

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 27, 2025

Alleluia!! Christ is risen!!! Welcome to worship this morning! Prince of Peace is a congregation of people who are called to Live, Learn and Grow in the Word of God. We strive to be faithful disciples in the world through our care for each other, our hospitality to those who come here to share in the fellowship of Christ, and our service to those who are in need in our community and throughout the world.

If you are visiting with us today, WELCOME!! Please take a moment to sign the guest register on the Usher's stand in the narthex and introduce yourself to the pastor.

We are now in the Season of Easter. The Alleluias are back, the music is much more festive and the melancholy days of Lent have given way to the joy of Easter and the celebration of the Risen Christ. It is in this season where we hear about the resurrection stories of Jesus and we move from talk about resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit on the last Sunday of Easter, Pentecost.

*Pastor Bill Schaefer*

### **Some Practical Things:**

- **Restrooms** are located in the Sunday School section of the building. Walk out of the sanctuary and continue across the narthex, through the double doors and the restrooms will be on your right after you pass the two class rooms. There is a water station across from the restrooms for your convenience.
- **Children:** All children, even those who chat, cry, laugh or are having a rough morning, are always welcome here. If your child needs to move about, please feel free to walk around the back of the church or in the Narthex with your child during the service.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday at Prince of Peace. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament are welcome at this, the Lord's Table, to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- **Prayer Requests:** If there is someone you wish us to pray for over the next few days or weeks, please take a moment to fill out one of the white prayer cards that is in the pew racks and either give it to the pastor or one of the ushers or place it in the offering plate.
- **If you are interested in membership** here at Prince of Peace, please take a moment to speak with the pastor before you leave for more information about the congregation and membership.

# GATHERING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able*

### GATHERING HYMN *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:  
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

**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.

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

**P** *(boldly)* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** *(boldly)* **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** **And also with you**

**P** Let us pray. O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING Acts 5:27-32

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

**Lector** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM      Psalm 118:14-29**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Hosanna! O LORD, save us!  
We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup> **The LORD is God and has given us light.  
Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God’s mercy endures forever.**

## SECOND READING      Revelation 1:4-8

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Lector**      The word of the Lord.

**C**      **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*



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

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”*

**P** The holy gospel according to St. John in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> 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.”

<sup>26</sup> 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.”

<sup>27</sup> 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.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> 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.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** The Rev. William A. Schaefer

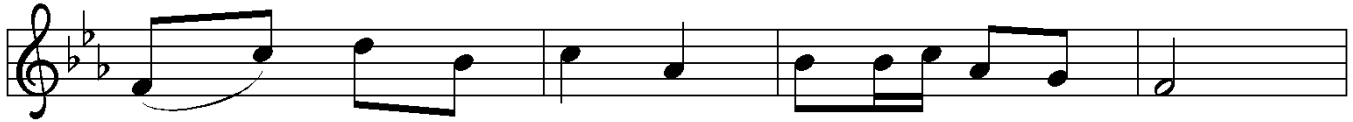
*Please stand as you are able*



HYMN OF THE DAY      *Now the Green Blade Rises*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## THE NICENE CREED

**P** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed

**C** 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Please kneel or sit as you are able*

**P** Lord in your mercy.

**C** Hear our prayer.

*When the prayers have concluded*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your love through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*Please stand as you are able and greet each other with the Peace of Christ as you are most comfortable and please respect how those around you choose to share the Peace.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The offering plate is located near the Sanctuary doors into the Gathering Space*

## MEAL

*Please stand as you are able*

### OFFERTORY

*Let the Vineyards*



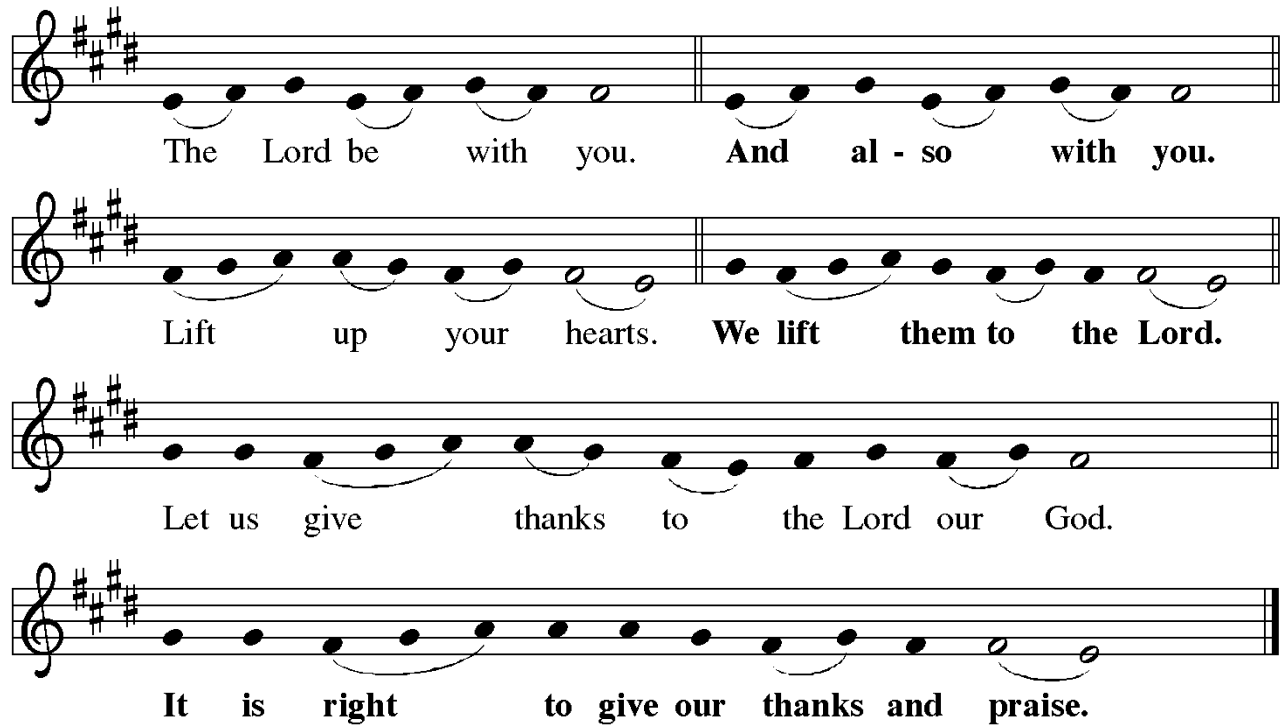
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DIALOGUE



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

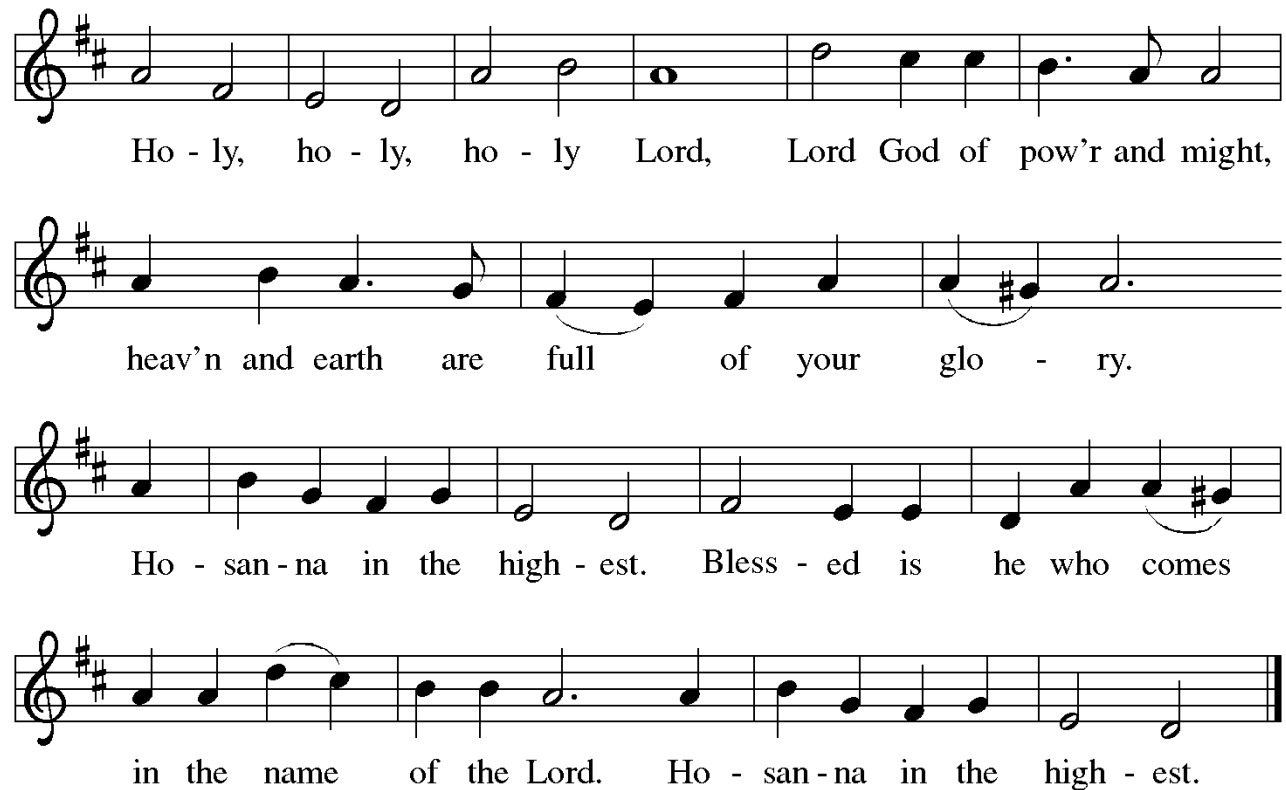
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

