

## Fourth Sunday of Easter + April 26, 2026

9:30am



**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403  
(262) 634-7998  
<https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine>



Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

*We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.*

### **GATHERING**

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

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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 Lake Michigan, the Root River, the Fox River, and all bodies of water. 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 Song

# "The Lord's My Shepherd" ELW 778

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895-1984  
 Arr. © Oxford University Press.

## 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.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God our shepherd,

**you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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

### Ezekiel 34:7-15

*We look to the example of Abraham and Sarah as a foundation of faith and trust in God's promises. God's people seek righteousness and justice, trusting that God's salvation and everlasting covenant will bring comfort and enduring hope. The passage emphasizes that God's word and salvation are eternal, transcending the heavens and earth.*

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>8</sup> As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, <sup>9</sup> therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord God: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing

land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

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

## **Psalm 100**

*We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (Ps. 100:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence | with a song.

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;  
we are God's people and the sheep | of God's pasture.**

<sup>4</sup> Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise;  
give thanks and bless God's | holy name.

<sup>5</sup> **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly.

<sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

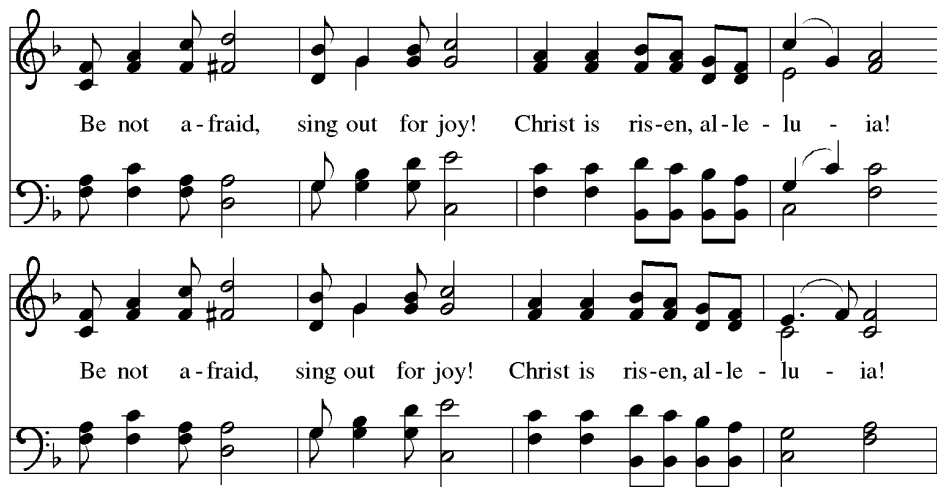
<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

## Gospel Acclamation



Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The vocal line features a melody that starts on a half note, followed by quarter notes, and ends with a long note. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

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## Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel

**John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

## "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW #789



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

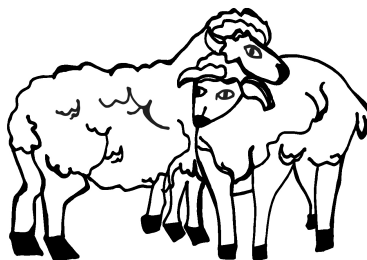


Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



## 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.**

*\*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:*

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, William Schultz Jr., Bonnie Ayers, John Falk, Carmen Falk, Mario Miranda, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen.

## 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



*Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! 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 right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website ([www.racinelcredeemer.com](http://www.racinelcredeemer.com)). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! **Thank you for your generosity!***

### Offering Song



4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be - to the  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

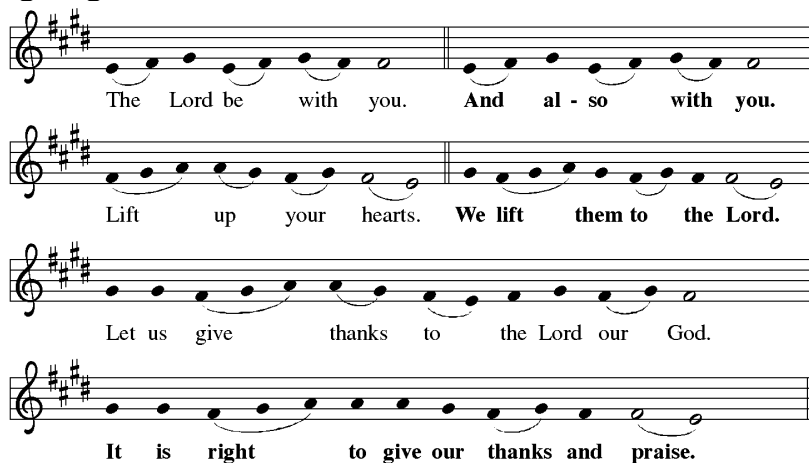
Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### 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.**

