

St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

We will live-stream Mass from St. Gertrude Church at 10:30 am on Sunday, May 24, using Facebook Live! Please click [HERE](#) to be connected to our parish Facebook page. After Mass, we will upload the video to [our YouTube channel](#) and post the link [on our website](#).

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet with lyrics for music for the Mass [HERE](#). All the lyrics are also available at the bottom of this e-mail.

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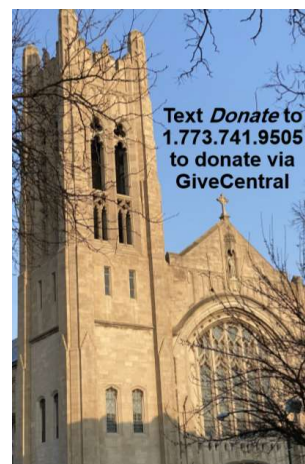
From Father Rich: The Reopening Plan

This week, the Parish Staff met together, in person, for the first time in two months to begin work on the Re-opening process for church. Since the plan was released by the Archdiocese at the end of last week, it has gotten a lot of media attention. Which is a good thing. At the outset, however, it is very important to remind everyone that this will be a very slow and deliberate process. Initially, the re-opening will affect very few parishioners. Small celebrations, like individual family baptisms, small funerals, small weddings could take place as long as there are no more than ten people, plus the ministers. Having the church available for private prayer in groups no larger than ten is also part of the initial phase of re-opening.

These initial in-church events will also give us a good test run for the procedures that will be our new “normal” for an indefinite period of time.

*Bulletin for the The
Ascension of the
Lord*

5/24



Before you arrive:

Check your temperature, if you have one, please do not come to church. Make sure you have a mask or other face-covering and wear it, if you arrive at church without a mask a single-use disposable mask will be made available for your use. Everyone will have to wear a mask unless there are serious breathing issues – in which case any unmasked people will need to be further isolated from the rest of the congregation



Click [HERE](#) for a list of online and televised Masses.

There is no Kids Word this Sunday, May 24.

As you arrive

Everyone will enter church through a single door that will be open. At the door, you will be met by a Greeter who will take your temperature using a non-contact thermometer and spray your hands with a hand-sanitizer solution. A mask will be provided if necessary.

Seating in Church

Seating will be indicated throughout the church so that everyone maintains the six-foot safe-distancing that is required. Many pews will be closed to make this possible, and individual seats will be marked so that if you are in a pew with someone else, you are always six feet away. The exception to this is for families who live in the same house. They may all sit together.

Liturgical Celebrations

At least initially, we will not be able to have the choir. The reason for this is that singing propels more particles than speaking and that places everyone in greater danger. We will, however have a cantor, who will be located at a safe distance of twelve feet away from the nearest parishioner. The ministers (priests, lectors, etc.) will all wear masks. The exception to this is when they are reading or speaking. There will not be any Offertory Procession of people bringing up the gifts. Communion lines must be reduced to one line using the center aisle, and everyone must maintain the six-foot healthy-distancing as they move toward the altar. The patterns we experienced before we shut down for no physical touching during the Sign of Peace, Communion only with the host/Sacred Body and no distribution of the host directly to the mouth will continue. The floor will be marked (like grocery stores already are) to indicate both the direction of movement and

spacing between individuals. While distributing communion, the priest or Minister of Communion will be wearing a shield, for everyone's protection. There will be no ushers taking up the collection(s). Instead, there will be "Offertory Boxes" into which parishioners can place their Offertory contribution.

There will be no more hymnals or any other papers in the pews or on the tables in church. In place of hymnals we will have song sheets with the words to the music we will be singing that weekend, and the Gloria & Creed. These sheets will only be used once, then disposed of.

Volunteers Needed

For all this to happen, the first step we need to climb is to get a new group of volunteers – the Parish Re-opening Leadership Team. All volunteers for managing our public prayer during the pandemic, must be under 65 with no underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, undergoing cancer treatment, etc.

