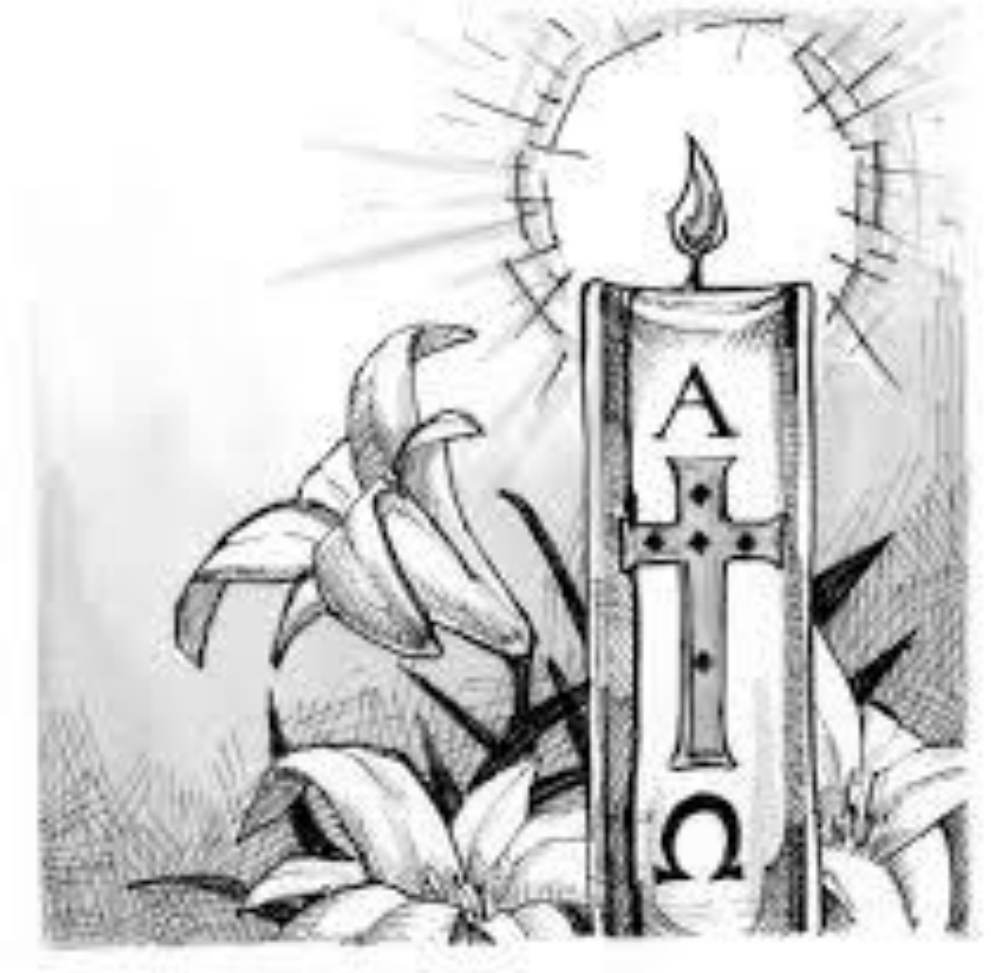
# The Great Vigil of Easter

## 19 April A+D 2025




We are a member congregation of
*THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD*

# Service of Light

**P** Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

**P** Let us pray.
O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:*

**P** Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:*

**P** the Alpha and the Omega.

*He traces the year on the candle, saying:*

**P** His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

*He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:*

**P** By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

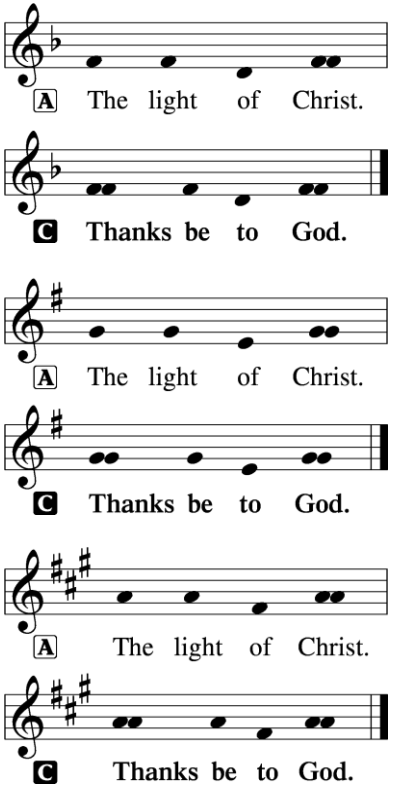
*Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:*

**P** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**P** Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

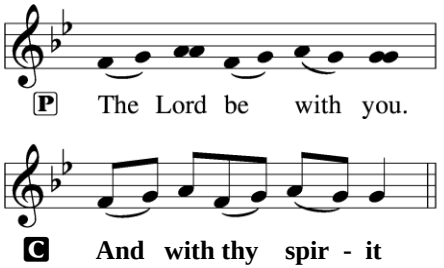
*All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.*

