



The Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

At the sound of the bell, the assembly stands.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.

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

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.
You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.
In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.
To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever.
Amen.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of the risen Christ, the love of the ever-living God,
and the communion of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 140

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of life,

you reach out to us amid our fears

with the wounded hands of your risen Son.

By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy,

and strengthen us to be the body of your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them,

they had them stand before the council.

The high priest questioned them, saying,

'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,

yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching

and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.'

But Peter and the apostles answered,

'We must obey God rather than any human authority.

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus,

whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour,

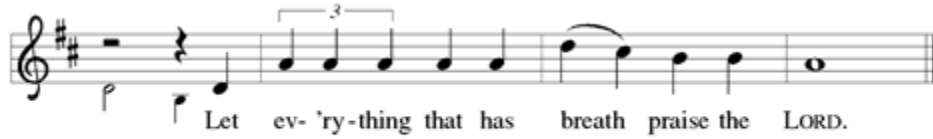
so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

And we are witnesses to these things,

and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The choir introduces the refrain, the congregation repeats. The assembly joins on all following refrains and verses in **bold**.



Psalm 150:6
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¹Hallelujah! Praise God in the | holy temple;
praise God in the | mighty firmament.

²**Praise God for | mighty acts;
praise God for ex- | ceeding greatness. R**

³**Praise God with | trumpet sound;
praise God with | lyre and harp.**

⁴**Praise God with tambou- | rine and dance;
praise God with | strings and pipe.**

⁵**Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals;
praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.**

⁶**Let everything | that has breath
praise the LORD. | Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace
from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to greet the gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

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

*GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked
for fear of the Judeans,

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;

if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin),

one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.'

But he said to them,

'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,

and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’
A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’
Then he said to Thomas,
‘Put your finger here and see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’
Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’
Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,
which are not written in this book.
But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.
This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Jay

After a brief silence for reflection, the assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song

The Risen Christ



1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand.
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,
 breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide
 the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,
 with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,
 whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;
 re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,
 till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
 Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
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Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

**We believe in on God, the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, +
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold your children who cry out to you like those whose names and needs we lift up now:_____.

Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your

mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise especially Charlotte, Katherine, Larry, and Ralph. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a greeting of peace. Please be mindful of touch.

MEAL

God feeds us with Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you would like to give electronically, you may do so by using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

#379 vv. 1&4

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Living God,

you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together

in your peaceable reign,

and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,

and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.


Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


*DIALOG



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

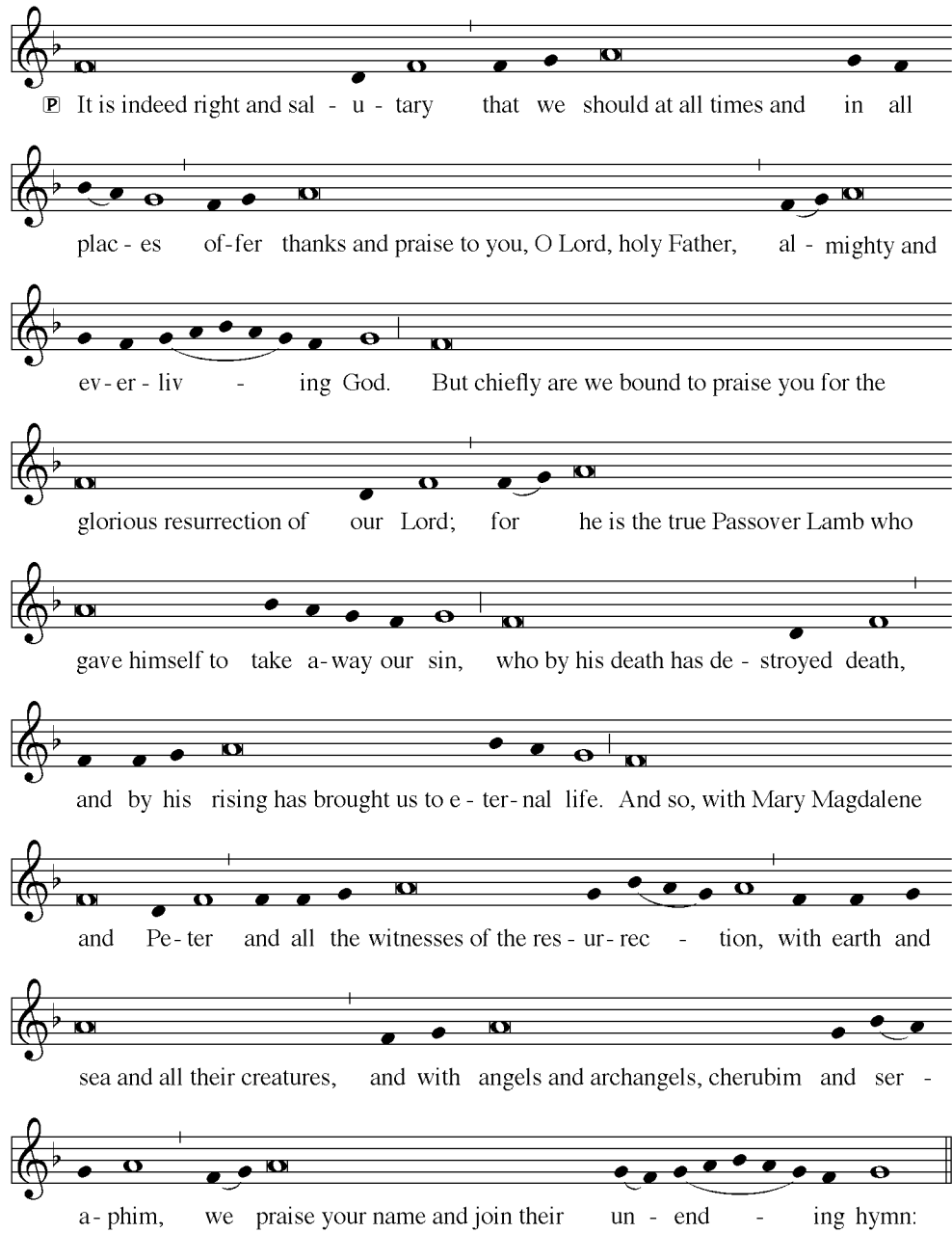


Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*PREFACE



It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all
plac - es of-fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, al - mighty and
ev - er - liv - ing God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the
glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who
gave himself to take a-way our sin, who by his death has de - stroyed death,
and by his rising has brought us to e - ter - nal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene
and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and
sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and ser -
a - phim, we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

*SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.

Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

*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.*

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths

to praise you without end.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in Heaven...

ELW p. 145

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.


**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**


***INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

(All)




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

(Leader)



Christ, our pas-chal lamb, has been sac - ri - ficed. There-fore, let us

(All)



keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: 1 Corinthians 5:7,8

Music: Michael E. Krentz, b. 1954, based on *Christ lag in Todesbanden*

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COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for the sake of the world. Communion is by pouring chalice. You may come forward, at the direction of the ushers. Take a small cup from the front of the aisle, and proceed to the altar rail. Receive the bread in your open palm. Then, please hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may then drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the provided bowl. For those who so desire, gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate such desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive the Bread and Wine, please come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward to the altar rail and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, please let the usher know.

Christ Has Risen



1 Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has ris - en
 2 Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple whom he died to
 3 Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion for - mer friends who
 4 Christ has ris - en and for - ev - er lives to chal - lenge



where hope died, as he said and as he prom - ised,
 love and save; Christ has ris - en for the wom - en
 fear the night, sens - ing loss and lim - i - ta - tion
 and to change all whose lives are messed or man - gled,



as we doubt - ed and de - nied. Let the moon em -
 bring - ing flow'rs to grace his grave. Christ has ris - en
 where their faith had once burned bright. They be - moan what
 all who find re - li - gion strange. Christ is ris - en,



brace the bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the
 for dis - ci - ples, hud - dled in an up - stairs room. He whose
 is no long - er, they ex - pect no hope - ful sign till Christ
 Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been: ev - i -



world con - firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
 word in - spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
 ends their con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.
 dence of trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984

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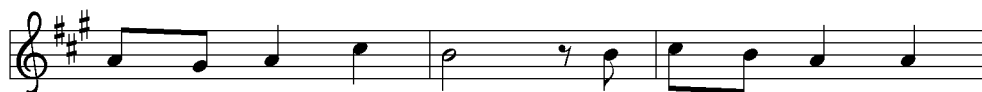
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We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
may our faith a - bound to call on you when
found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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TABLE BLESSING

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
STRENGTHEN YOU, KEEP YOU IN ALL GOODNESS AND HEALTH,
AND BRING YOU TO EVERLASTING LIFE.

AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded



1 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
 2 Day of de - light and beau - ty un - bound - ed, tell the news, the gos - pel



spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
 spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ



ris - en from the dead! Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -
 ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;
 danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;



sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the
 sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of



stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in
 fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor



wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!
 last - ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622

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SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

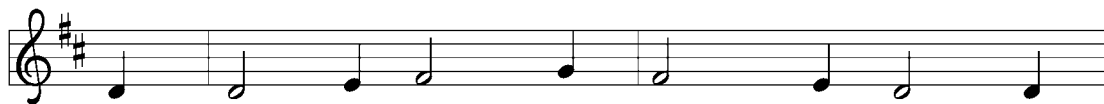
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

#384

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE