

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 7, 2024
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Introduction

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Sharing Joy

"Thank you for sharing our joy," said the parents of the bride to the wedding guests. This simple message sums up the reason we gather with loved ones to celebrate the best moments of our lives. When we share our joy, it multiplies.

When the disciples were gathered in a locked room, the appearance of the risen Jesus transformed their fear into joy. On the evening of the resurrection, all the disciples except Thomas were together. They got to see Jesus standing among them, and they rejoiced! Immediately, Jesus gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. He also sent them out to continue his work in the world, including the forgiveness of sins.

With that commissioning, Jesus channeled the disciples' joy into a sense of belonging and purpose. Now they were no longer afraid or isolated. Jesus was alive. Everything had changed! Their risen Lord made them into a new community. But Thomas wasn't there when Jesus first stood among them, and he couldn't grasp the good news. He saw the joy radiating from the other disciples' faces, but he didn't share it.

As a gift of grace, Jesus appeared again and brought Thomas into the new community. He let the skeptical disciple see and touch the wounds on his body. By doing so, Jesus extended the joy and sense of belonging that the others had experienced to Thomas, who responded with joy, "My Lord and my God!"

As disciples of Jesus, we belong to the same resurrection community that our risen Lord created that first Easter evening. We get to share our joy in the promise of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with those around us. Our believing and sense of belonging fortify each other. As today's reading from 1 John declares, when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and carry out God's work in the world together, our joy is made complete.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pr. Jamie Vannoy

** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

You lived. You died.
You said in three days you would rise.
You did. You're alive.

(Music Ministers / **All**)

You rule. You reign.
You said you're coming back again.
I know that you will,
And all the earth will sing your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.

Interlude

(Verse - Music Ministers)

You took, you take our sins away, O God;
You give, you gave your life away for us.
You came down, you saved us through the cross;
Our hearts are changed because of your great love.

(Refrain - **All**)

**You lived. You died.
You said in three days you would rise.
You did. You're alive.**

You rule. You reign.

**You said you're coming back again.
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All the earth will sing your praises.
All the earth will sing your praises.**

**** 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**

Assistant Minister

Assisting minister:

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...

Congregation:



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Assisting minister:

**For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world;
for the unity of all, let us pray to the...**

Congregation:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assisting minister:

**For your people here, who have come to give you praise;
for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the...**

Congregation:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Assisting minister:

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Congregation:



A - - - men.

** CANTICLE OF PRAISE

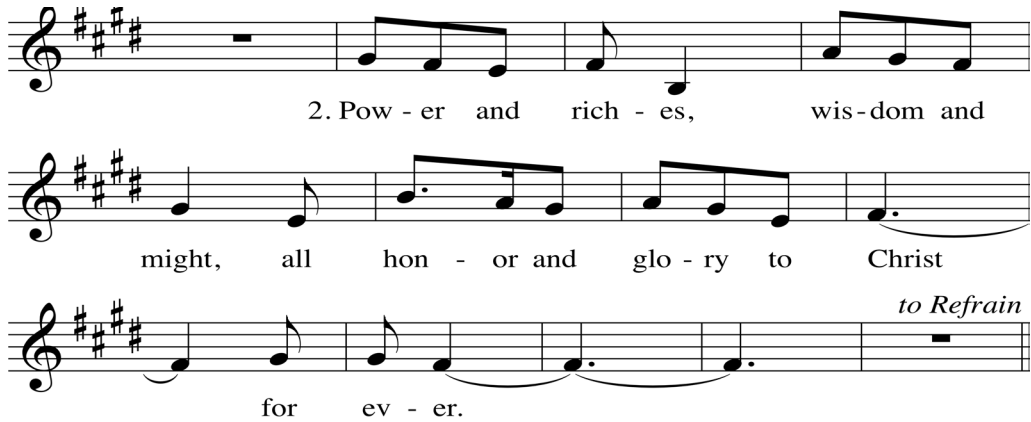
Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