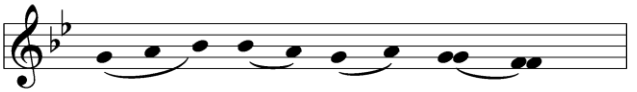


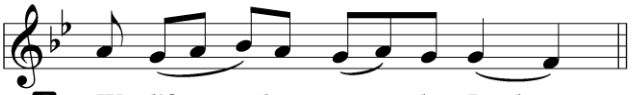

## Exsultet

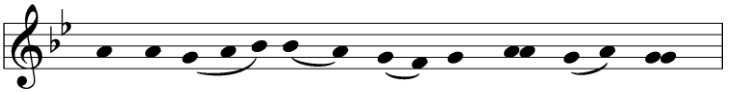
A Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

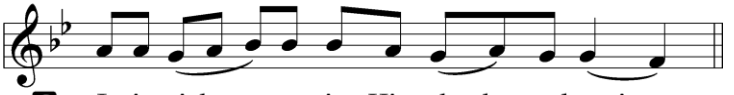
## Preface





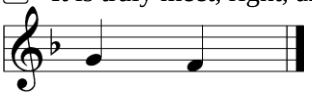




### Proper Preface

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary … with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.




*All may extinguish their candles at this time.*

*Sit*

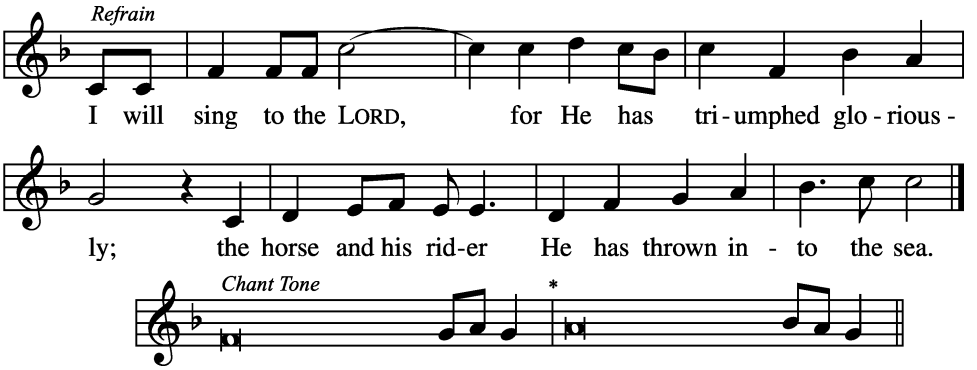
## Service of Readings

**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.

### The Readings (Creation – Crossing of the Red Sea)

*Pastor sings each verse. Congregation sings the refrain and Gloria Patri.*

## 925 Song of Moses and Israel




[1]The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and He has become my sal- | vation;

[2]this is my God, and I will | praise Him,*
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him. ***Refrain***

[3]The LORD is a | man of war;*
the LORD | is His name.

[4]Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,*
and his chosen officers were sunk in the | Red Sea.

[5]The floods | covered them;*
they went down into the depths | like a stone.

[6]Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy. ***Refrain***

[7]Who is like You, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?*
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing | wonders?

[8]You stretched out Your | right hand;*
the earth | swallowed them.

[9]You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.

[10]You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,

[11]the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**
**as it was in the be- | ginning,***
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.** ***Refrain***

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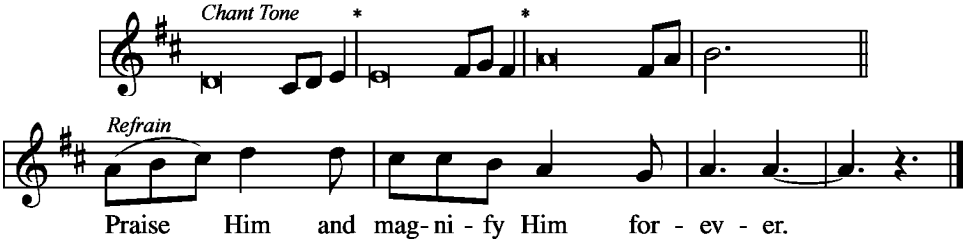
## The Readings (Fifth Prophecy - The Fiery Furnace)

### 931 All You Works of the Lord

*LSB 931*




1 All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—*
praise Him and magnify Him for- | ever.*
You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

2 You heavens, | bless the Lord;*
all you waters above the heavens, | bless the Lord;*
all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

3 You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;*
you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;*
all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

4 All you winds of God, | bless the Lord;*
you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;*
you winter and summer, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

5 You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*
you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;*
you ice and snow, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

6 You nights and days, | bless the Lord;*
you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;*
you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

7 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: ***Refrain***

8 You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;*
you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;*
you whales and all who move in the waters, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

9 All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;*
all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;*
all you children of men, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

10 O Israel, | bless the Lord;*
you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*
you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord: ***Refrain***

11 You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;*
you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;*
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy | Spirit: ***Refrain***

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*Stand*

## Service of Holy Baptism

**P** On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**P** Let us pray.
Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Do you renounce the devil?

