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

We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

Let us welcome these sisters in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God

**Receive our prayers**

# PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus.**  
**Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

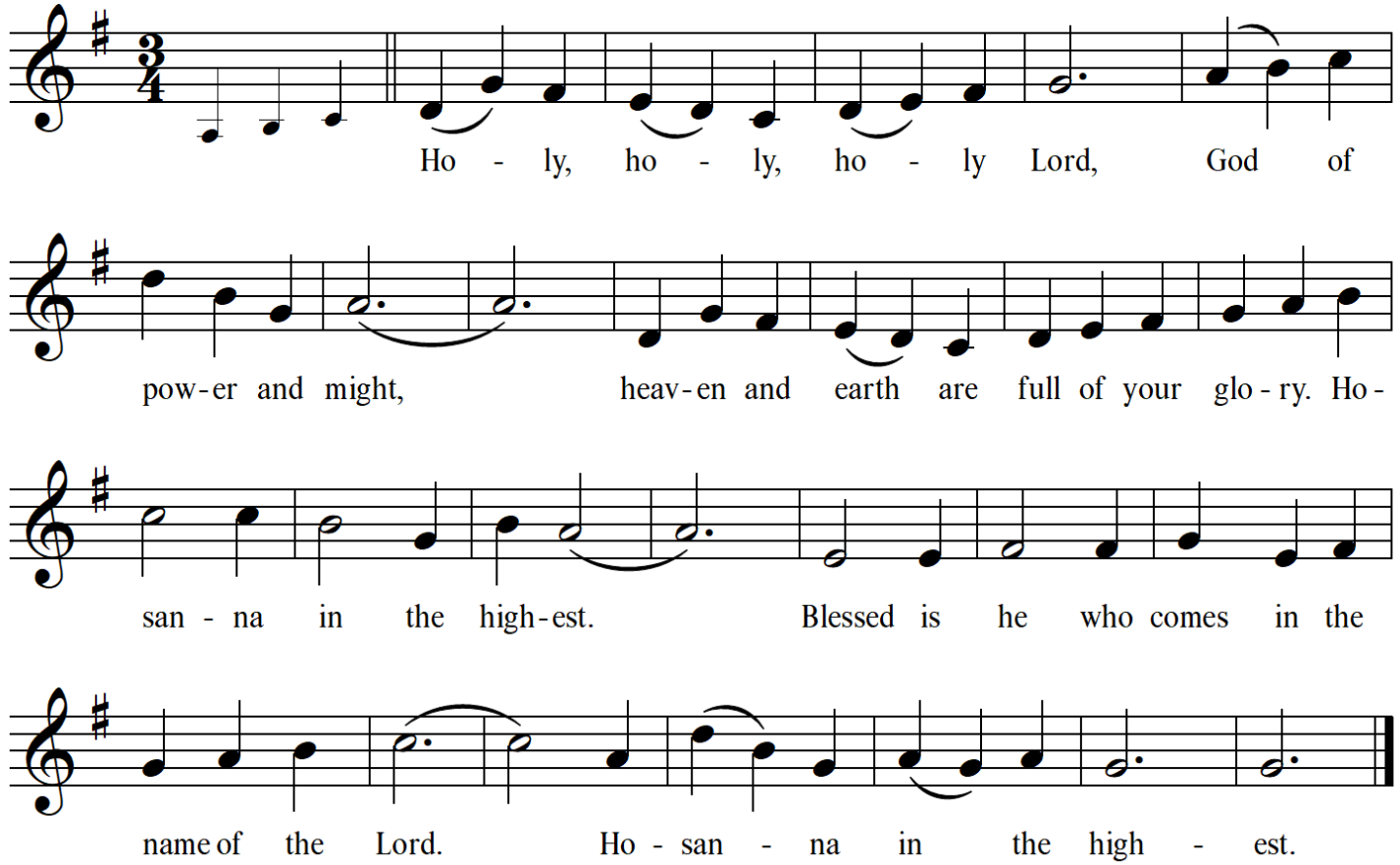
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. —

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### COMMUNION

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you," and "the blood of Christ shed for you," include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.*

# LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

*"Let Us Break Bread"*  
*"As the Grains of Wheat"*  
*"Eat This Bread"*

ELW 471  
ELW 465  
ELW 472

# Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER  
 10 10 and refrain

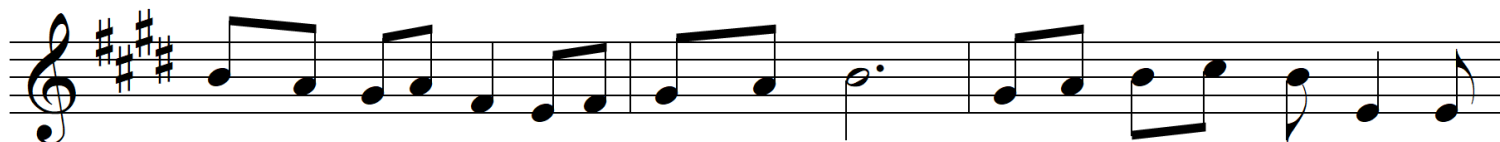
# As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

## *Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



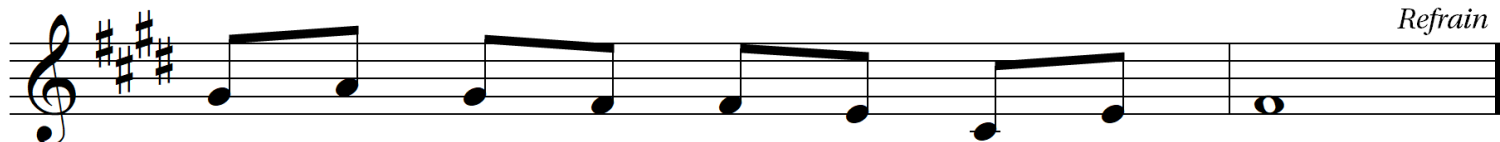
gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



## *Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Test: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931  
Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926  
Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

AS THE GRAINS  
Irregular

# Eat this Bread

ELW 472

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and eighth notes.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first. The melody in the upper staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The lower staff provides accompaniment, ending with a double bar line.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

BERHTIER  
Irregular

# COMMUNION BLESSING

# POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One,

**through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## SENDING

### TEMPLE TALK

Susan Osberg

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN

*"Earth, Earth Awake!"*

ACS 937 vs. 1,3,4

### SENDING

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### POSTLUDE

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#### WELCOME to Worship!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP, and families can sit anywhere in the sanctuary, including the chapel near the front.

A NURSERY is available downstairs across from the Choir Room for children under 5. Follow the signs.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS are available from the ushers.

ADDITIONAL PARKING is available in the Ahlberg Chapel parking lot, one-half block north of the church on Terry Street.

RESTROOMS are located on the upper level of the church, along the hallway leading to the Big Room. There are handicap accessible restrooms on the lower level near the elevator, and in the Big Room.

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services so that others may enjoy worship remotely. Please note that today's worship service is audio and video recorded for online sharing and archival purposes.

We love seeing you in worship!

Preacher: Deacon Missie Bonser

Presider: The Rev. Garrett Struessel

Worship Assistant: Deacon Korra Looschen

Children's Time Speaker: Tyler Stewardson

Council Hosts: Amy Ley  
Kayla Morelli

Ushers: Holly Keenan  
Mike Shiveley

Reader: Char Lemkee

Communion Assistants: Jeff Satur  
Shannon Satur

Organist/Pianist: Jeffrey Hartmann

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# Earth, Earth, Awake!



1 Earth, earth, a - wake! Your prais - es sing! Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 All na - ture sings of hope re - born! Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Win - ter is past; the night is gone! Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!



Greet with the dawn your ris - en King! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ lives to com - fort those who mourn! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ's light, tri - um - phant, brings the dawn! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!



Bright suns and stars, your hom - age pay! Al - le - lu - ia!  
First fruit of all the dead who sleep! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cre - a - tion spreads its spring-time bloom! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!



Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Prom - ise of joy for all who weep! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Life bursts like flame from death's cold tomb! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: STUEMPFLE, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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