

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Chris Miller

Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright

Videographer: Ann Blackwelder

Greeter: Sylvia Corl

Building Supervisors: Pat McDonough

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 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 or call 704-933-8278 for information.

I AM NAMI Walks

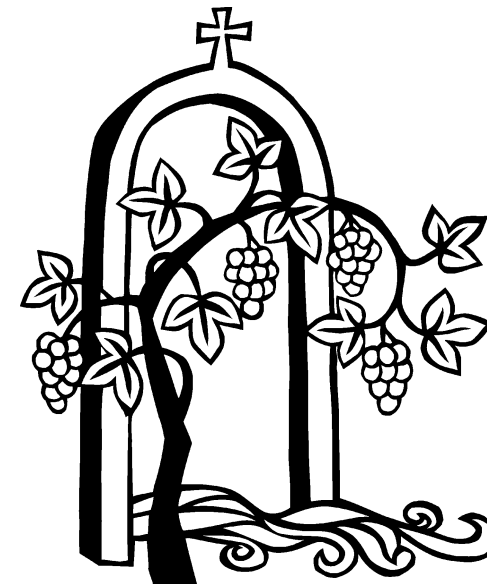
NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers “Mental Health for All.” Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park for Walk Day. Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. namiwalks.org

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.

The SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER
May 5, 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.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

May 5 Julie Burroughs, Sarah Propst
May 6 Bryson Ziegler
May 7 Malinda Allison
May 8 Patricia McDonough
May 9 Anne Readling
May 10 Joshua Rinker
May 11 Hollis Miller

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 5	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Evangelism Committee Meeting (Parlor)
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
Monday, May 6	10:30 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Scouts
	6:30 pm	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 pm	Esther Circle (Flex Room)
Tuesday, May 7	10:30 am	Mary Magdalene Circle
	5:00 pm	Executive Committee
Wednesday, May 8	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, May 9	6:00 pm	Handbells
Sunday, May 12	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for today are given to the Glory of God by Ashley Cline & Jeff Koenig.

COPYRIGHT

MUSIC: Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

LITURGY: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

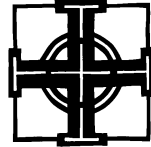
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS002140

THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary *Con Moto Maestoso from Sonate III* Felix Mendelssohn



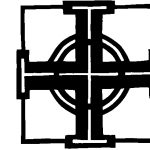
AN INVITATION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH Sunday, May 19th at 4pm

Mike Holt and Pastor Bill invite you to a time when we can listen to you. Please come on the 19th and help us, help you. What does a youth ministry that you want to be a part of look like for you? Please come on Sunday the 19th and help us learn from you.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Are you about to celebrate your commencement from High School or College or Graduate School? Would you please remind us by calling or emailing the office? As is tradition at St. James, we are planning a time to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments.

info@sjnc.net | 704-786-0166



EASTER SEASON THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary

Préambule

Louis Vierne

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

THE SENDING HYMN *O Day of Rest and Gladness* Ellacombe

1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
To Ho - ly Ghost be prais - es, to Fa - ther, and to Son;

sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

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 ENTRANCE HYMN: *My Song is Love Unknown (vs. 1-4, 7)* Rhosymedre

Harmony available in the LBW (green book), #94



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

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.

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C 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



na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,



and will be for-ev-er. A-men

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 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.

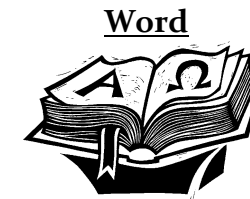
C **Amen**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by your goodness help us to do them; 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 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory

that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

Please stand.

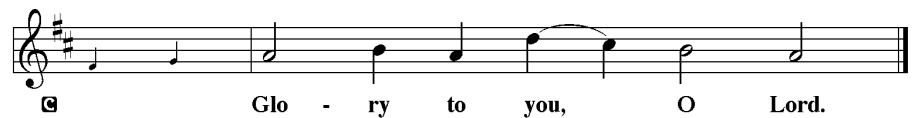
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.



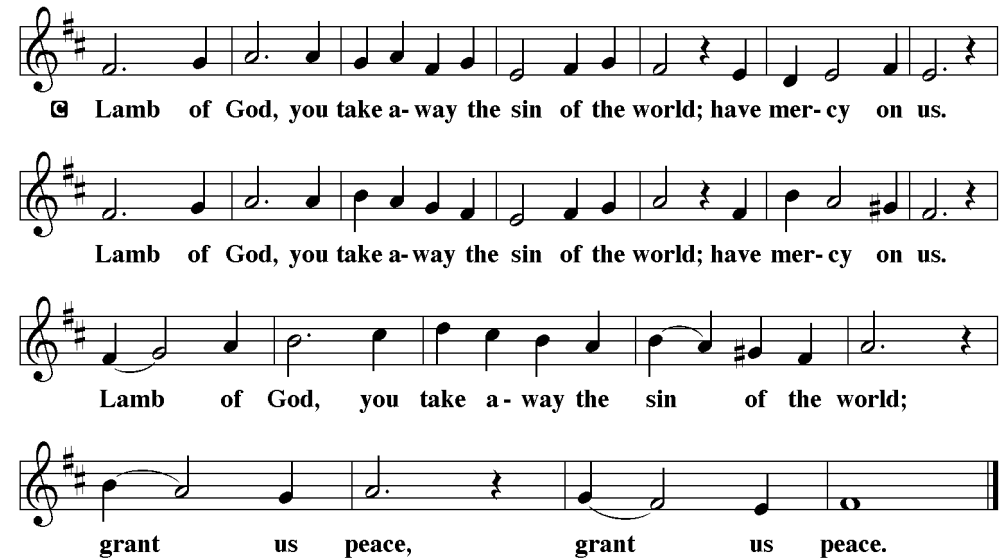
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because

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.**



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.