**C** **Yes, I renounce him.**
**P** Do you renounce all his works?
**C** **Yes, I renounce them.**
**P** Do you renounce all his ways?
**C** **Yes, I renounce them.**

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
**C** **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
**C** **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**C** **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*When candidates for confirmation and/or reception into membership are present, the following is used:*

## For Candidates for Confirmation and Reception of Members

**P** You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
**R** *Yes, I do.*

**P** Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
**R** *I do.*

**P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

**R** *I do, by the grace of God.*

**P** We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## For Confirmands Only

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing and passage of Holy Scripture. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

**P** [Name], the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✢ everlasting.

**R** *Amen.*

**P** Peace ✢ be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

*Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:*

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✢ everlasting.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Peace ✢ be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

# Service of Prayer

## Litany of the Resurrection

**A** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**A** O Christ,

**C** **have mercy.**

**A** O Lord,

**C** **have mercy.**

**A** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** **hear us.**

**A** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy on us.**

**A** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
**A** By Your victory over sin and death,
**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
**A** By the majesty of Your risen body,
**C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
**A** We poor sinners implore You
**C** **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
**A** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
**C** **grant us, good Lord.**
**A** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
**C** **grant us, good Lord.**
**A** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
**C** **grant us, good Lord.**
**A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
**C** **have mercy on us.**
**A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **grant us Your peace.**
**A** O Lord,
**C** **have mercy.**
**A** O Christ,
**C** **have mercy.**
**A** O Lord,
**C** **have mercy. Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Easter Acclamation

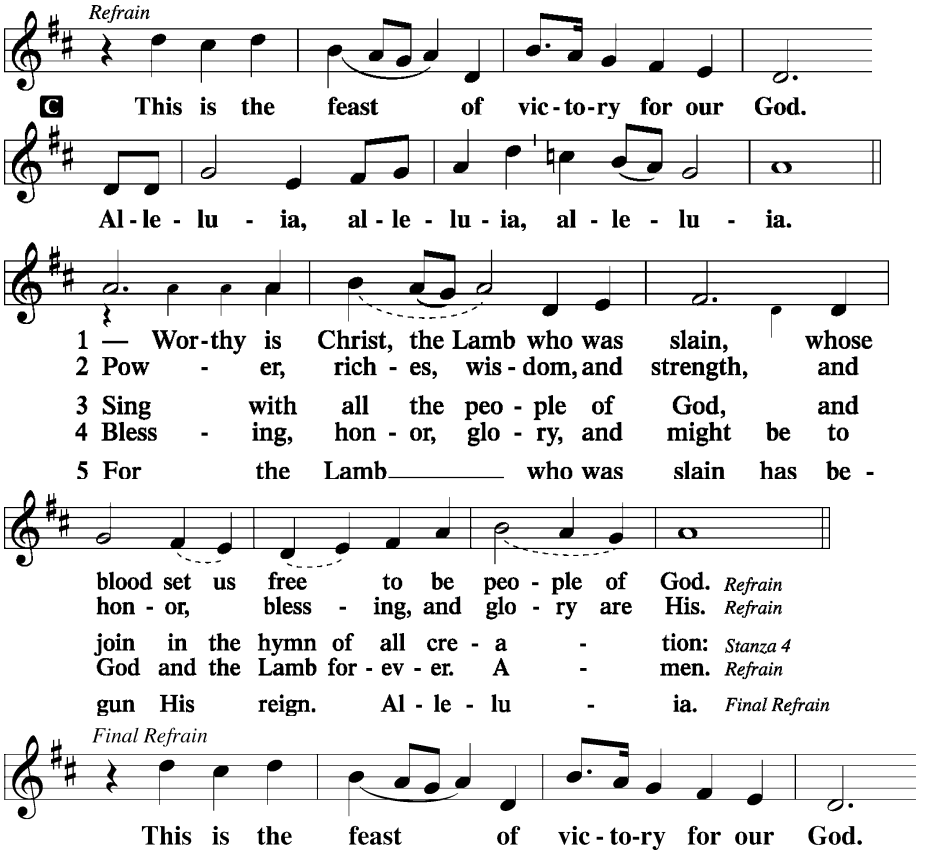
**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

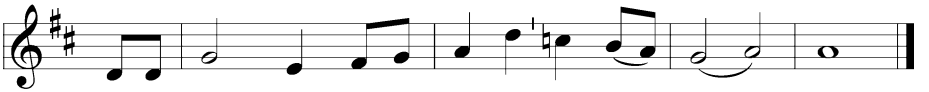
*Sit*

(*At this point our service switches from darkness to light. The altar candles are lit. Lights in the church are turned on, bells are rung, the chancel is decorated, and the altar is prepared for the Sacrament.*)

