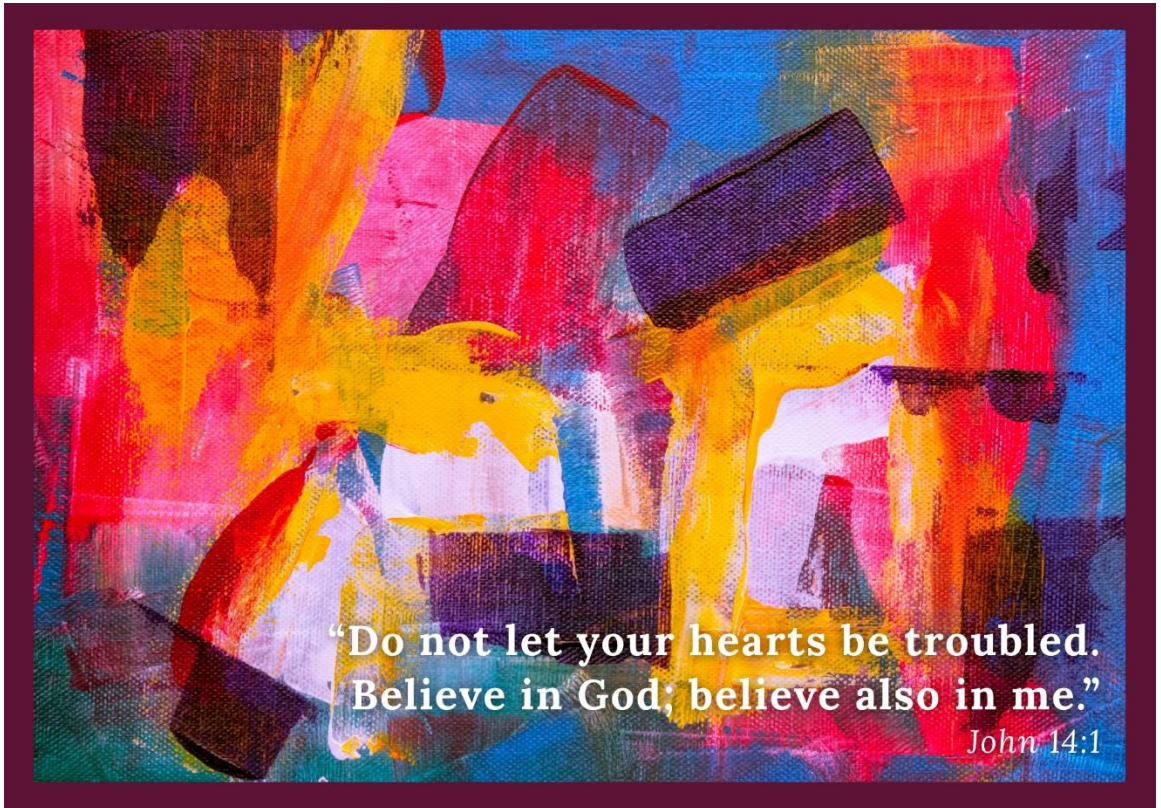


Order of Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33801
863-686-5585

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Pastor
Email: pastor@gracelakeland.com
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INTRODUCTION As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The King of Love My Sheperd Is* Harry Rowe Shelley
Ben Ruby, baritone Gene Hodges, tenor

*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 gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

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, including our beautiful local lakes.

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.**



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents and godparents present the candidate:

We present Isabella for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents and godparents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Isabella baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

As you bring Isabella to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the Word of God and the Holy Supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Jalen and Karla, do you promise to help Isabella grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses godparents:

Amanda and Devon, do you promise to nurture Isabella in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Isabella and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

***Profession Of Faith**

The presiding minister addresses the full assembly:

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

****Three Renunciation Questions***

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

We renounce them.

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

We renounce them.

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

We 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.**

***BAPTISM OF ISABELLA SHEA HARMONY BANKS**

Isabella, I baptize you

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God: **the source of all life,
the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister pray:

Sustain Isabella with 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.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Isabella, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized as assisting minister says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Ministers and baptismal group face the assembly.

Assisting minister leads the assembly in the welcome.

***APOSTOLIC 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.

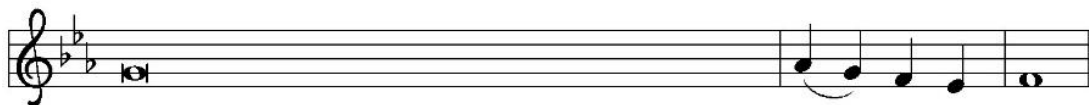
*** KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



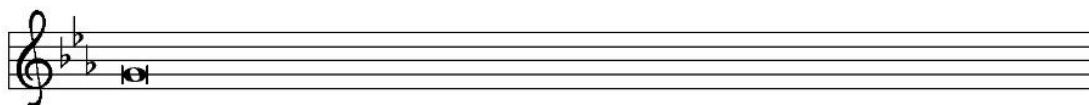
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

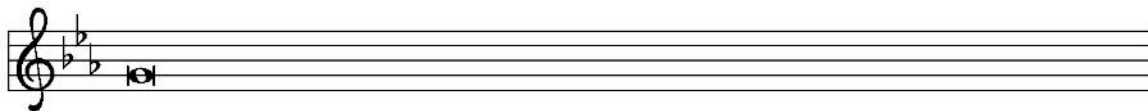


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

(Continued on next page)



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

(Verses on next page)



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Proverbs 4:10-18

- ¹⁰ Hear, my child, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
- ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.
- ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:25-32 *(We will read the Psalm responsively by whole verse.)*

- ²⁵ My soul cleaves to the dust;
give me life according to your word.
- ²⁶ **I have recounted my ways, and you answered me;
instruct me in your statutes.**
- ²⁷ Make me understand the way of your commandments,
that I may meditate on your marvelous works.
- ²⁸ **My soul melts away from sorrow;**

sustain me according to your word.

²⁹ Take from me the way of lying;
let me find grace through your teaching.

³⁰ **I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I have set your judgments before me.**

³¹ I hold fast to your decrees;
O Lord, do not put me to shame.

³² **I will run the way of your commandments,
for you increase my heart's capacity.**

SECOND READING:

1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and
“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

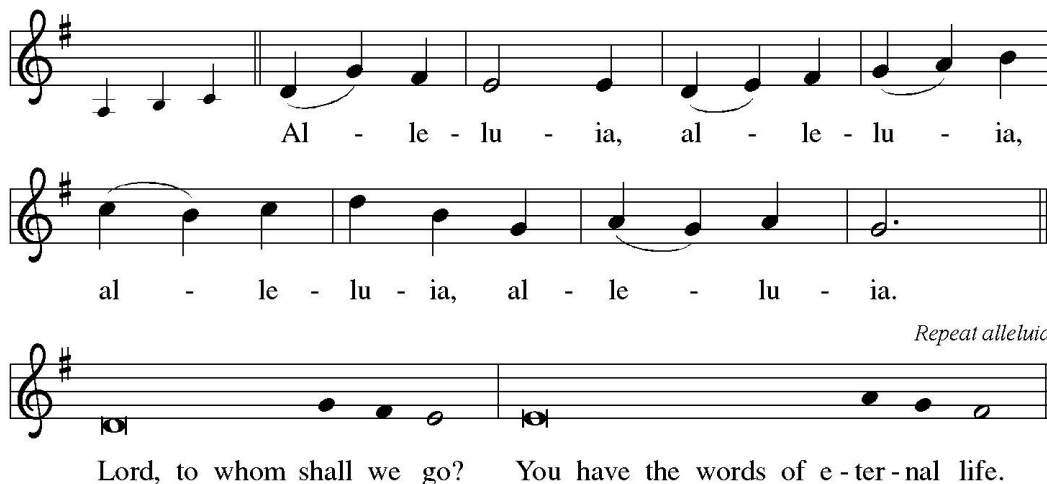
¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

***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:**

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the

Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Silence is kept for reflection.



