

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP**

**Lector/Intercessor:** Gretchen Walker

**Communion Assistant:** Christine Ruff

**Acolyte/Crucifer:** Noah Pittard

**Ushers:** Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

**Videographer:** John Patterson

**Greeter:** Kirstin Rinker

**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).

**John & Alma Cook Memorial Scholarship –  
Now Accepting Applications!**

In 1968, John M. Cook, Jr. established an endowment to assist college and graduate students who are members of St. James Lutheran Church by helping with their tuition expenses.

The Cook Trust Fund Committee is now accepting applications for the 2024/2025 academic school year. Interested applicants can email [holly@sjnc.net](mailto:holly@sjnc.net) for an application. Please confirm if you are a first-time or returning applicant so you will receive the appropriate forms. **The deadline to return application is June 1, 2024.**

**Spring Bible Study**

Spring Bible Study continues Mondays at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Free Cabarrus County Pre-K**

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program.

Visit [www.cabarruspartnership.org](http://www.cabarruspartnership.org) or call 704-933-8278 for information.

**I AM NAMI Walks**

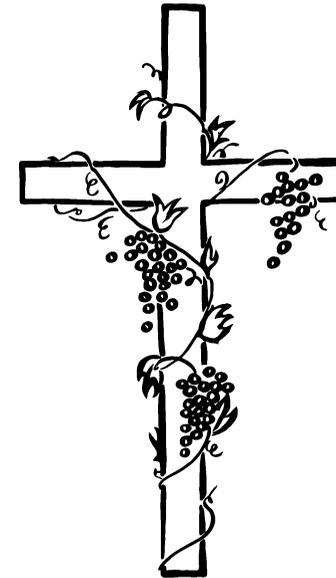
NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers “Mental Health for All.” Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park for Walk Day. Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. [namiwalks.org](http://namiwalks.org)

**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.

The FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER  
April 28, 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](http://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 28

Kara Bestler

April 29

Sam Hurley, Cheryl Webb, Stacey Wilson

May 1

Anna Grace Craver

May 3

Charlotte Glatz, Edwin Glatz, Elizabeth Harris, Joy Lineberger

May 4

Thomas Baker, Deedee Gilbert, John Kuly, Trent Propst

## CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 28

9:00 am

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am

Parish Choir

9:30 am

Children's Sunday School

10:00 am

Worship

11:15am

Social Ministry Committee (Parlor)

Monday, April 29

10:30 am

Quilting Group

6:30 pm

Scouts

6:30 pm

Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, April 30

6:00 pm

Christian Education Meeting (Flex Room)

*CVAN Meal*

Wednesday, May 1

6:00 pm

Bella Voce Choir

7:00 pm

Parish Choir

Thursday, May 2

6:00 pm

Handbells

Sunday, May 5

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](mailto:holly@sjnc.net).

## Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Jo Eng by Fuller & Jean Beasley.

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

**THE SENDING HYMN** *On What Has Now Been Sown* Darwall's 148th

*A harmony graphic is not available. See green LBW #261.*



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

**THE DISMISSAL**

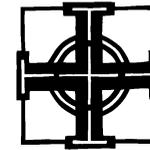
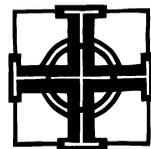
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**Closing Voluntary**

*Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German



**EASTER SEASON  
THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Gathering



**Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome**

**Opening Voluntary**

*Nocturne*

Felix Mendelssohn

*Please stand.*

**THE INVOCATION**

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

C Amen.

**THE REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

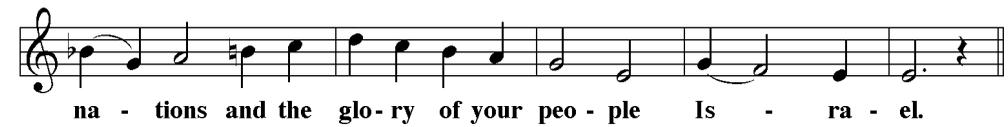
A When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks:*

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

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved one. By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your daughters and sons, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God. Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace, and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
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 BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen**

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 CANTICLE



☞ Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-veal you to the

### THE ENTRANCE HYMN: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*A harmony graphic is not available. See green LBW #143.*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; set heart and will on  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n-ly



still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;  
bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!”



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song  
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -  
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives  
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”  
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

### 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.

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.*

## 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?

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

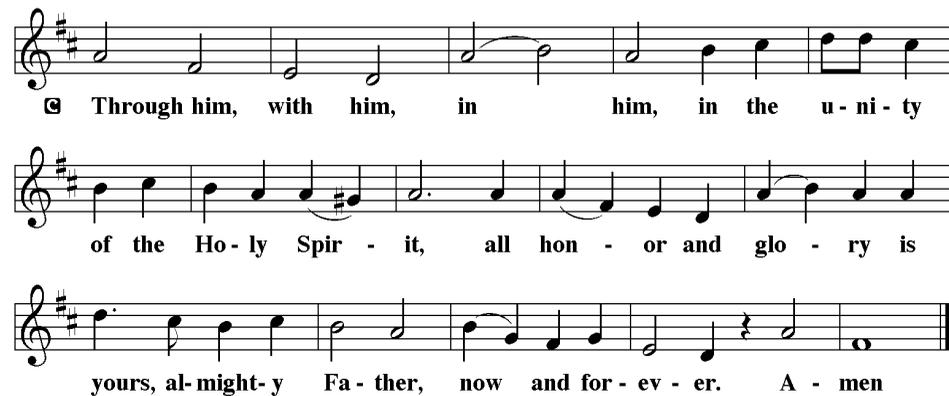
P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, 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.



P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

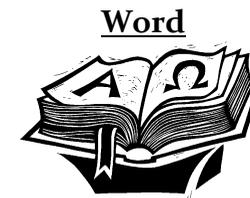
**C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; 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.*



## THE FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,

about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

**THE SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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, 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.



### 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; 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:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

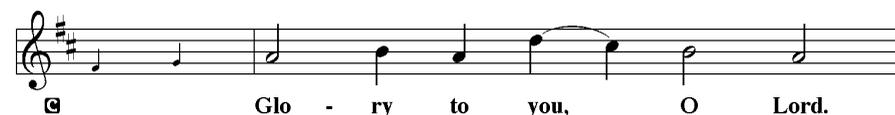
*Please stand.*

### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.



[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please sit.*

## THE SERMON

*Please stand.*

## THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Chief of Sinners Though I Be* Gethsemane

*A harmony graphic is not available. See green LBW #306.*

- 1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
- 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
- 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
- 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
- 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

## THE OFFERTORY

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?

I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will call on the

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## 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 PEACE

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

*Please sit.*

## THE ANTHEM

Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven W. K. Stanton

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise.  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits of the holy harvest yield,  
which will all its full abundance at his second coming yield.  
Then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave,  
ripened by his glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia! to the Savior, who has won the victory;  
Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia! to the triune Majesty. Amen.

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

## 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.**

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.**