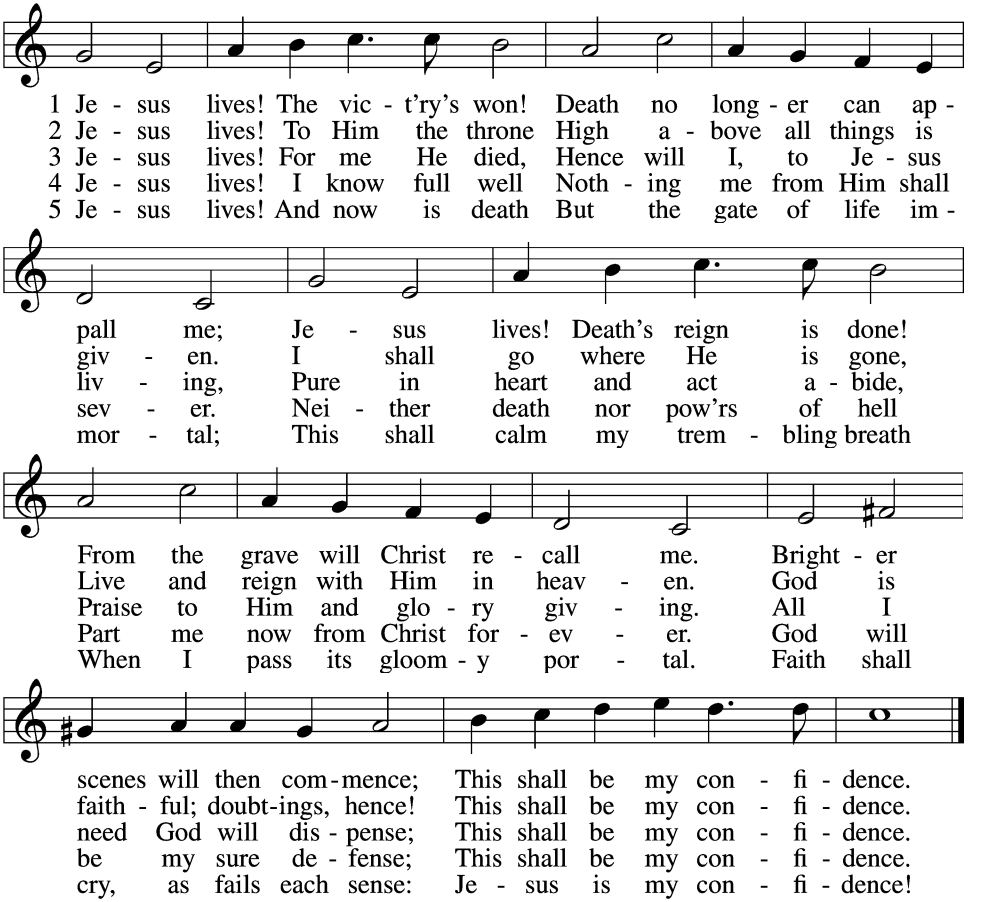
## This Is the Feast (Setting One)

