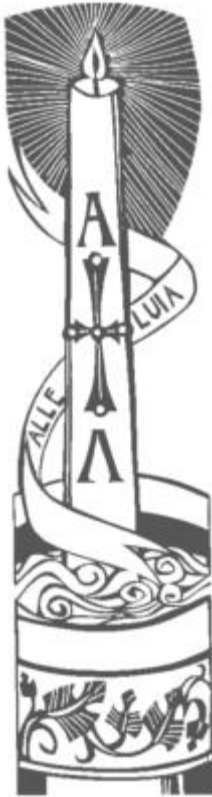


**THE VIGIL OF EASTER
MARCH 30, 2024**

**THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
EPHRATA, PA**

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THIS NIGHT ABOVE ALL NIGHTS OF THE CHURCH YEAR IS FILLED WITH MYSTERY AND POWER. IT HAS BEEN THE NIGHT FOR CENTURIES ON WHICH NEW INITIATES WERE BAPTIZED INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH. THEY LEFT THE WATER OF THE POOL AND RECEIVED THEIR NEW WHITE GARMENTS AS THEY ENTERED THEIR FIRST LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION. THE CRY, "HE IS RISEN!" WAS HEARD AS THE SUN ROSE AND THE HYMNS OF EASTER RANG OUT IN CELEBRATION.

IT IS A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER NIGHT. THIS NIGHT SAW THE GRAVE OPEN AND THE CRUCIFIED ONE RAISED. THE DEBT OF ADAM IS PAID. A LIGHT BURNS THAT NO DARKNESS CAN OVERCOME.

WE GATHER TO BATHE IN THAT LIGHT AND ALL THE SYMBOLS THAT SURROUND IT. WE LIGHT THE FIRE AND THEN THE CANDLE. WE WILL READ LESSONS THAT TELL THE STORY OF GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS ON OUR BEHALF. WE WILL ALL BE REMINDED OF OUR OWN BAPTISM. AS WE ALL RISE FROM THE WATER, THE FIRST CRY OF OUR EASTER CELEBRATION WILL BE HEARD AND THE FIRST MEAL WITH THE RISEN ONE SHARED.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO JOIN US IN THE VIGIL. IT IS THE FINAL PART OF THE GREAT TRIDUUM AND THE FIRST PART OF THE EASTER LITURGY. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

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 celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

+ The Service of Light +

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

A new fire is set and a small candle lighted.

P. 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

SONG FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRE



For - ev - er faith - ful!

P. Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

C. Amen

The Paschal Candle is lit.

P. May the light of Christ, rising in glory this night, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

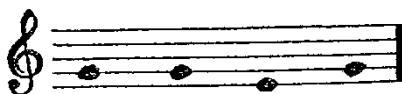
P. Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this Paschal candle, so that all who share this night in your mysteries may be filled with your grace and heavenly blessing, that as we were in darkness but are now in the light of the Lord, we may walk as children of the light; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen

+The Procession+

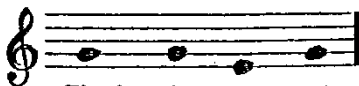
The candle is lifted and the following is sung.

A:



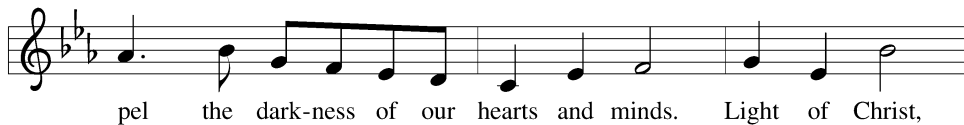
The Light of Christ!

C:



Thanks be To God!

CELEBRATION RESPONSE



Text: Zebulon M. Highben, based on Vigil texts

Music: Zebulon M. Highben

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SHARE THE LIGHT

[The candle bearer will stand by the Baptismal Font. The acclamation will be sung for a second time, and the light of the Paschal Candle will be passed by the Acolytes to the congregation. Please pass the light to those around you.]

