

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



The 5th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026

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:

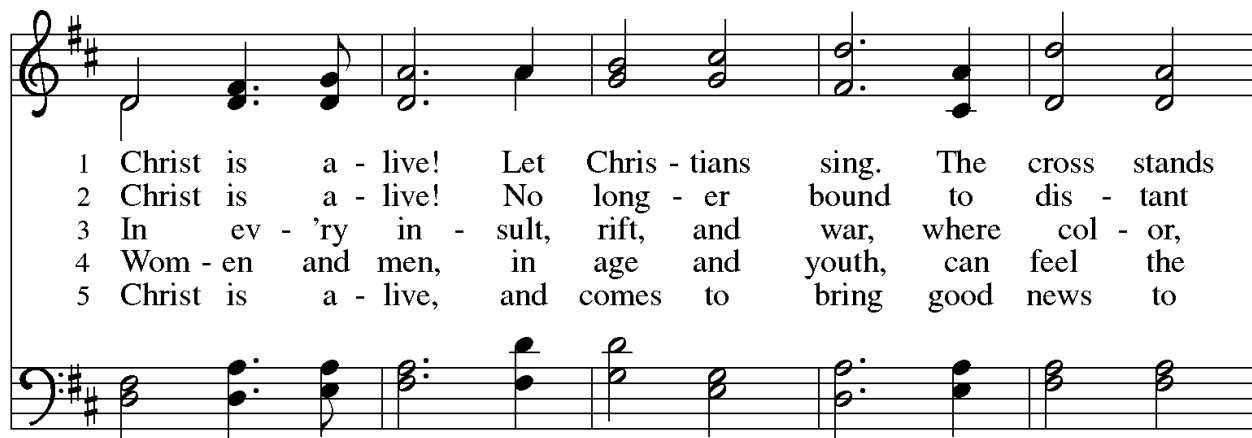
- **Restrooms** are located in the Sunday School section of the building. Walk out of the sanctuary and continue across the narthex, through the double doors and the restrooms will be on your right after you pass the two class rooms. There is a water station across from the restrooms for your convenience.
- **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

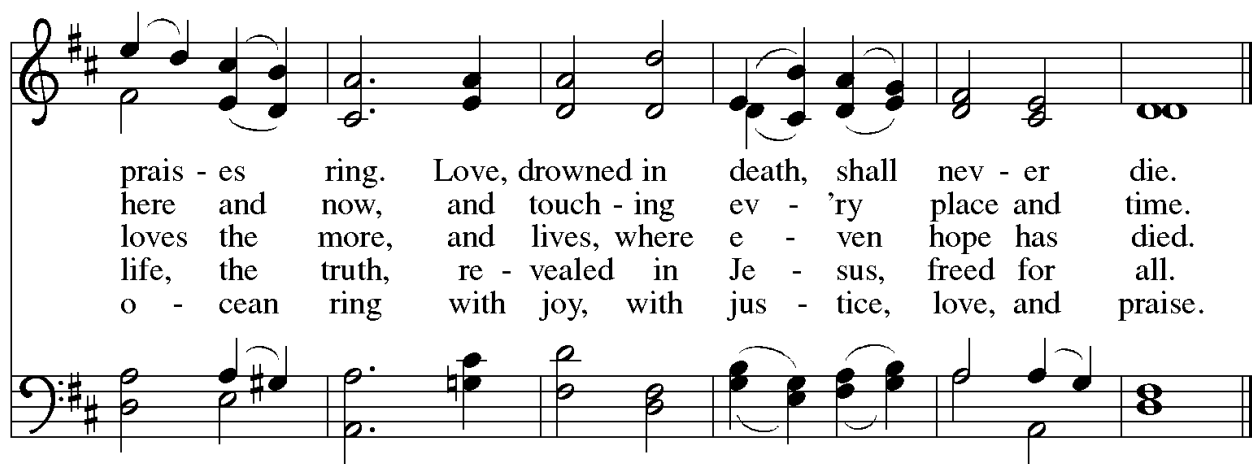
GATHERING HYMN *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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- 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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C **Amen**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his

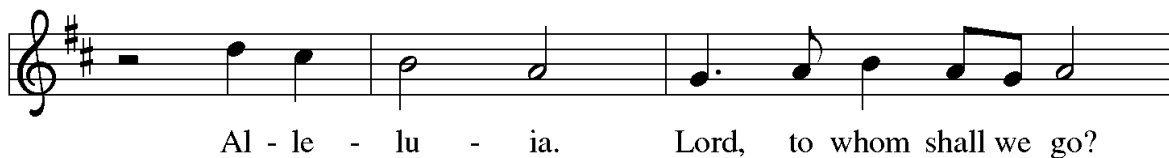
marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Lector The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to St. John in the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