*LSB 155*

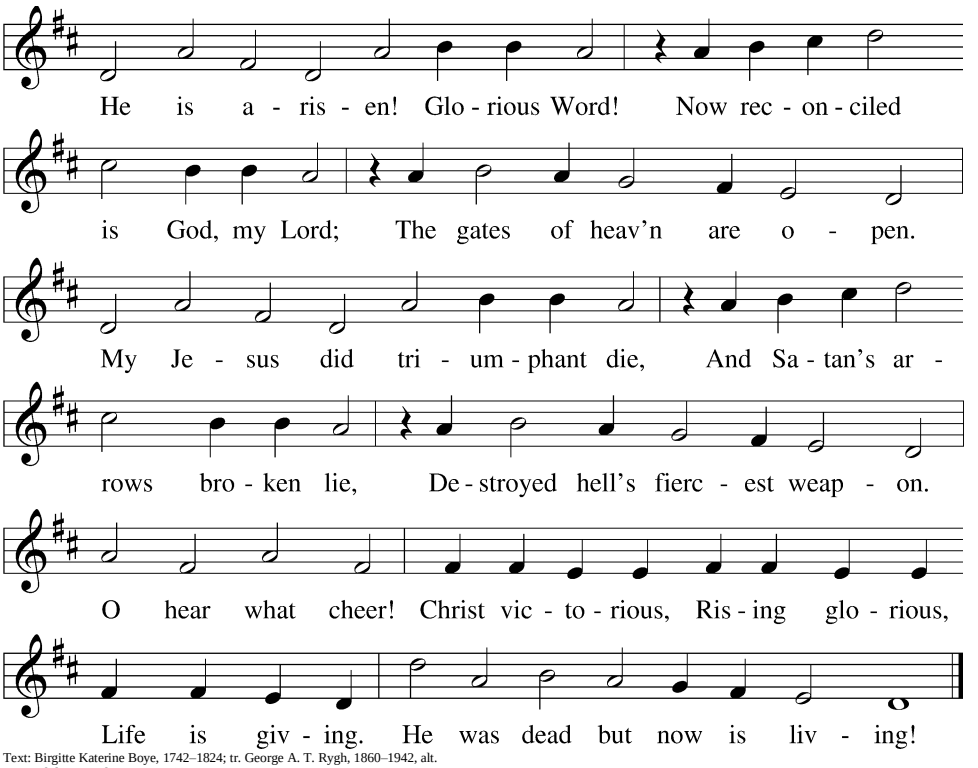





## Hymn: 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



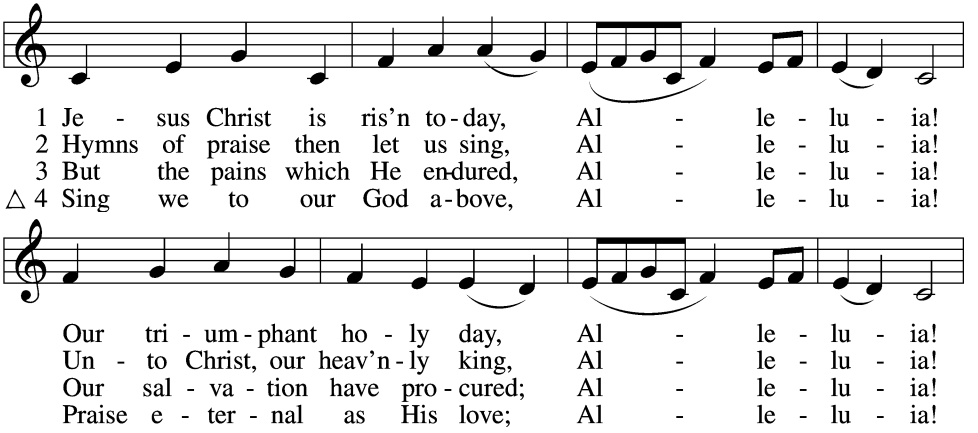
## 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

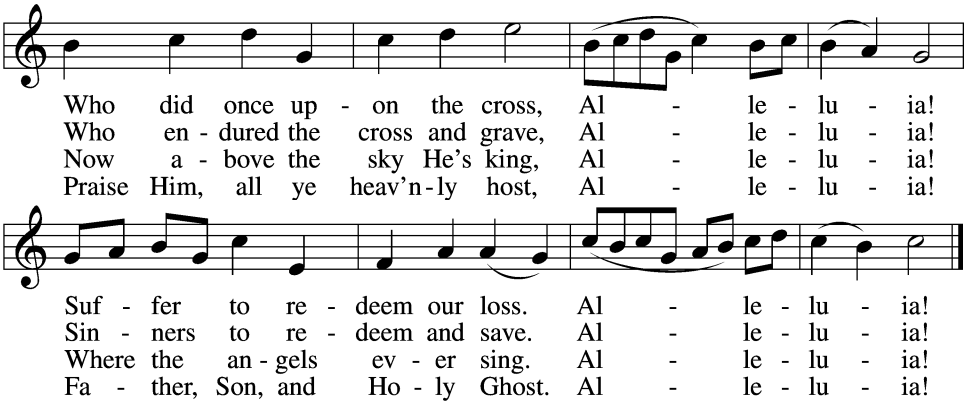


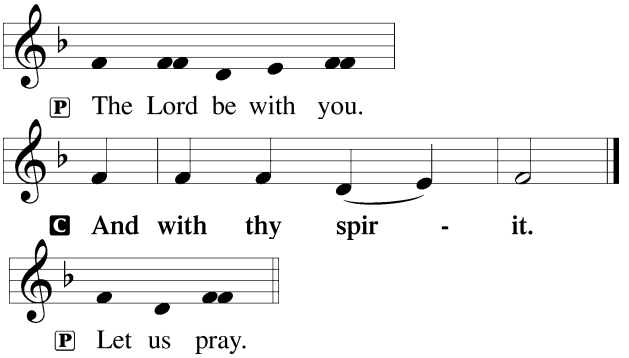

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

***Please stand and face the processional crucifix in the back, following as it passes***

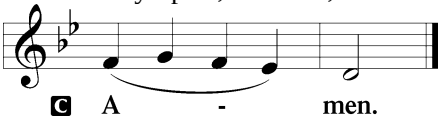
## 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today






O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.




## Epistle

*Colossians 3:1-4*

Brethren: If you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

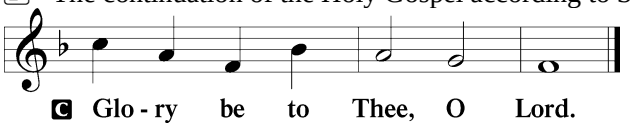
A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

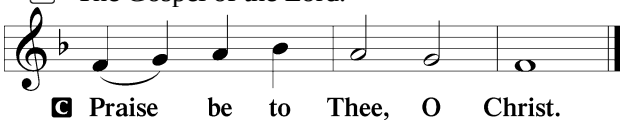
*Matthew 28:1-7*

℗ The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



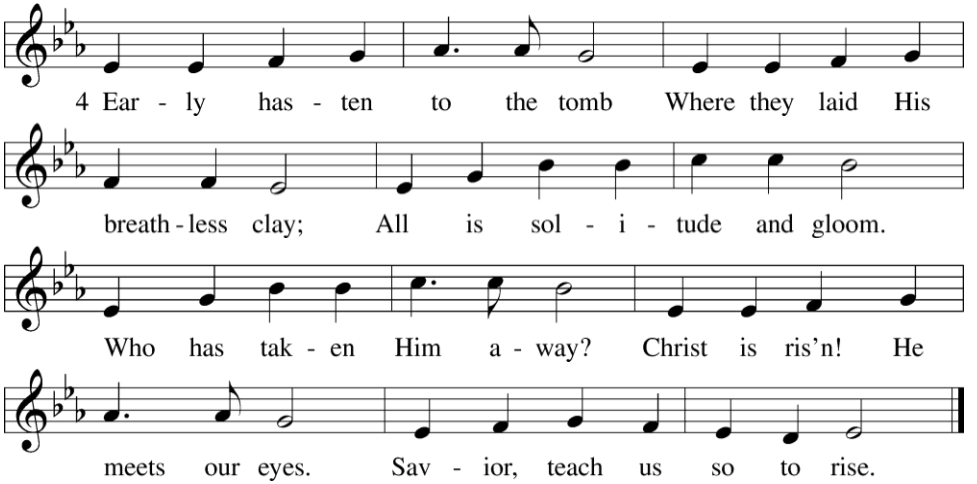

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

℗ The Gospel of the Lord.




*Sit*

## 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane *st. 4*




## Homily

# Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

**Preface – Agnus Dei** *p. 194 ff*

*Sit*

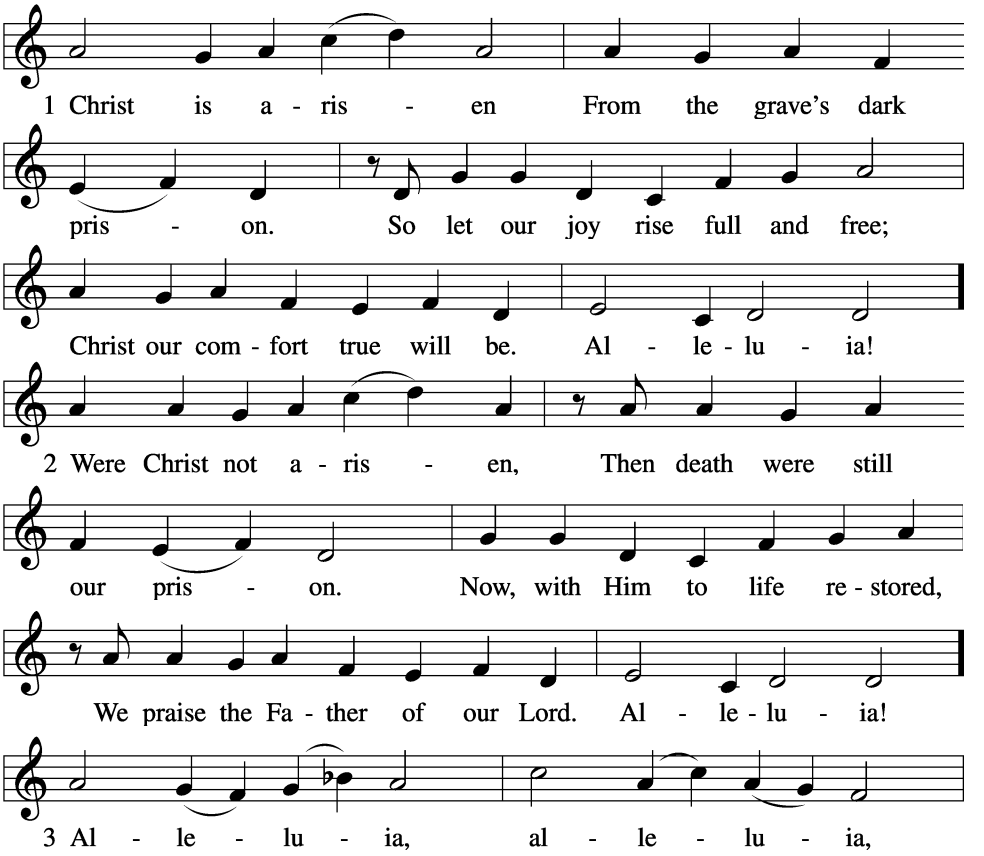
*(We welcome our guests and visitors. Thank you for joining us.*
*Only communicant members in good standing of a Missouri Synod congregation are welcome to commune tonight. For more information, please read the back of the bulletin and talk with Pastor.)*

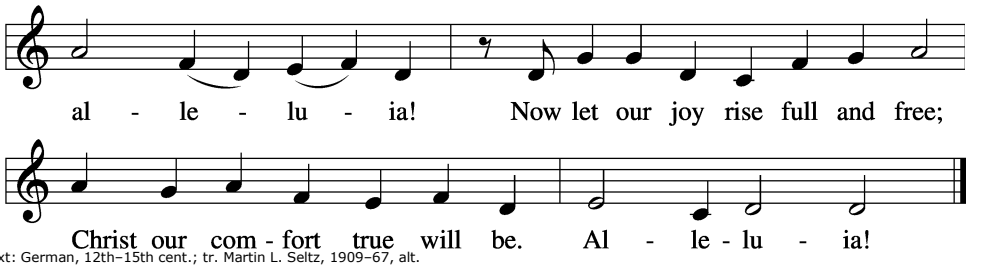
**Distribution Hymns:**

**467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness /**
**633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing**