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Inspire us to protect your creation from pollution and climate change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, bring an end to war and genocide around the world. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Inspire us to work towards an end to gun violence and a world of safety and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of healing, you comfort those who are sick, console those who grieve, provide for those in need, and soothe those in distress, *especially Mary, Barbara, Mabel, Doris, June, Willah, Ann, Julie, Christen, Carol, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Brian, James & Gray, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Avery, Dean, John, Abby, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Sue, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, and Max.* Encourage caregivers with compassion and stamina to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of union, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, you have come to be with your people, and made space in yourself so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your love in their words and actions, especially Anne Guilford. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

GRATITUDE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Celtic Prayer

Cabanis

***OFFERING SONG**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 181



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the



brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



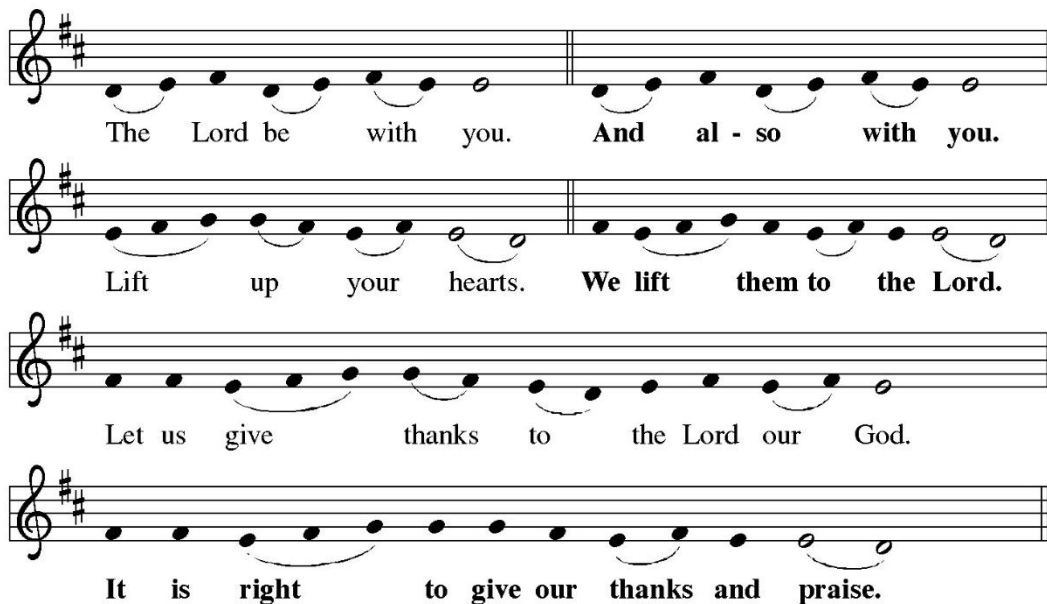
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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

DIALOGUE



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

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

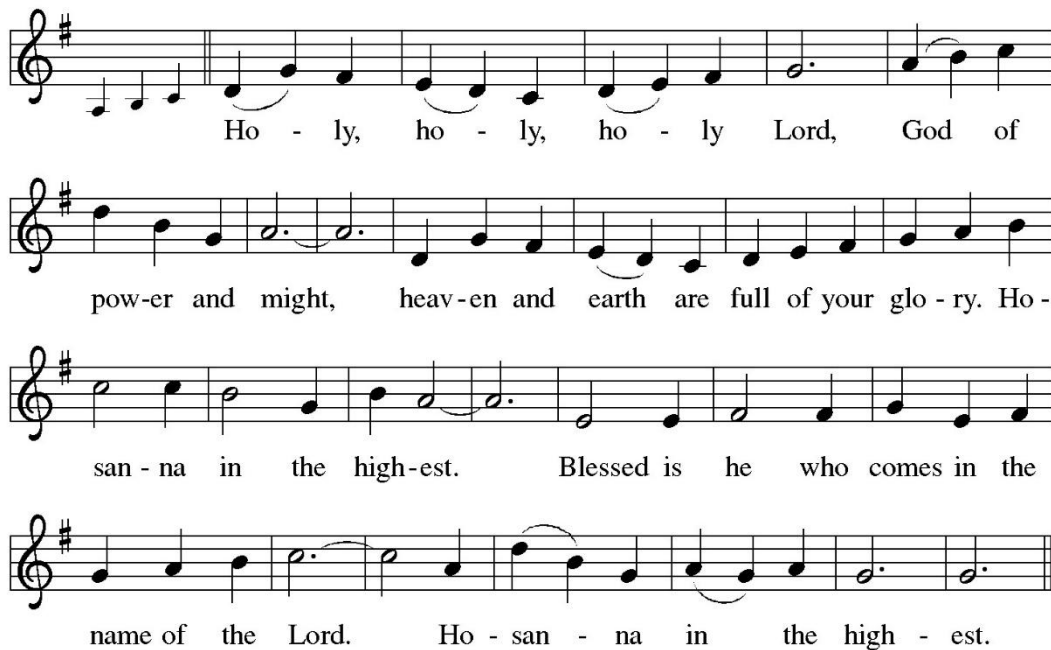
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