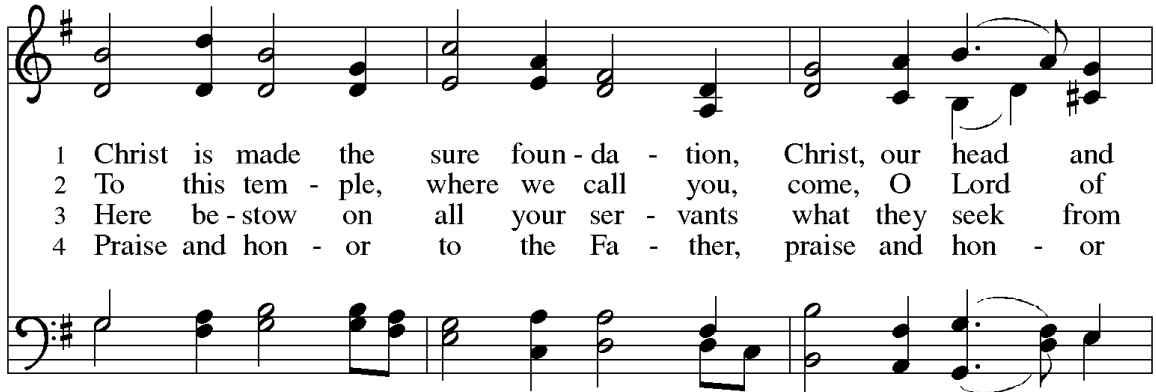
⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please be seated*

SERMON The Rev. William Schaefer
Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*



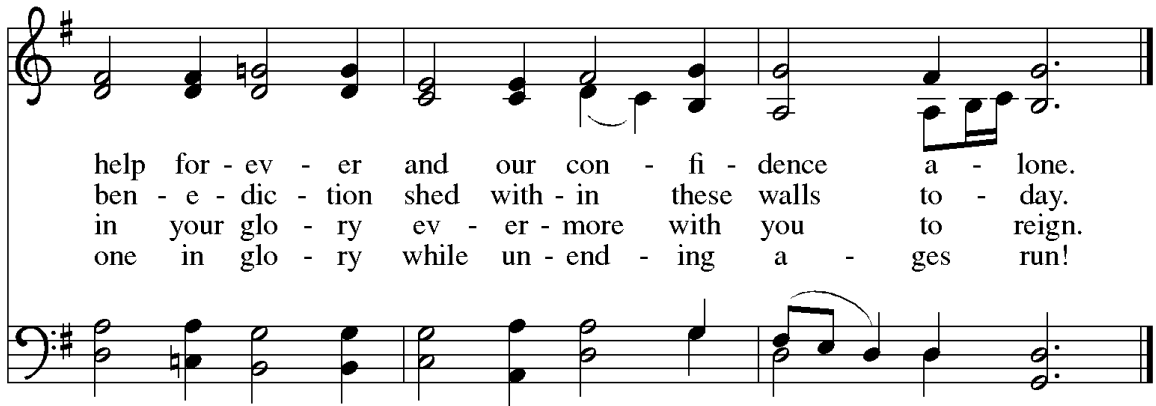
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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



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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



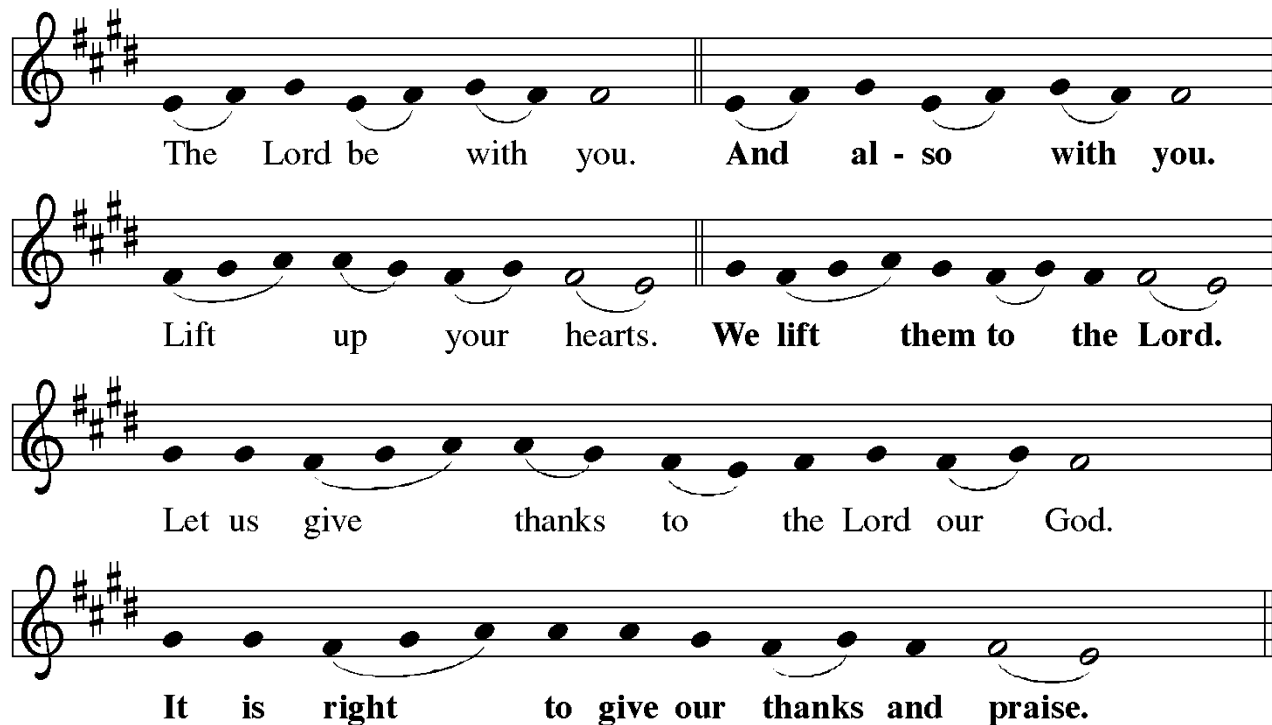
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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.