*Stand*

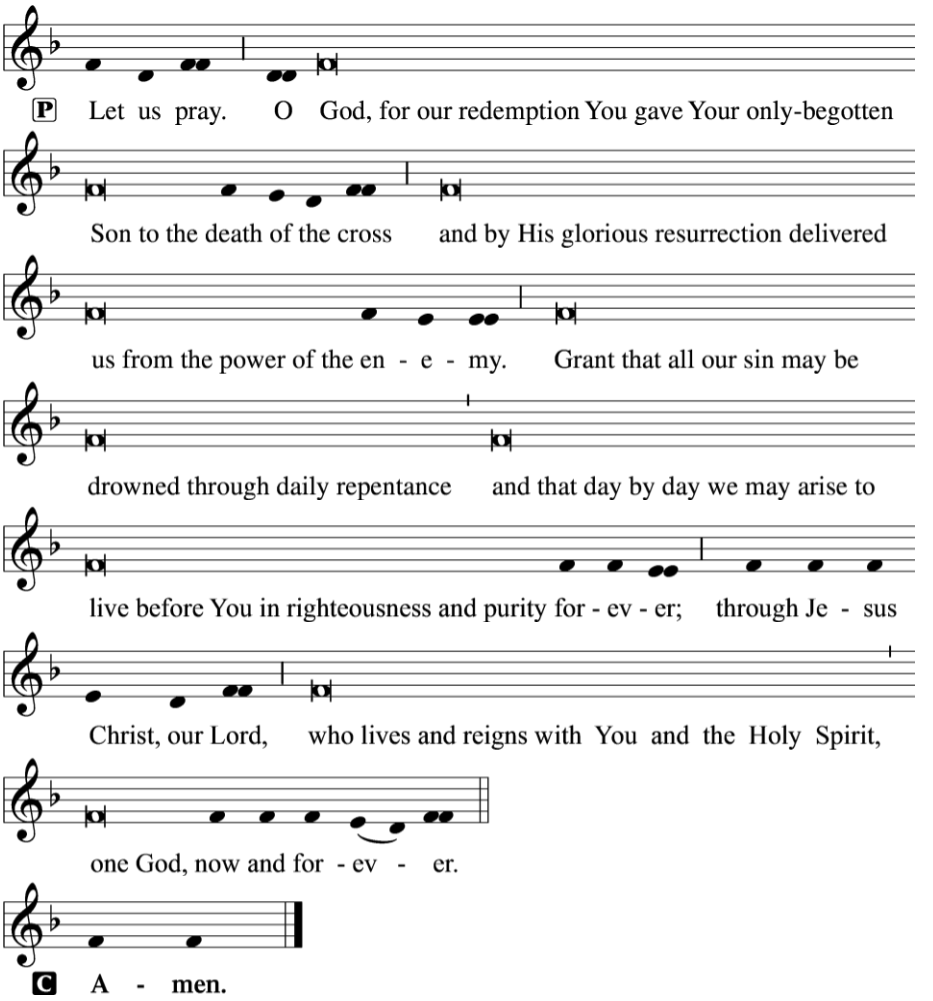
**Post Communion Hymn: 459 Christ Is Arisen**



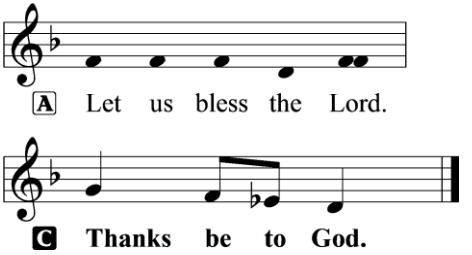



Text: German, 12th–15th cent.; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.
Tune: Latin, c. 1100; Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859