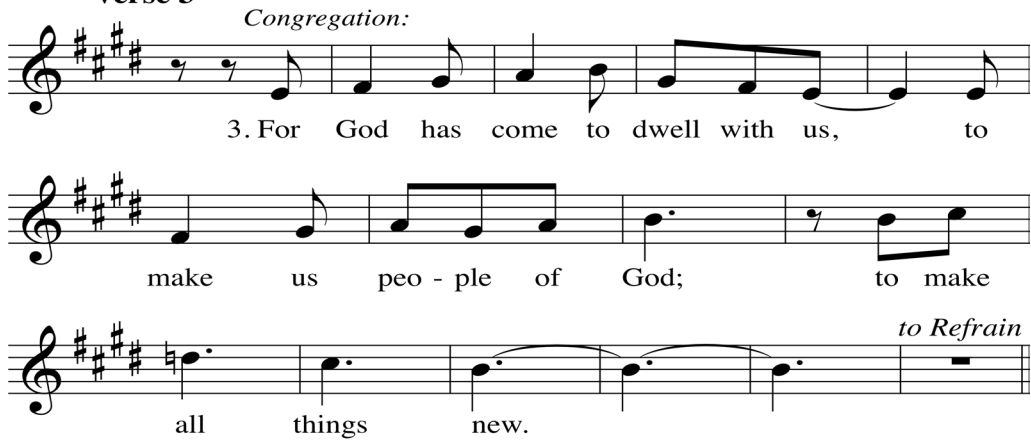
Verse 2



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
to Refrain
for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
to Refrain
all things new.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

A reading from the book of Acts.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

*How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!*

**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

A reading from the book of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

**** GOSPEL****John 20:19-31**

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE**MESSAGE**

Pr. Jamie Vannoy

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

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.
 9 On this most ho - ly day of days,

with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way
 who sits and speaks un - to the three,
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,
 be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:

to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
 and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

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

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard, 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 that they had seen the risen Lord, he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 he doubted the disciples' word. "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see, 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
 and look upon my hands, my feet; and yet whose faith has constant been,
 not faithless, but believing be." for they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assistant Minister

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence is kept.

Each intercession concludes:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

** OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant Minister

Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

** DIALOGUE

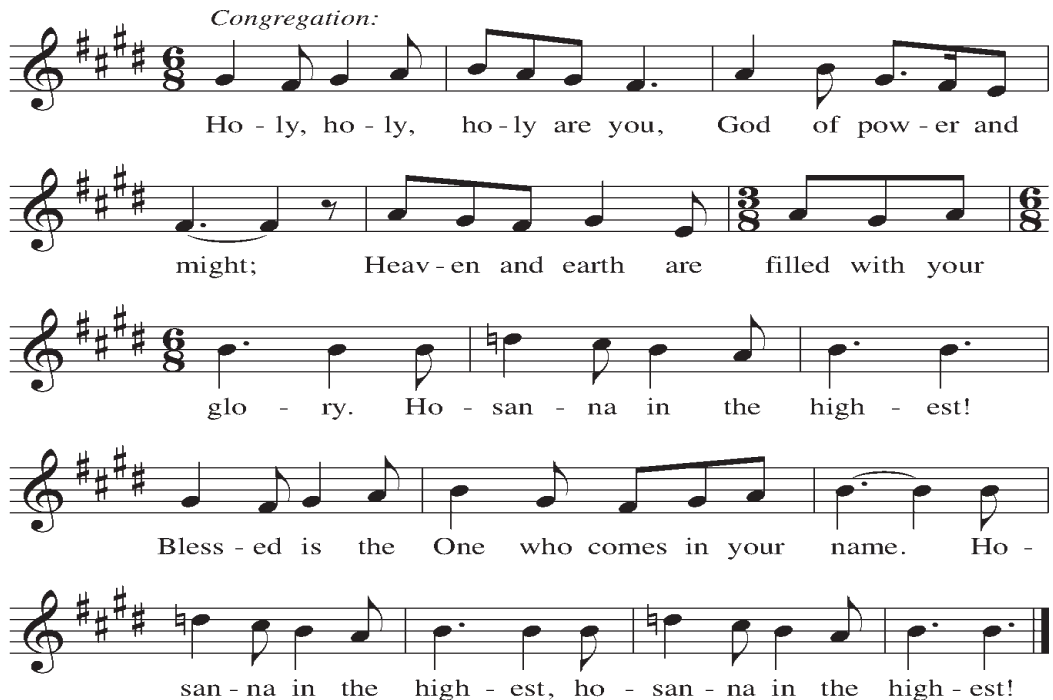
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise 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:

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful, God, creator of heaven and earth; everything, everywhere is filled with your glory. We give thanks for the promise you gave to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, that through their descendants you would bless the whole family on earth.