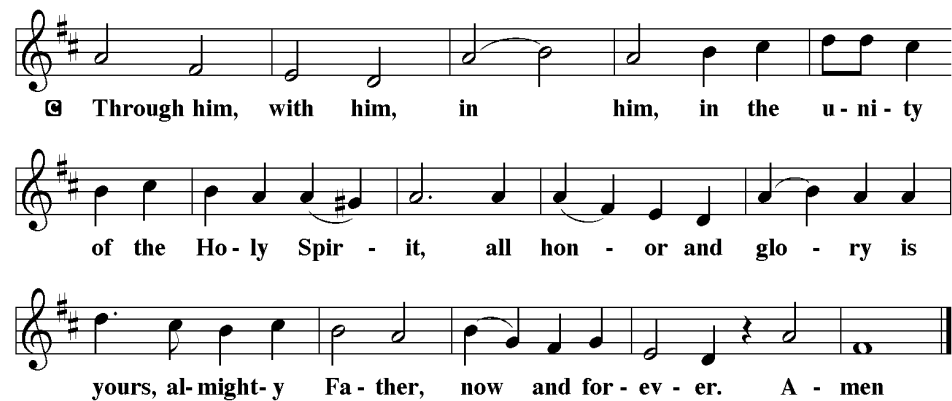
P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,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

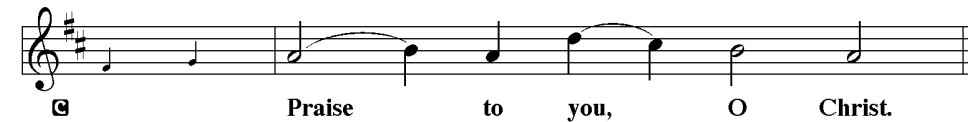
P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



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 - mighty Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

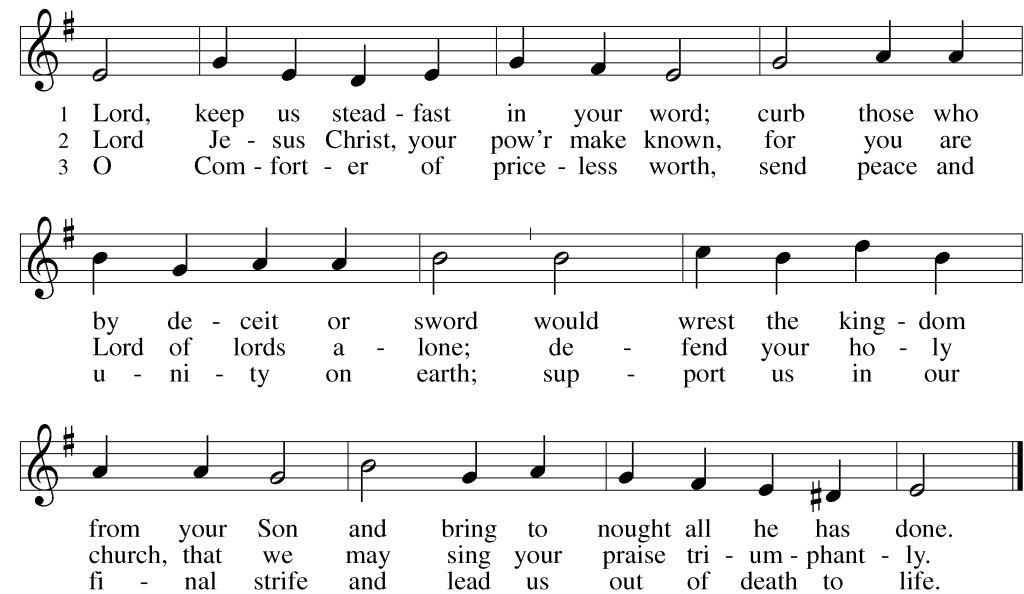
Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* Erhalt Uns, Herr

Harmony available in the LBW (green book), #230



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and
by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our
from your Son and bring to nought all he has done.
church, that we may sing your praise tri - um - phant - ly.
fi - nal strife and lead us out of death to life.

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.

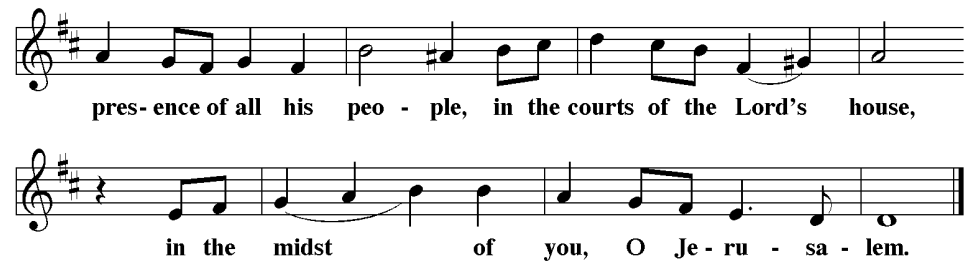
for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels 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,



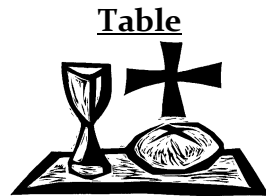
Please kneel or sit, as able.

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 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.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Bless, O Lord, Us Thy Servants

Martin How

*Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants who minister in Thy temple.
Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY