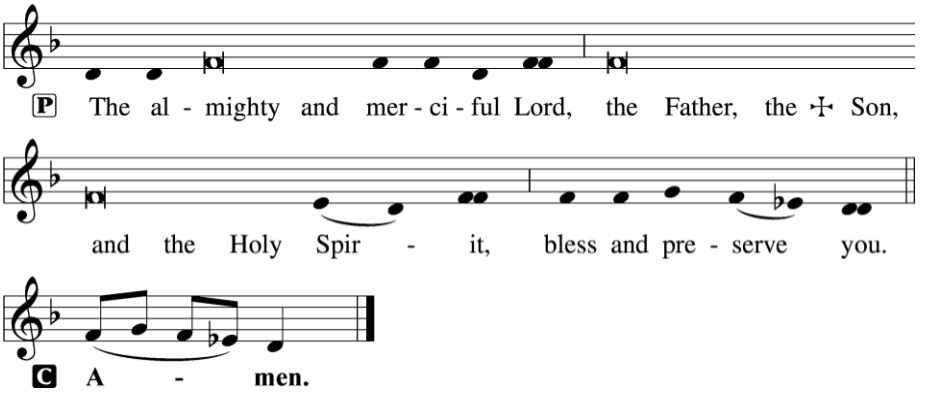
## Post Communion Collect



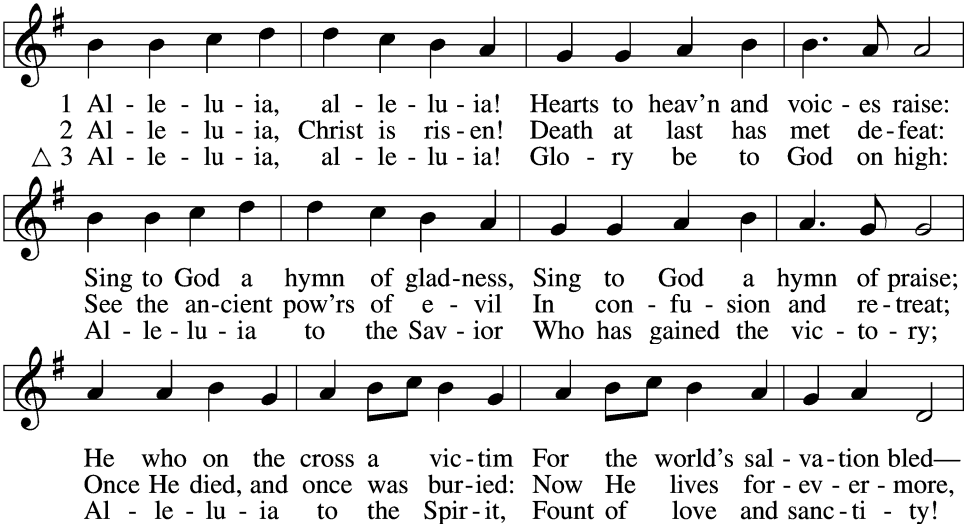
## Benedicamus

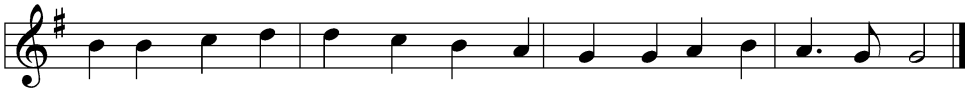



## Benediction




## Closing Hymn: 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven






Text (sts. 1, 3): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85; (st. 2): rev. The Jubilate Group
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005859

## Easter Proclamation

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

***Easter Sunday Worship is at 7:00 & 10:00 a.m.***
***with breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m.***

Pastoral Candidate Zachary Kreitler: Preacher, Lector, & Assisting Liturgist
Rev. Joshua P. H. Conradt: Celebrant & Presiding Liturgist

**BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED TODAY:** ***Travis James Pikus***
May the Lord preserve and be with him.

## Acknowledgments

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# We Welcome Our Guests Today!

We're glad you've joined us in worship today. Please fill out a Visitor Card (located in the pew rack) and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate. We also ask that you read *"Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion"* printed below. Please visit our ***Welcome Center*** in the narthex and worship with us again soon.

## Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion

In keeping with the tradition of the early Church and the Lutheran Confessions, we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Because Holy Communion is an expression of complete unity of faith and doctrine, only members of St. Peter or a sister Missouri Synod congregation may commune. This is not a judgment of the faith of others, but rather an indication of our obedience to the Lord's command that those who kneel together at His altar be in complete unity regarding what they believe and teach. Your respect for our practice concerning the Lord's Supper is appreciated. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions.

If communing with individual cup, please hold your empty cup until Pastor has passed you with the chalice. And please remember to fill out a Communion card.

## The Gathering of the Offerings

God finances His church. The gathering of the offerings is, therefore, not merely collecting money. It is a holy privilege for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity to gratefully respond to God's love and grace by returning a portion of the gifts He has given us. As God's children, we consider it a special honor to build and extend His kingdom through our offerings. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7b NKJV). Our visitors and guests are in no way compelled to contribute to this offering. We ask nothing of our guests except that they return here often to hear more about God's great love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. If anyone wishes to give electronically, you may scan this QR code to set up an account.

## Small Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. And so do we.

When you're little, it's hard to sit without fidgeting or making some noise. And of course babies join us with their songs, too! We consider their small voices to be a part of our sacred music as they learn with us what it is to be a Christian. We encourage their presence throughout the entire service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to take them to the nursery that is located on the other side of the Conference Room. A closed-circuit television will bring the service to you. An usher will be happy to direct you.

"*Repetitio est mater studiorum*: Repetition is the mother of all learning." The more they're here, the easier it will get.

### Church

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*secretary@stpeterswaterford.com*

Rev. Joshua P. H. Conradt, Pastor

*pastorconradt@stpeterswaterford.com*

### Rainbow Preschool

Preschool Office 262-534-6066

Mr. Melvin Beversdorf, Director

*director@stpeterswaterford.com*

Visit us at www.stpeterswaterford.com or on Facebook