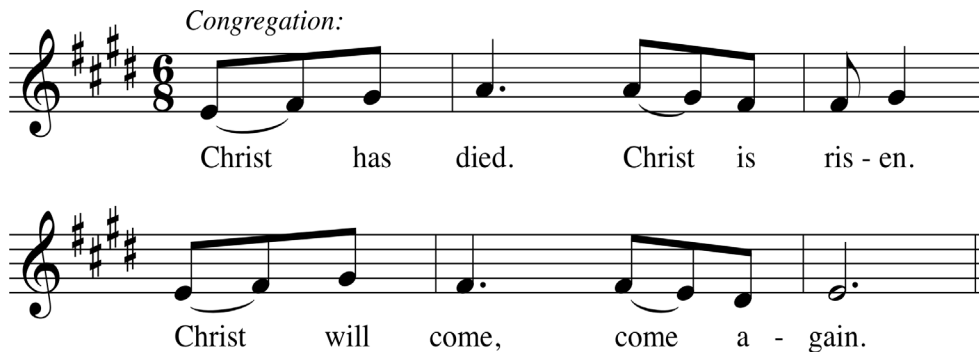
We give thanks for the steadfast love you showed to their offspring:

You delivered them from Egypt, bound yourself to them in covenant, sent them liberators and prophets, brought them home from exile.

When the time had fully come, you kept the promise by sending Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice and peace. He was obedient unto death, even death on a cross. We remember how on the night of his betrayal 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. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant of 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.

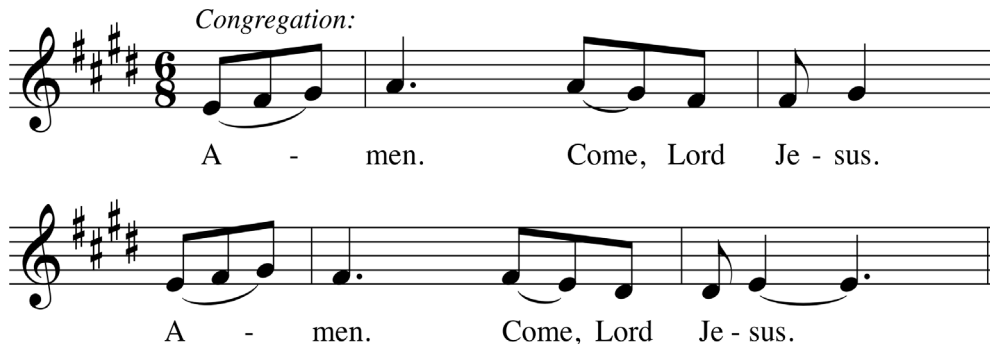
Congregation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come, come a - gain.

Remembering his command that we love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry:

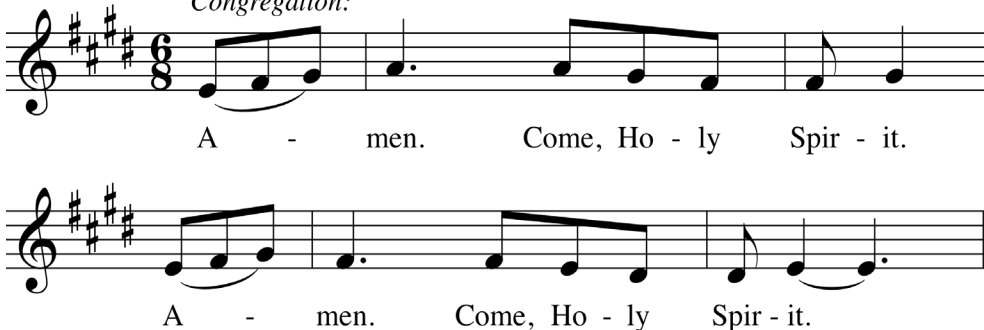
Congregation:



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit, to love and forgive that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new.

Congregation:




A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

Gather our prayers with those of the apostles, prophets, martyrs, and all the faithful who have gone before us, and unite them with the unceasing prayer of the One who lives in us and in whom we live, Jesus Christ.

Congregation:



Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the

u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is

yours, O God, now and for ev - er.

A - men.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

I believe in the Son;
I believe in the Risen One.
I believe I overcome
By the power of his blood.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Amen, amen,
I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
Amen, amen,
Let my song join the one that never ends,
Because he lives.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

I was dead in the grave;
I was covered in sin and shame.
I heard mercy call my name.
He rolled the stone away.

(Refrain - All)

**Amen, amen,
I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
Amen, amen,
Let my song join the one that never ends.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers)

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because he lives, every fear is gone.
I know he holds my life,
My future in his hand.

(Refrain - All)

**Amen, amen,
I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
Amen, amen,
Let my song join the one that never ends.**

Amen, amen,

**I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives.
Amen, amen,
Let my song join the one that never ends,
Because he lives, because he lives.**

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, **you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

SENDING

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

** BLESSING

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 bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Thine Is the Glory (ELW 376)

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

**** DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Created, Saved & Gifted by God, we Seek, Serve & Share Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah, Thanks Be To God.

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
 but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
 and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

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