When all the candles are lighted, the procession will move into the Nave. Please fill the pews from the front to the back.

The acclamation is sung the third time. Follow along as the ancient Exsultet is sung. This ancient Easter Proclamation welcomes this night, the light it brings, and sets the stage for the readings that are to follow.]

+The Easter Proclamation - The Exsultet+

A. Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever. Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

A. Musical notation for the first line of the Exsultet. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is a simple sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "The Lord be with you." are written below the staff.

The Lord be with you.

C. Musical notation for the second line of the Exsultet. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "And al - so with you." are written below the staff.

And al - so with you.

A. Musical notation for the third line of the Exsultet. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." are written below the staff.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. Musical notation for the fourth line of the Exsultet. It consists of a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is a sequence of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." are written below the staff.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

A. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy. This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry shod, through the sea. This is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour in which Christ arose again from hell! This is the night of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day," and "then shall my night be turned into day." The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride. Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, reflected in the burning of this candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed. This is the night in which heaven and earth are joined things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O God, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men

*Candles are extinguished
Please be seated*

+The Service of Readings+

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1:1 -2:2

Silence for reflection.

“When Long before Time”



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

P. Let us pray. 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

THE SECOND LESSON: Exodus 14:10-31

Silence for reflection

“When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” (stanzas 1, 4,5,6)



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.
a fire by night, a shade by day,
at God's com - mand it did di - vide,



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

5 When they had reached the other shore,
let my people go;
they sang the song of triumph o'er,
let my people go. *Refrain*

6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. *Refrain*

P. Let us pray. 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.

C. Amen

THE THIRD LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Silence for reflection

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love all that you love
and do what you would do.
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

P. Let us pray. Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen

THE FOURTH LESSON: Daniel 3:1-29

Silence for reflection

“Earth and All Stars!” (stanzas 1, 2, 5)



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

P. Let us pray. 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.

C. Amen

+Holy Baptism+

Please turn and face the Baptismal Font

HYMN #448 THIS IS THE SPIRIT'S ENTRY NOW

The Liturgy for Holy Baptism

Presentation for Baptism

P. In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P. Dylan Thomas, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidate responds: I do.

P. People of God, do you promise to support Dylan Thomas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C. We do.

Profession of Faith

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

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

C. I renounce them.

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

C. I renounce them.

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

C. I renounce them.

P. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C. 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.

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C. 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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor

and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen

BAPTISM

P. Dylan Thomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. 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. Sustain Dylan Thomas 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.

C. Amen

P. Dylan Thomas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C. Amen

WELCOME

P. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P. Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

+Holy Communion+

P. Christ is risen!

C. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn #449 WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED

[During the hymn the procession returns to the chancel.]

The Prayer of the Day

P. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

The Gospel Lesson:

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel reading: John 20:1-18

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Mark Luscombe

The Offering: *Now the Green Blade Rises*, Shirley W. McRae

The Offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your



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

The Offertory Prayer:

P. Generous God,

C. 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

The Preface Dialogue:

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

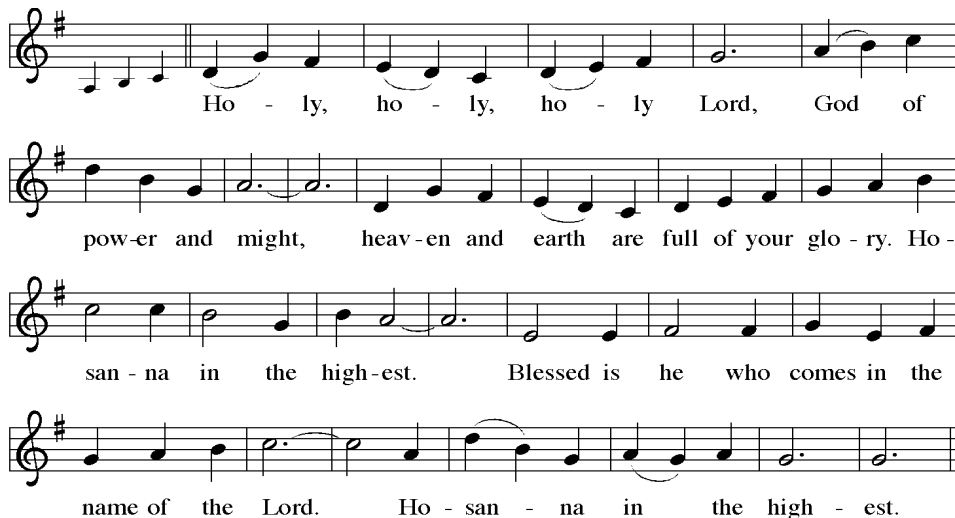
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Easter Proper Preface:

P. 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 Lord, 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:

The Sanctus:



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

Eucharist Prayer:

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others. In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

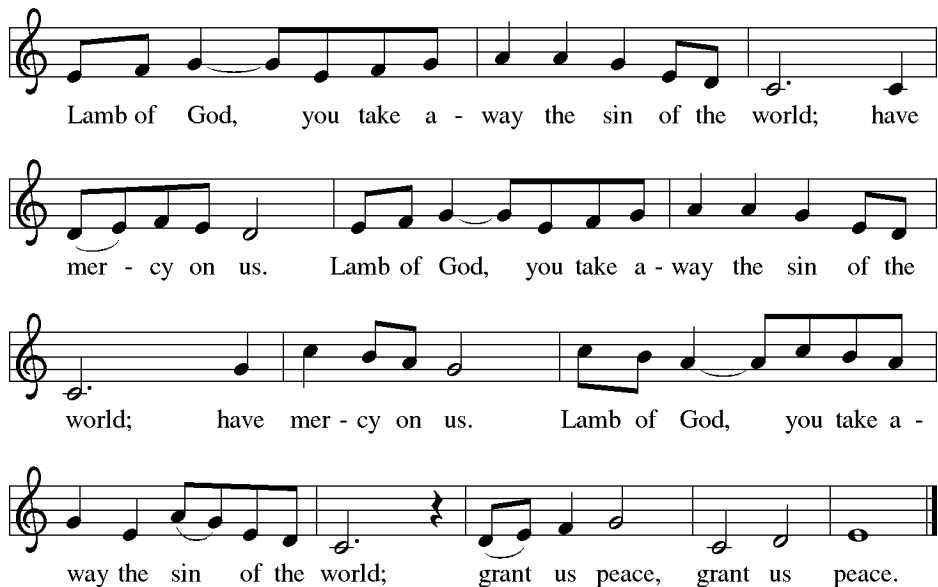
C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

The Fraction:

P. Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C. Thanks be to God!

The Agnus Dei: 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.

Please be seated

Hymns for the Distribution: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, give praise to his name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
 4 God has pro - claimed the just re - ward;
 5 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

he is the king of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 now we shall live . . . for - ev - er.
 life for all peo - ple, al - le - lu - ia.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

#451 WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

#385 GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE AND SING!

#543 GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

The Blessing of Communicants:

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen

The Post-Communion Prayer:

A. Gracious God,

C. 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

The Benediction:

P. The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C. Amen

The Recessional Hymn: #376 THINE IS THE GLORY

The Dismissal:

A. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A. Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C. Thanks be to God!

The Postlude: *Thine Is the Glory*, arr. by Donald Johns

**EASTER SUNDAY:
THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION
HOLY COMMUNION – 9:00 A.M.**

THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:

Pastor	The Rev. Mark Luscombe
Organist	Donna Nace
Director of Sr. Choir	Deb Olson
Assisting Minister	Ed Quirke
Lector	Deb Olson, Allen Nace, Lisa Garrett, Gary Nace
Acolytes	Anya Gilbert, Natalie Mull, Clarice Doughty, Matthew Sheaffer
Ushers	Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker
Council Team	Bill Spitzer, Barry Kreider
Altar Guild	Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan, Ann & Bob Snader
AV	Live Stream
Launder Linen	Patrice Mull

