

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Barbara Albright

Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Videographer: Chris Miller

Greeter: Nancy Faggart

Building Supervisors: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); Samantha Hillegrass.

Bible Study Returns April 15th

Bible Study returned Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm.

It is the Year of Mark (Cycle B in the lectionary). So, we'll do Mark.

Free Cabarrus County Pre-K

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program.

Visit www.cabarruspartnership.org or call 704-933-8278 for information.

I AM NAMI Walks

NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers "Mental Health for All." Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park for Walk Day. Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. namiwalks.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers...Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024, for Vacation Bible School. All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to complete this process.

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Senior Pastor; prbill@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator; jill@sjnc.net

Holly Sloop, Communications Coordinator; holly@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist and Director of Music; scottfop@gmail.com

Church Office; info@sjnc.net

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator; Krad3700@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian; Tfh1990@yahoo.com

The FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

April 21, 2024

The Holy Communion

10:00am



St James Lutheran Church

104 Union Street South

PO Box 684

Concord, North Carolina 28026

704-786-0166

www.sjnc.net

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 21 *Stephen DeGrace, Sydney Haberman, Ryan Kuly*
April 26 *Kailey Hartman*
April 27 *Thomas Grady*

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 21	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, April 22	10:30 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Scouts
	6:30 pm	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, April 24	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, April 25	6:00 pm	Handbells
Sunday, April 28	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

Adult Sunday School Lessons Available on Ring Out

Adult Sunday School lesson outlines will now be available on the Ring Out newsletter for the coming Sunday. If you do not receive the newsletter and would like to, you may sign up on the website or email holly@sjnc.net.

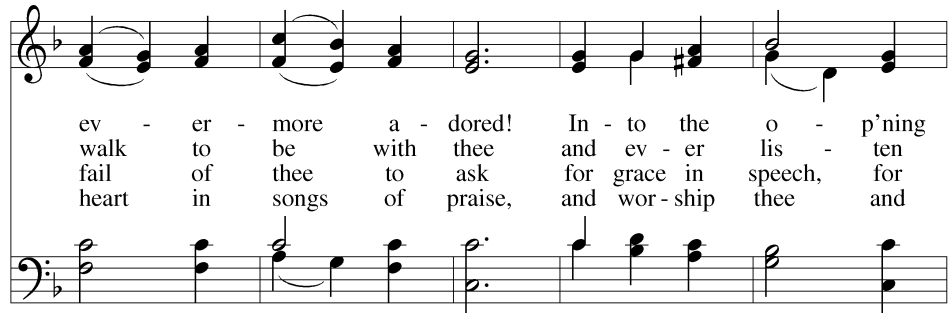
Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given by Kim Haberman in celebration of Sydney Haberman's birthday and motherhood.

THE SENDING HYMN *God of our Life, All-Glorious Lord* Grosser Gott



1 God of our life, all - glo - rious Lord, be now and
2 Make clear our path, that we may see where we must
3 Give us thy help in ev - 'ry task, nor let us
4 At e - ven - tide then will we raise a grate - ful



ev - er - more a - dored! In - to the o - p'ning
walk to be with thee and ev - er lis - ten
fail of thee to ask for grace in speech, for
heart in songs of praise, and wor - ship thee and

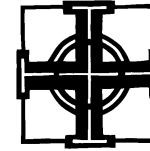


of this day bring grace and love and peace, we pray.
for thy voice, that we may make thy way our choice.
love in deed, from wrong - ful ac - tions to be freed.
thy dear Son with God the Spir - it, ev - er one.

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary *Prelude to the Te Deum* Marc-Antoine Charpentier



**EASTER SEASON
THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

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

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please sit or kneel as able.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Sending



THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: *Amen (from The Easter Song of Praise)* Richard Shepherd

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER


P Let us pray.

P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.


C **Amen**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Unser Herrscher



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thicken, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE



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



B 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.



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



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 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.



B Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.

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 is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Please sit.

Word



THE FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse. Congregation in bold.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

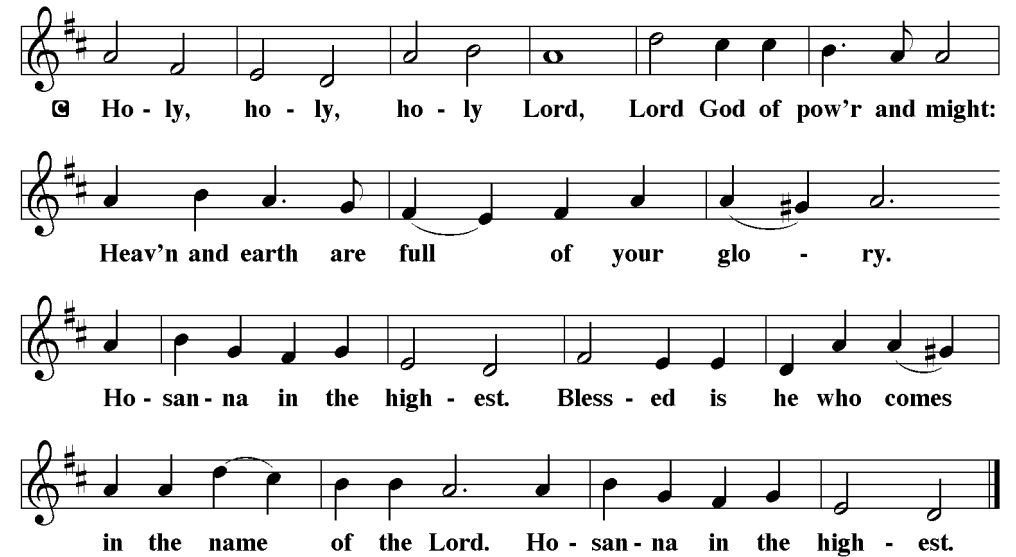
⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

A Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of your Church, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism; you anoint us with oil, and call us to salvation at your table. Dispel the terrors of death and the darkness of error. Lead your people along safe paths, that they may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name's sake. Amen

for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

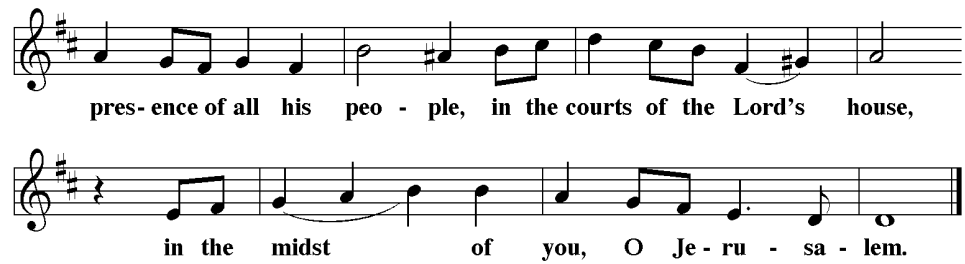


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

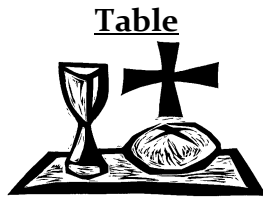
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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,



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.
A Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord;

THE SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

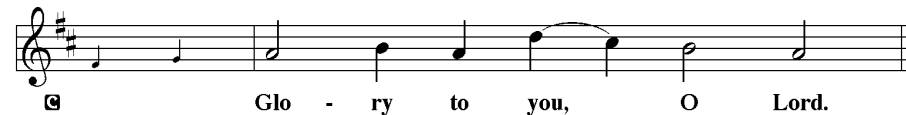
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



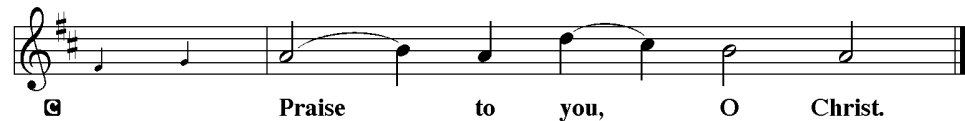
THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.



[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE PEACE

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

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake

Richard Ferrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before Thee,
now and evermore. Amen.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For travelers, for the sick and suffering, for captives, for all who need our prayers and for all who we remember silently in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O God by your grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

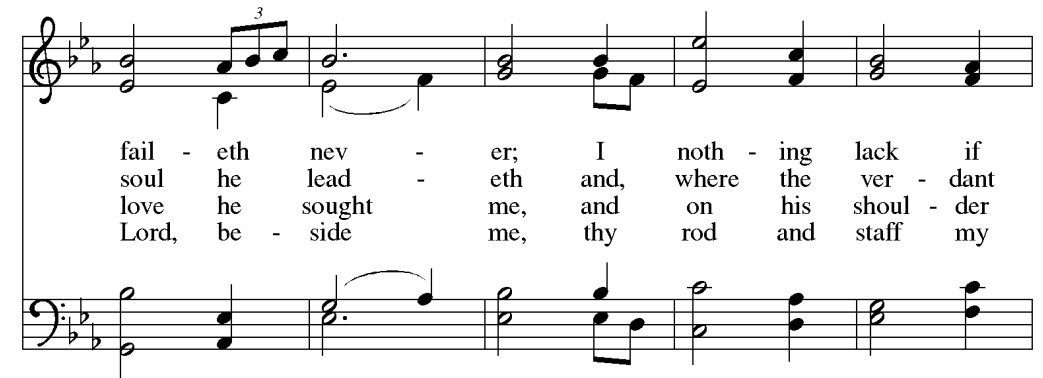
P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

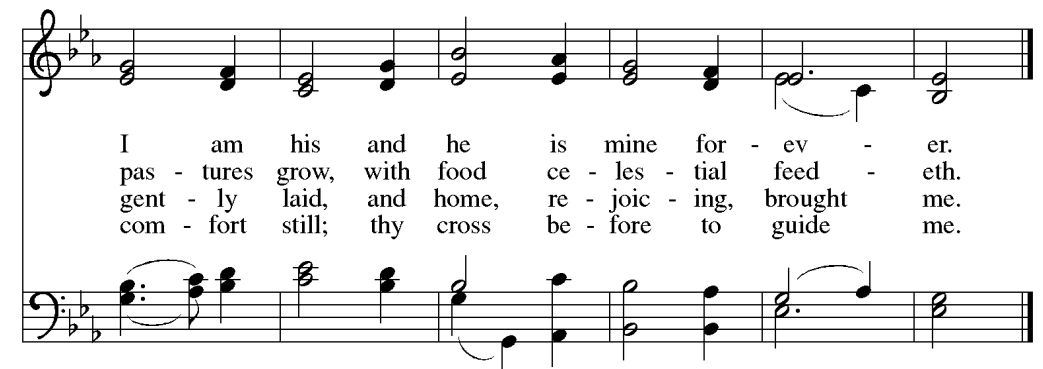
THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* St. Columba



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

THE NICENE CREED

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,

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate

from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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,

With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

Please kneel or sit, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For his holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.