We need two volunteers to assume **Co-Leadership** positions who will work with me in making sure we have put all the necessary guidelines and measures in place including ensuring all our volunteers have completed the necessary Archdiocesan training and that our parish has been certified to re-open. The Co-Leadership positions will also help direct the Team Captains (Set-Up Captain, Greeter Captain, and Cleaning Captain). Co-Leaders must be able to lead groups and effectively problem solve, be highly organized with great attention to detail and have the time to dedicate to overseeing the parish preparations.

We will need volunteers to assist in three essential areas:

Set Up – ensuring that all supplies needed for each sacramental celebration are ready, doors and windows are open etc.

Greeters - meeting people at the door, taking temperatures, ensuring masks are being worn, providing hand sanitizer, and assisting with ensuring that safe distance seating guidelines are being followed.

Cleaning - cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church after each use, including the restroom.

Each service will always need no less than two Greeters, and, depending on the service size, enough Set-Up and Cleaning volunteers to be sure all the

health and safety requirements are in place before, during, and after the service. Having enough volunteers is the only way we will be able to get back to some kind of regular schedule.

Although any volunteer must be under 65, volunteers for the Set-Up and Cleaning groups can be high-school age (with parental permission) and up to 64.

Our Pastoral Associate, Kevin Cheers, will coordinate all volunteers. That will allow everyone to go to the same place, no matter what you might be volunteering for, and Kevin will be sure your information goes to the right places and that you receive information on the training that is required. You can email her at kchears@stgertrudechicago.org.

More Information

It goes without saying that the church will be cleaned before and after every service. This includes wiping down with disinfectant the seats and backs of the pews that have been occupied as well as the kneelers and the top portion of the pews where we place our hands. And the bathroom will also be cleaned and sanitized after every service.

If you would like to check out any of the Archdiocesan Guidelines or any part of the information the Archdiocese has shared during this pandemic time, please check out the new website that has been established: <https://www.archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening-training>. I encourage everyone to take a look at the site and get more familiar with these Guidelines which will affect us no matter where we go to church.

We hope to be ready for Phase I and Phase IA reopening about June 1st. But that will depend on getting enough volunteers and all of them completing their training and our parish being certified. The other non-church part of the re-opening process is dependent on the Governor's re-opening of the state. Like what we are doing, this will also be done little by little.

In future weeks, when we get closer to having public services (Masses) with a larger number of people, I'll review those protocols in particular. For now, once we open, those who wish to come to church for a private visit, etc., will be able to make a reservation either online or by calling the rectory. This will be necessary because we will begin with no more than ten people in

church at a time, plus the Greeters. If all ten places are filled, the next people will be asked to wait outside, observing safe –distancing, and those already in church will be asked to complete their visit within twenty minutes.

If you match the criteria for volunteering for our new “normal”, please volunteer! The parish needs your help! In fact, we can’t re-open without you!

Readings for Sunday, May 24

Reading 1: Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9

R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,

For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.

God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Reading 2: Eph 1:17–23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Gospel: Mt 28:16–20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

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Growing in Faith

A number of years ago, Sr. Kathy Sherman, CSJ wrote a wonderful song with the refrain: “I am with you on the journey, and I will never leave you.” These words reflect the words of Jesus to his disciples in today’s Gospel: “I am with you always, until the end of the age.” I don’t know about you, but I so need to hear these words in these difficult and challenging times when our individual and collective lives have been upended.

In Matthew’s Gospel, there is no recounting of Jesus’ ascension. Rather, Matthew focuses on the community of disciples who are to be witnesses to the transforming power of the Resurrection. I’m struck by Matthew’s statement that those disciples, upon seeing Jesus, “worshipped him, but doubted.” Who among us, during these days, hasn’t had moments of doubt and fear as we have seen our lives and the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world touched by so much loss and grief.

Yet, even in the midst of all that we are experiencing, we are invited – indeed – commanded by Jesus to lean into our baptismal commitment, proclaiming that death and suffering do not have the last word. As the Body of Christ, we are called to be Jesus’ life-giving presence, needed so badly in

these times. When many of us are unable to gather together in person to celebrate Eucharist, we are called to be the Real Presence of Jesus for one another and for our world.

On this Ascension Day, “may the eyes of (our) hearts be enlightened, that (we) may know the hope that belongs to his call.” Amen. Alleluia!

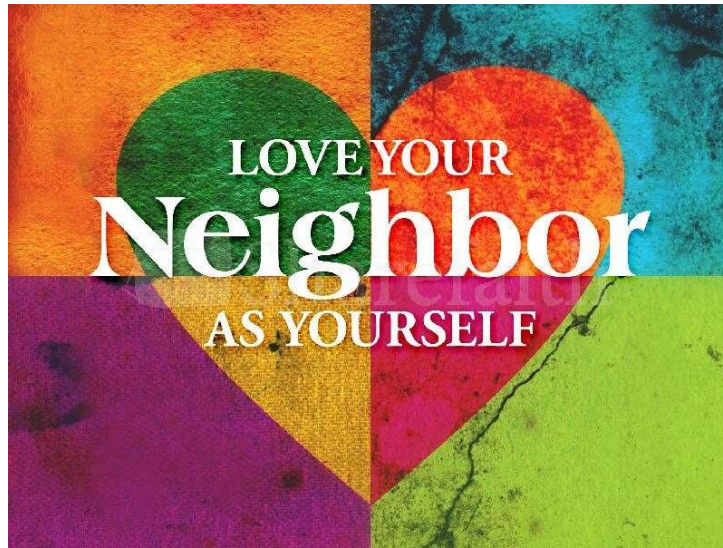
~ Bob Backis for *Growing in Faith*



PDF of Music for This Sunday's Mass

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet with lyrics for music for our live-streamed Mass this Sunday at 10:30 am. A PDF is available [HERE](#).

This Sunday, Mary Clare will be accompanied by cantor Kellye McKay-Guzik.



News from the Refugee and Immigration Ministry Committee: Resources Available for Our Immigrant & Refugee Neighbors

Greetings, St. Gertrude parishioners,

We, the Refugee and Immigrant Ministry, are very aware that many people in our community and city did not nor will not benefit from any stimulus package because they are undocumented immigrants.

If you or someone you know is in that situation and struggling to make ends meet, please contact the parish. Some resources may be available. We know too that being undocumented is a sensitive matter and be assured that privacy and confidentiality will be greatly respected.

If you or someone you know is in that situation and struggling to make ends meet, please contact the parish. You can leave a message at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Some resources may be available.

Nosotros, el ministerio para refugiados y inmigrantes de la parroquia de Sta. Gertrude, estamos muy conscientes de que muchas personas en nuestra comunidad y ciudad no recibieron los cheques de estímulo del gobierno federal porque son inmigrantes sin documentos gubernamentales.

Si usted, o alguien que Ud conoce, está en esta situación y con dificultades

económicas, por favor pónganse en contacto con la parroquia. Es posible que haya algunos recursos disponibles. También sabemos que ser un inmigrante sin documentos es un asunto sensitivo y puede estar seguro que todo se mantendrá en privado. Usted puede dejar un recado llamando la parroquia, 773.764.3621 o mandando un correo electrónico a stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Es posible que haya recursos disponibles.

Resources for Immigrants

Recursos

Resources for Undocumented Immigrants and their Families During COVID-19



Blood Drive This Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran Church

As it always true, the most valuable gift we can give another person is the gift of life – blood. There has been a blood shortage since the start of the pandemic. This Sunday, May 24, we are fortunate to have a blood drive just a few blocks away. Please consider donating blood this **from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1500 W. Elmdale, Chicago**. The Red Cross has new protocols in place to make donating a safe essential service. To make an appointment, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).