**C Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

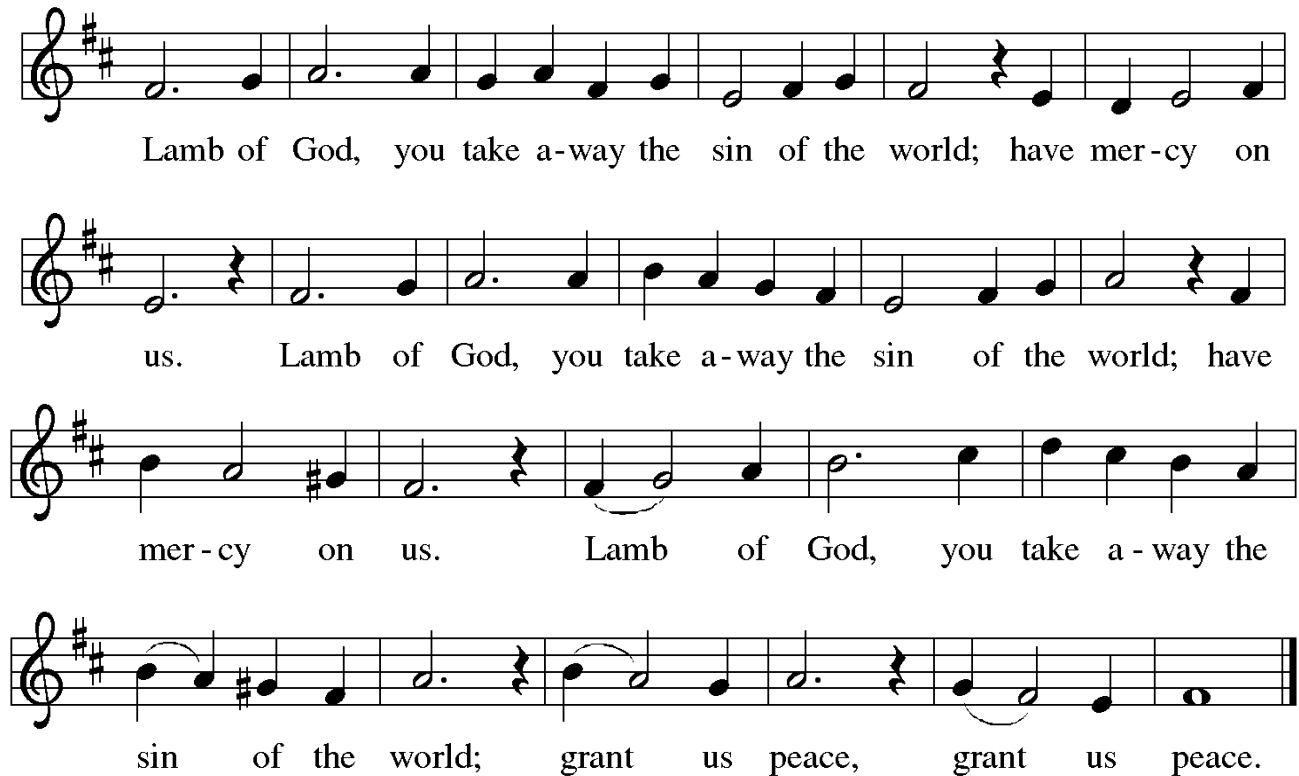
**C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P These are the gifts of God for the people of God, come for the banquet is now ready.



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.

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated. As we gather around the table of our Lord, all Baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. Children visiting with us today, who receive the Sacrament in their home congregation, should follow the practices from that congregation. If you do not wish to receive the Sacrament this morning, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this to the Pastor as you come forward. The Sacrament will be distributed in both bread and wine today. The Usher will invite you forward.*

*On the first Sunday of the Month and on Festival Sundays we will commune at altar rail. Please fill in the altar rail from the organ side around to the pulpit side and you may kneel or stand to receive the Sacrament today. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then the Lay Assistant will come to you with a tray of pre-filled wine glasses. Carefully take one and drink the wine. **Gluten-free wafers are available – ask the Pastor for them when you come forward. If you wish to receive grape juice today, please take a glass from the small tray as you come forward.** Proceed toward the side aisle and there will be a basket on the end of the pew for you to dispose of your used cup. Then return to your seat via the side aisles.*

*On other Sundays, you will come forward and take a glass of wine from the large trays on your left or **grape juice from the small tray.** Proceed to the pastor who will give you a wafer. Consume the Sacrament and place your used cup in the trays on the front pews. Return to your seat via the side aisles. After all have communed, please stand as you are able.*

**P** May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace to life everlasting.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Let us pray. Living God, you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

**P** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound* (Printed on the Next Page)

### DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

# Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!