

April 19, 2025



Pastor: The Reverend Paul A. Miller

Phone: 201-261-0420

Email: church@cosparamus.org

Website: www.churchofthesavior-lutheran.org



This service marks the culmination and height of the sacred Triduum ("three days") of the Church Year. Tonight, we experience with all our senses the redemption of all people by Jesus Christ. We move from darkness to light, mourning to rejoicing, and death to life, as we "keep vigil" for the return of our Lord in all His resurrected and ascended glory. This is the first service of the Resurrection of Jesus. May the joy of Christ be yours tonight and always.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

C: And also with you.

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory. If it has not been buring, the new fire is burning before praying.

Let us pray,

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The presiding minister may trace the inscription on the paschal candle, which is held by an assisting minister.

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. During or after the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted.

As the procession begins, the assisting minister sings:

P: The light of Christ. **C: Thanks be to God.**



The procession continues, stopping at midpoint. The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle and sings on a higher tone:

P: The light of Christ. **C: Thanks be to God.**



The procession continues. The assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings on a still higher tone:

P: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The paschal candle is placed in its stand.



EASTER PROCLAMATION

An assisting minister sings the Easter proclamation. Congregation stands

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Easter Proclamation









PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day. Let us pray.

P: In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Let us listen to the history of our salvation with ears and hearts opened by the Spirit of God.

C: Amen

The assembly is seated. Handheld candles extinguished

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.

WORD

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:3

Creation

Bottom ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

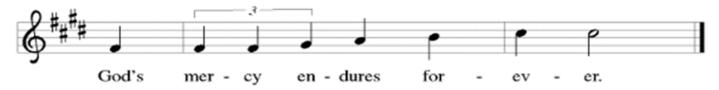
²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

^{2:3}So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.



Psalm 136:1
Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalter for Worship Year C © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Response:

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

- ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ³O give thanks to the LORD of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁴who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁵who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁶who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁷who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁸the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²⁴and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- ²⁵who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²⁶O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Prayer

A: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Exodus 14:26-30; 15:20-21

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

^{15:20}Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.

Response:

Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18

- ^{1b} "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
- ²The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
- ³The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.
- ⁴"Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
- ⁵The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.
- ⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
- ⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.
- ⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.
- ⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'
- ¹⁰You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.
- ¹¹"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?
- ¹²You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.
- ¹³"In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
- ¹⁷You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O LORD, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.
- ¹⁸The LORD will reign forever and ever."

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.

Prayer

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Isaiah 55:1-3,6-9

Salvation Freely offered to all

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People:: Thanks Be to God.

Response:

Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

Daniel 3:1-29

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they

are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.

Response

Song of the Three 35–65

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; you heavens, bless the Lord; all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You sun and moon, bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, bless the Lord; you rain and dew, bless the Lord.

You winds of God, bless the Lord; you fire and heat, bless the Lord; you winter and summer, bless the Lord.

You dews and falling snow, bless the Lord; you frost and cold, bless the Lord; you ice and snow, bless the Lord.

You nights and days, bless the Lord; you light and darkness, bless the Lord; you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.

Let the earth bless the Lord; you mountains and hills, bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord. You wells and springs, bless the Lord; you seas and rivers, bless the Lord; you whales and all that swim in the waters, bless the Lord.

All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; all you wild animals and cattle, bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, bless the Lord.

You people of God, bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.

You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord; you holy and humble in heart, bless the Lord; let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.

HYMN: Ain't No Grave, William Vollinger

John 20:1-18

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord

out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord;" and she told them that he had said these things to her.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY - Pastor Paul

CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE 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.

ALL: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

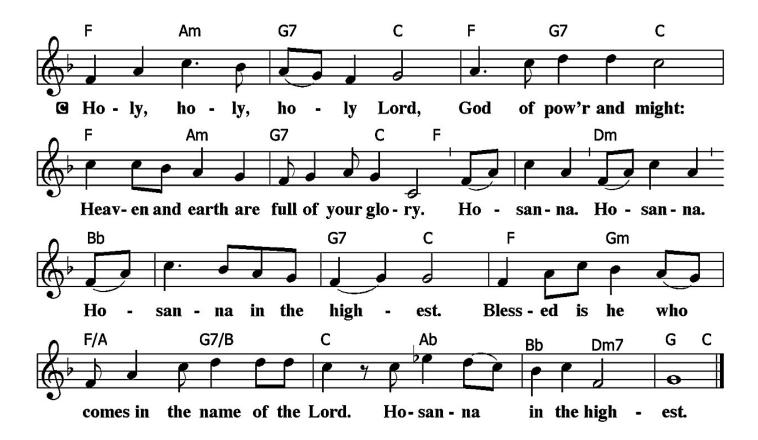
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

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



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

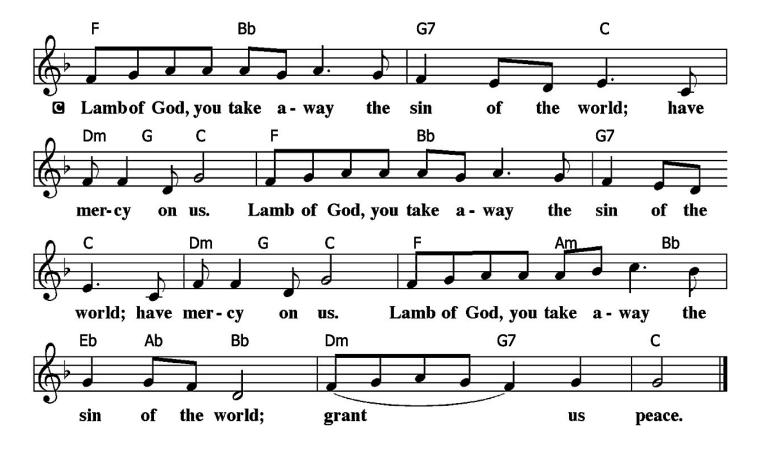
....proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: Amen

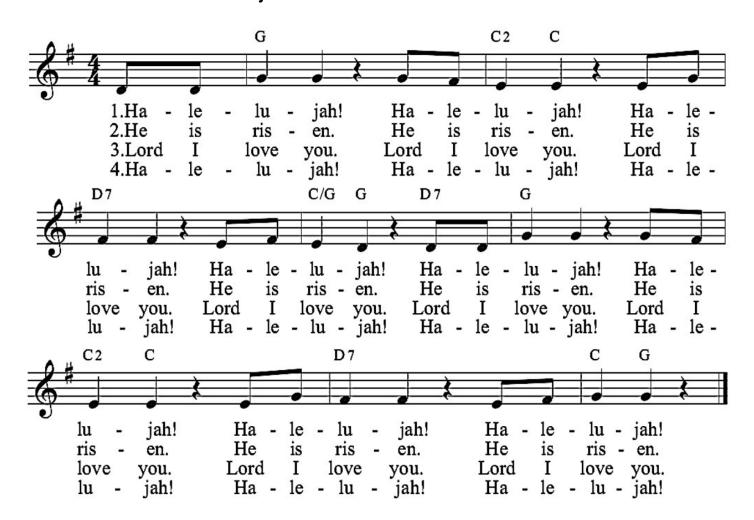
THE LORD'S PRAYER



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION



COMMUNION HYMN: Hallelujah



COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**

SENDING

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope \oplus bless you now and always. **Amen.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN: The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done



DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Text: Symphonia Strenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889