*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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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.
Thanks be to God.

All baptized children of God are invited to the Lord's Table, where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We partake at the communion rail; gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and we will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Anyone may remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer, following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



In This Feast of Love

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*

1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä *syn - ti - sil - le*

feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, *Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!*

blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Here Is Bread



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.**

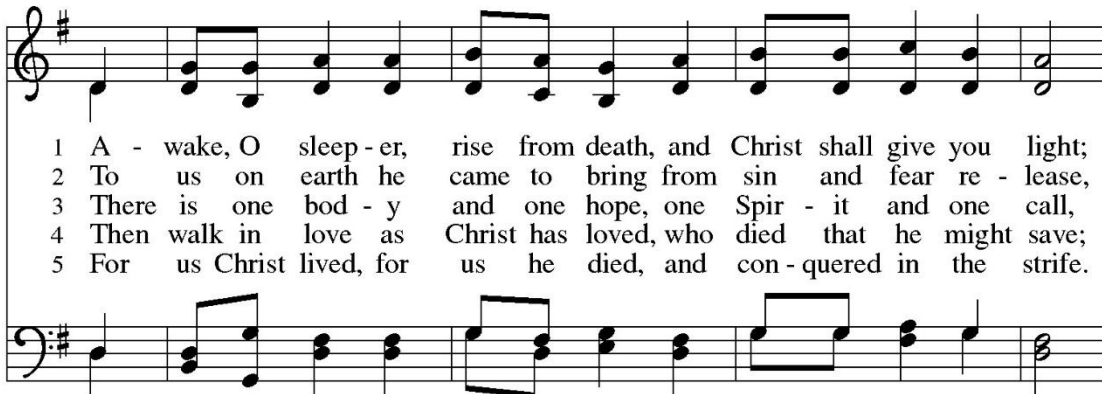
**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.**

In the name of Jesus our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

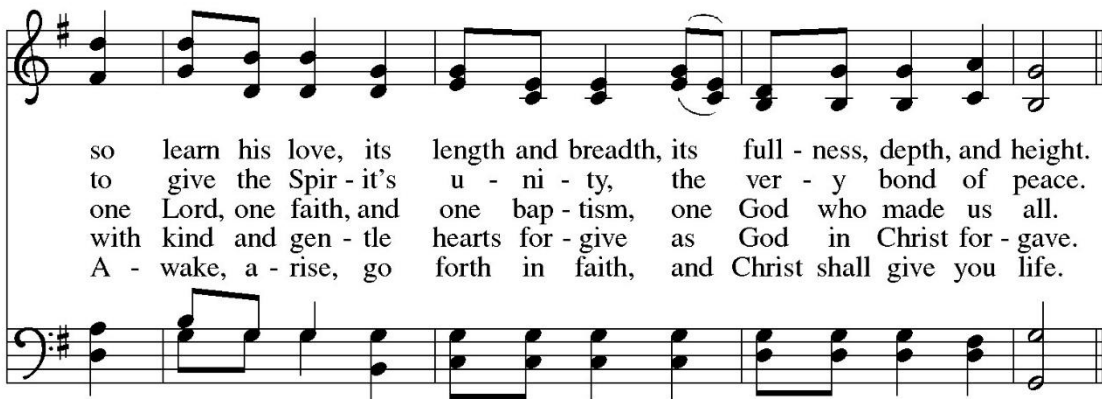
***SENDING HYMN**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

ELW 452



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

***BENEDICTION**

God the Creator, the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and guide,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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