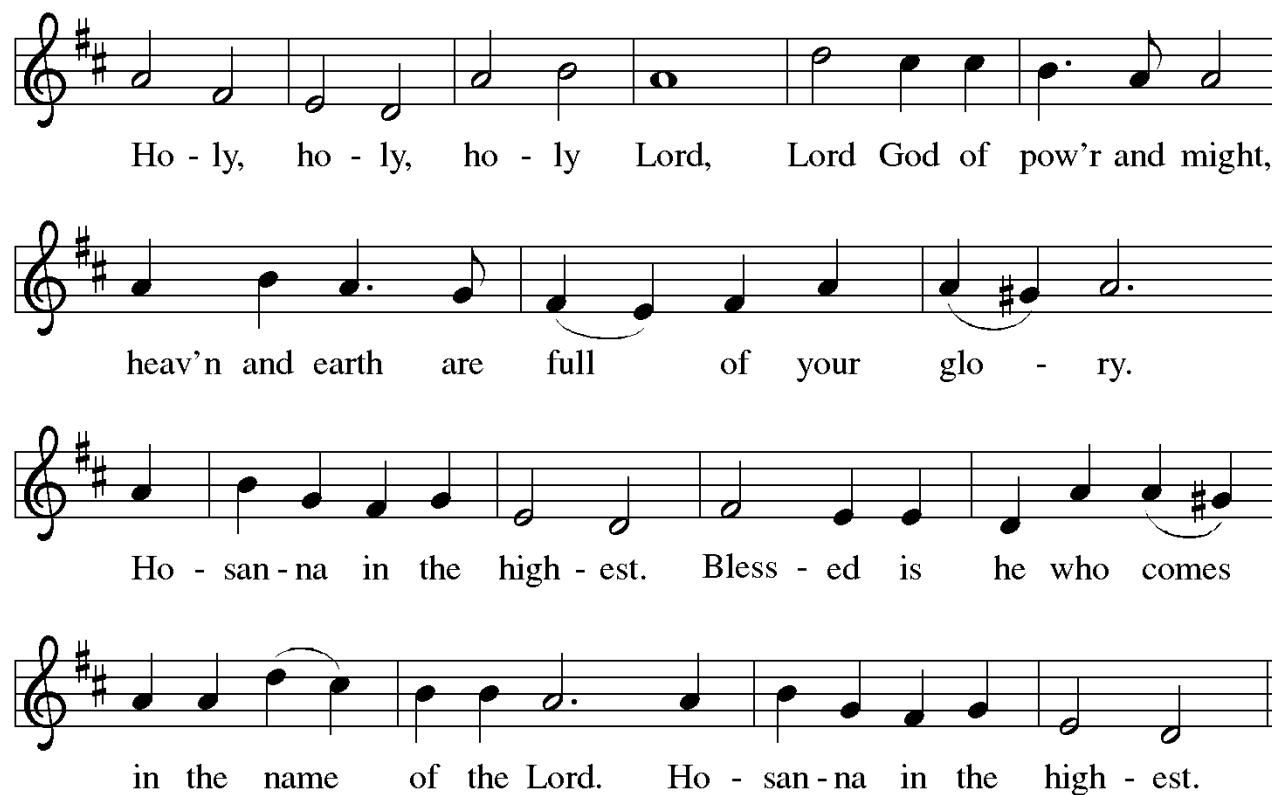
DIALOGUE



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. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. We pray this in Jesus' name.

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 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!* (Printed on the next page)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

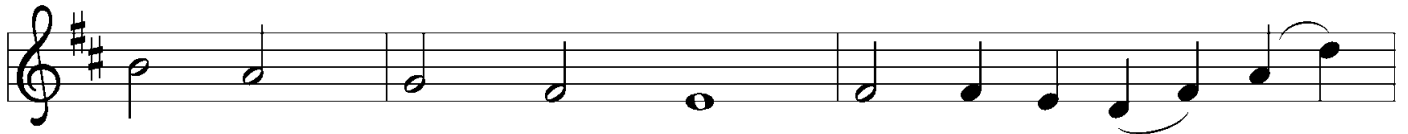
C **Thanks be to God.**

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I Know That My Redeemer Lives!



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;
 he lives my mansion to prepare;
 he lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 he lives and loves me to the end;
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;
 what joy this blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!