

GATHERING

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

***PRELUDE**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

*GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



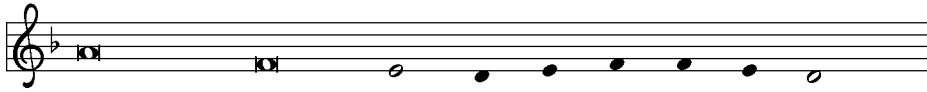
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



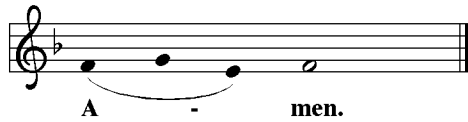
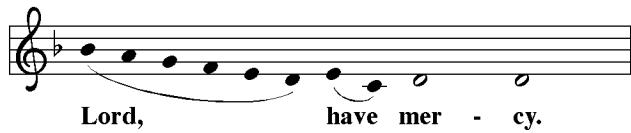
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then the Lord said to me, Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then the Lord said to

me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

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

PSALM 130



Psalm 130:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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Out | of the depths
I cry to | you, O Lord;
 O Lord, | hear my voice!
 Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.
If you were to keep watch | over sins,
O Lord, | who could stand?
 Yet with you | is forgiveness,
 in order that you | may be feared. R
I wait for you, O Lord; | my soul waits;
in your word | is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
 more than those who keep watch | for the morning,
 more than those who keep watch | for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.
 For the Lord shall | redeem Israel
 from | all their sins. R

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through this Spirit that dwells in you.

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

The assembly stands to greet the gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The CHOIR sings the proper verse, and ALL the refrain)

ELW p. 160



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

*GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

The congregation reads the bolded text, which this morning is the voice of Jesus.

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

E: Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

S: *“Lord, he whom you love is ill.”*

But when Jesus heard it, he said,

J: “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples,

“Let us go to Judea again.”

The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?”

Jesus answered,

“Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.”

After saying this, he told them,

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”

The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly,

“Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to the other disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to him,

“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said to her,

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to Jesus,

“Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately,

“The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”

And when Mary heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Judeans who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Judeans who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said,

“Where have you laid him?”

They said to him, *“Lord, come and see.”*

Jesus began to weep. So the Judeans said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus said,

“Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,

“Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”

Jesus said to her,

“Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said,

“Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

When Jesus had said this, he cried with a loud voice,

“Lazarus, come out!”

The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them,

“Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Judeans, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
 2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
 tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
 fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
 End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

*APOSTLES' CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith in which we are baptized:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe (*specific synods, dioceses, or congregations may be named*), and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing (*local natural places may be named*). Uplift prophetic voices that

turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness (*especially*). You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation (*specific ensembles may be named*) and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We greet one another with a sign of peace. Please be mindful of touch.

MEAL

God feeds us with Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“When Jesus Wept”

~ William Billings

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, via VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement App, or by scanning the QR Code

***OFFERTORY HYMN**

#186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOG

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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 our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and eternal God
through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Sharing our life he lived among us
to reveal your love and your glory,

that our bleakness should give way to his own brilliant light.
And so with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the host of heaven,
we praise you name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

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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 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, Creator of our wilderness world,
O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
we give you thanks for your everlasting might;
we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.
For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.
For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.
For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.
On the night before he died he 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.

We extol his life. Amen:

Amen.

We lament his death. Amen:

Amen.

We celebrate his resurrection. Amen:

Amen.

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.

Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.


To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,

now and forever. Amen.

Amen.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcomed to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the provided bowl. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister.

For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, let the usher know.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lamb of God

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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. A - men.

#330

1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much
 grain.
 grave,
 fruit. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel
 to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:
 Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,

If we live, we live to the Lord. If we
die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or
wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, based on Romans 14:8, Psalm 103
 Music: IF WE LIVE, Rolf Vegdahl
 Music © 2009, 2016 Augsburg Fortress

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Embodied God,
 at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
 With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
 empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
 and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ The postcard went out with our schedule of Holy Week services at CALC. When you receive your card, you'll notice these things:

- By a margin of 2 to 1, among those who expressed a preference in worship on 3/12, people preferred hosting Maundy Thursday at CALC, when given the choice of hosting EITHER Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. We look forward to soup for supper beforehand! Soup-makers, get ready.
- Good Friday this year will be on Friday, April 7th at 7:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Wyndmoor, 801 E. Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor (*mailing address Glenside*), Pa 19038.
- The postcards were mailed to everyone on the church's mailing list, but we

have prepared cards for members and friends to use specially to invite friends and family, and others who might have been around CALC before, but have been absent for a time because of demands of the pandemic, or any other reason. WHO have you been missing?

+ Holy Week Worship +

Palm Sunday @ 9:30 am — Palm Procession, Passion and Communion
Maundy Thursday @ 7pm — The Great Absolution, Footwashing, Communion
Good Friday @ 7pm — We gather with Grace & St. Peter's
at Grace, 801 Willow Grove Avenue

+ Easter +

The Vigil of Easter @ 7pm — Salvation History & First Eucharist of Resurrection
Champagne Reception to Follow
The Resurrection of Our Lord @ 9:30am — Festival Eucharist & thanksgiving for
Baptism
Egg Hunt and Reception to Follow

+ **Easter Egg Hunt** supplies needed—empty plastic eggs, wrapped candy, or already filled eggs. Sara Calderon will be collecting your donated supplies at Sunday worship. Add your items to the basket in Kimes Hall.

+ There are some items on the back cabinet in Kimes Hall from the pastor's office clean out. Help yourself if you can use something!

***BLESSING**

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

*DISMISSAL

Marked with the Cross of Christ, go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

+ + +