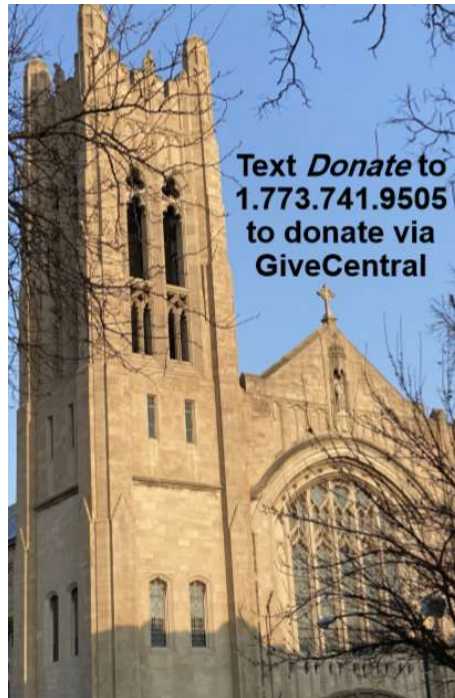
With specific inquiries for Immanuel Lutheran Church, please contact parish nurse Marcia Smith at 773.743.1831 or parishnursemarcia@gmail.com.

Parish Stewardship Report

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has donated over the past two months. Your contributions help keep our parish strong. We especially thank all of our newcomers to electronic giving.

This is a difficult time for everyone. Please continue to keep each other, St. Gertrude, and our local and global communities in your prayers.

	<u>March 22-May 12, 2020</u>	<u>March 22-May 12 2019</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Sunday Collection Checks	\$ 19,575.00	\$ 38,445.75	\$ (18,870.75)	-49.08%
			\$ -	
Sunday Collection Cash	\$ 164.00	\$ 12,398.41	\$ (12,234.41)	-98.68%
			\$ -	
Sunday Collection Electronic Giving	\$ 55,868.58	\$ 52,384.50	\$ 3,484.08	6.65%
Total Sunday Collection	\$ 75,607.58	\$ 103,228.66	\$ (27,621.08)	-26.76%
Easter Collection	\$ 18,017.00	\$ 23,339.53	\$ (5,322.53)	-22.81%



Ways to Help Our Parish During the Stay-at-Home Order: Text to Give, GiveCentral, PayPal, Archdiocese Link, Facebook Fundraiser, and Amazon Smile

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners are welcome to text the word **Donate** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via phone.

We also have set up a [fundraiser on our Facebook page](#). All monies will go to support our parish's many ministries.

The Archdiocese has [an online giving option via the Archdiocesan website](#). You simply click on the link and it takes you to the website. Once there, you determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

To access our PayPal link, please visit [our parish website](#) and donate from there.

Visit [smile.amazon.com](#) and select St Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through [smile.amazon.com](#) and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email Art Blumberg, Director of Parish Management and Facilities, at ablumberg@stgertrudechicago.org. He will be happy to help in any way he can.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

[Click here for PayPal \(via our website\)](#)

[Donate via the Archdiocese website](#)



In Remembrance

Visit <https://stgertrudechicago.org/in-memoriam> for a list of those parishioners and loved ones of parishioners who have passed away since the beginning of the stay-at-home order. We welcome all requests for prayers for those that are sick, those hurting and stressed, and those who have passed away.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." ~ John 11:25-26



Domestic Violence Resources Available

Since the stay at home order was issued in Illinois, calls to local agencies that help those in abusive relationships have sharply increased to record highs. Data from other areas that have been on lockdown longer than Illinois indicate that these numbers of domestic violence incidents will continue to grow.

Where to Call

The Department of Family and Support Services is the lead agency for the [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline](#) and works exclusively with [The Network:](#)

[Advocating Against Domestic Violence](#), a local nonprofit, to ensure residents have access to domestic violence support resources 24/7/365 – especially during this time of crisis. **The [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline \(1.877.863.6338\)](#) is available 24/7 via call or text in over 240 languages.**

Uber/Lyft Rides Offer Free, Safe Transportation

The City of Chicago partnered with Lyft and Uber to offer free rides to people who have contacted the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.877.863.6338 in need of safe transportation. Ride requester's privacy will be protected by personnel at the hotline.

St. Gertrude's Domestic Violence Resource Page

The St. Gertrude website also has a [Domestic Violence information page](#) and a click-away button in the event someone is monitoring computer use. It lists specific information on abusive relationships, including:

- Where to Start
- Organizations that Provide Housing
- Legal Help
- Spanish-Speaking Assistance
- Asian, Arabic, & Korean Assistance
- LGBTQ Help
- Help for Teens & Young Adults
- Help Securing the Safety of Pets
- What Does Abuse Look Like?
- How to Help a Friend or Family Member
- Emotional Abuse
- Why Do People Stay in Abusive Relationships?