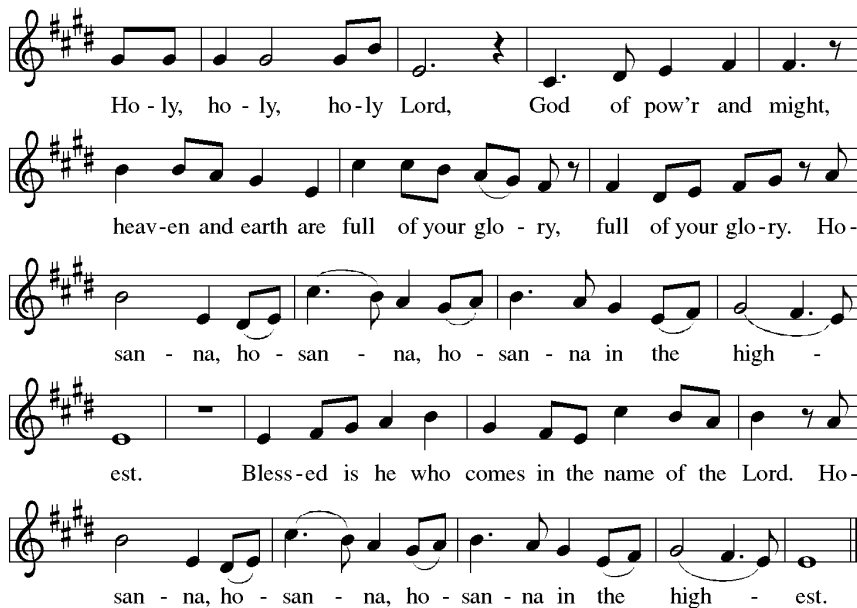
## Great Thanksgiving



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...

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Presiding Minister continues, the Assembly responds when prompted:*

... We praise you, O God.

**We praise you, O God.**

... We bless you, O God.

## **We bless you, O God.**

... We thank you, O God.

## **We thank you, O God.**

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

*The prayer concludes: Amen.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

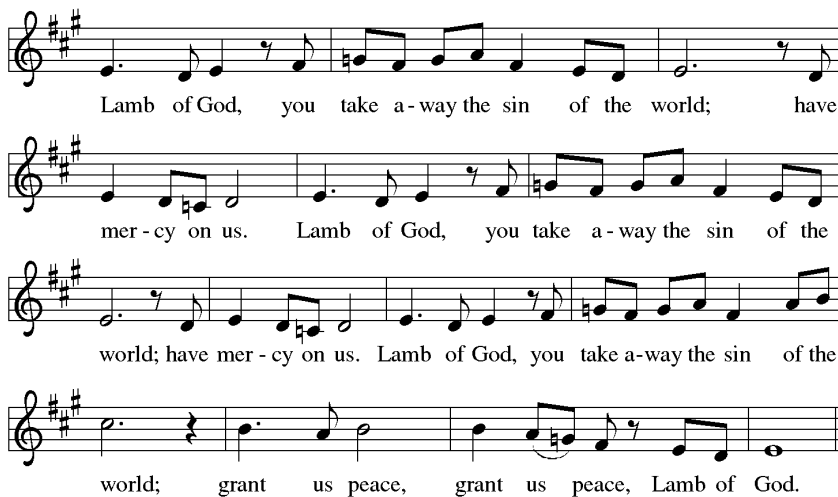
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## **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.*



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, Lamb of God.

## Communion Song

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" ELW #484*

*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,



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.  
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.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997  
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996  
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

## Table Blessing

### Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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

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

### Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

## "Praise the Lord, Rise Up, Rejoicing" ELW #544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.  
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.  
Text © Oxford University Press.

## Announcements

### Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Live the Good News!

**Thanks be to God.**



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**Serving Today**

**Altar Flowers:** Matt James  
*In Thanksgiving for the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of My Ordination*

**Assisting Minister:** Damian Cook

**Reader:** Susan Krikau Sorensen

**Usher:** Linda Bagley

**Altar Guild:** Jeanne Schierstedt & Jane Wilson

**Musician:** Paul Berge

**Pastor:** The Rev. Matt James

**This Week @ Redeemer**

**Monday:** GriefShare – 10-11:30am

**Wednesday:** Bible Study – 1:30pm

**Sunday:** Worship – 9:30am

**Celebrations this Week**

**Birthday:** Bonnie Ayers (4/29)

**Wedding Anniversary:** Stephanie & Dan Mercier (4/27)

**Texts for Next Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 119:25-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14



Neighborhood Camp has been a lifeline for kids in Racine’s urban neighborhoods for 27 years. Rising costs threaten our ability to stay free. Your gift goes directly to the camp and impacts children’s lives for years to come.



*Help the kids!*