Daily Scripture Readings

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses [HERE](#). (*Scroll down the webpage to see the readings.*)

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Monday, May 25: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 26: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 27: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday, May 28: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday, May 29: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday, May 30: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25

Sunday, May 31: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



Mass Intentions

Mass intentions for scheduled mass will be transferred to the private masses the parish priests (Fr. Mike Bradley, Fr. Mike Gabriel, and Fr. Rich Prendergast) will say during this time.

If those who requested/scheduled these Masses would prefer to have them moved to a different date, please leave a message at the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Sr. Judith will re-schedule them.

- Monday, May 25 - Edward Allen Brasher +
- Tuesday, May 26 - Ethna Curtis Nolan +
- Wednesday, May 27 - Josephine & Luis Tapiru II
- Thursday, May 28 - Living & deceased mothers & fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners

- Friday, May 29 - Tom Backis +
- Saturday, May 30 - Purgatorial Society, Jenny Wyman +
- Sunday, May 31 - Maria Binn T. Nguyen + and parents +, Randy Cruz +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



Please Welcome Our New Parishioners

The Lawrence Family



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Walter Bradford
- Ester Bugler
- Aida Calvopina
- Maggie Callaway
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Karey Myers
- Don Piven
- Charley Scantlebury
- David Sierzega
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel
- The Sullivan family
- Ruth Timmons
- Elinora E. Tolentino



A Prayer for Memorial Day: *With Gratitude and Honor*

Gracious God, on this Memorial Day weekend,
we remember and give thanks
for those who have given their lives
in the service of our country.
When the need was greatest,
they stepped forward and did their duty
to defend the freedoms that we enjoy,
and to win the same for others.

O God, you yourself have taught us
that no love is greater than that
which gives itself for another.
These honored dead gave the most precious gift they had,
life itself, for loved ones and neighbors,
for comrades and country - and for us.

Help us to honor their memory
by caring for the family members
they have left behind,
by ensuring that their wounded comrades
are properly cared for,
by being watchful caretakers of the freedoms

for which they gave their lives,
and by demanding that no other young men and women
follow them to a soldier's grave
unless the reason is worthy and the cause is just.

Holy One, help us to remember that freedom is not free.
There are times when its cost is, indeed, dear.
Never let us forget those who paid so terrible a price
to ensure that freedom would be our legacy.

Though their names may fade with the passing of generations,
may we never forget what they have done.
Help us to be worthy of their sacrifice,

O God, help us to be worthy.

- J. Veltri, S.J.

Lyrics for Music at the Sunday, May 24 10:30 am Mass

At the Lamb's High Feast by Jakob Hintze

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
He has washed us in the tide Flowing from his open side;
Praise we him, whose love divine Gives his sacred Blood for wine,
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above.

Easter triumph, Easter joy, Sin alone can this destroy;
From sin's pow'r do thou set free Souls new born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:
Risen Lord, all praise to thee With the Spirit ever be.

Gloria to God from Mass of Spirit and Grace by Ricky Manalo

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We
praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord
Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take
away the sins of the world, receive our prayer, you are seated at the right

hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

God Mounts His Throne by Paul Inwood

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; Alleluia, alleluia!

I, the Lord by Tom Kendzia

I, the Lord, am with you, always by your side.

Come and take my hands, for I will lead you home.

Follow me, follow me.

I am the resurrection, and I am the life; if you believe in me, you shall live forever. (to refrain)

Communion: You are Near by Dan Schutte

REFRAIN: O Lord, I know you are near, standing always at my side.

You guard me from the foe, and you lead me in ways everlasting.

VERSE: Lord, you have searched my heart, and you know when I sit and when I stand. Your hand is upon me, protecting me from death, keeping me from harm. (to refrain)

Recessional: City of God by Dan Schutte

Verse 1: Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!

A new day is dawning for all those who weep.

The people in darkness have seen a great light.

The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.

REFRAIN: Let us build a city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!

For the Lord, our Light and our Love, has turned the night into day!

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