

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17, 2022

9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRELUDE

“Easter Sunday/Polsk after Rasmus Storm”

arr. by The Danish String Quartet

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The congregation may stand.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water:

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,

Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism

joined to your life-giving Word:

your well of mercy and cleansing flood,

your sea of deliverance from death into life,

your healing river washing sin away,

your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy.

Guide us to walk humbly with you,

whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

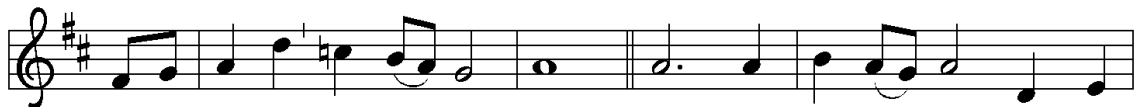


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead;

Christ is alive and has become the Lord of Life!

Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ.

**Help us to grow as your people toward fullness of life with you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁷I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered

or come to mind.

¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

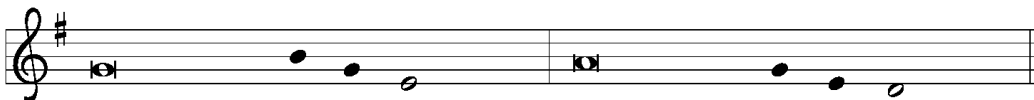
The congregation sings the antiphon and the verses in bold.

Antiphon:



This is the day that the LORD has made; let us re-joyce and be glad in it.

Psalm Tone:



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD. Antiphon**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation. Antiphon**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Antiphon

READING

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴ So Peter said to them, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—³⁵ rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶ This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all. ³⁷ "You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the countryside and in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, ⁴⁰ only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹ not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God—that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. ⁴² And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.

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

Luke 24:1-12

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled back from the tomb; ³ but when they entered the tomb, they didn't find the body of Jesus. ⁴ While they were still at a loss over what to think of this, two figures in dazzling garments stood beside them. ⁵ Terrified, the women bowed to the ground. The two said to them, "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? ⁶ Jesus is not here; Christ has risen. Remember what Jesus said to you while still in Galilee—⁷ that the Chosen One must be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified, and on the third day would rise again."⁸ With this reminder, the words of Jesus came back to them. ⁹ When they had returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and the others. ¹⁰ The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, ¹¹ but the story seemed like nonsense and they refused to believe them. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. He stooped down, but he could see nothing but the wrappings. So he went away, full of amazement at what had occurred.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See page 8.

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Day of Resurrection!

The congregation may stand.

ELW 361



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

A brief silence.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

or Lord, we praise you,
Thanks be to God.

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The congregation may stand.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The congregation may be seated.

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERING

*We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's!
Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY SOLO

“I Know that My Redeemer Liveth”

*Sung by cantor.
G.F. Handel*

“I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.”

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



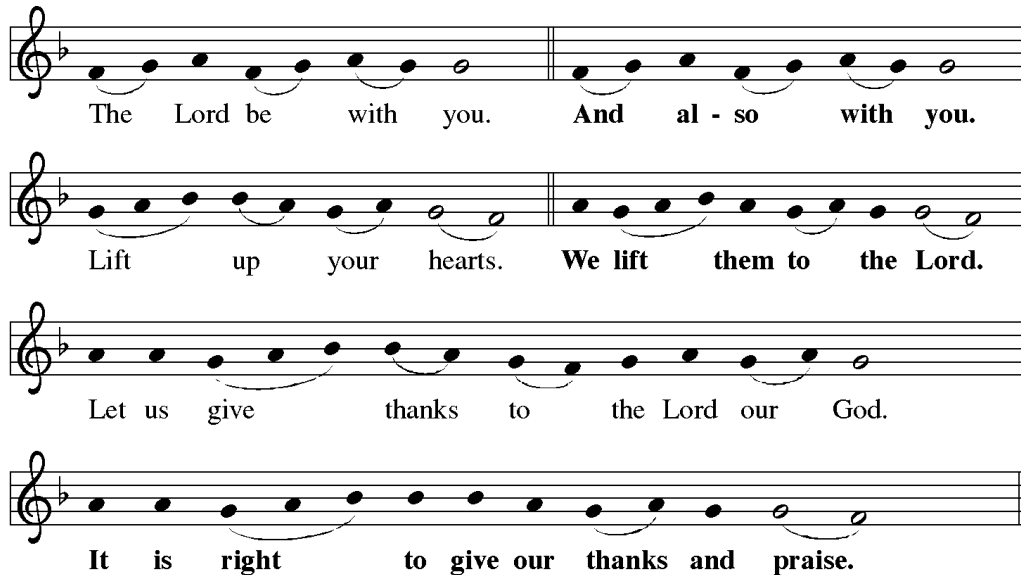
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**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 trust
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE



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

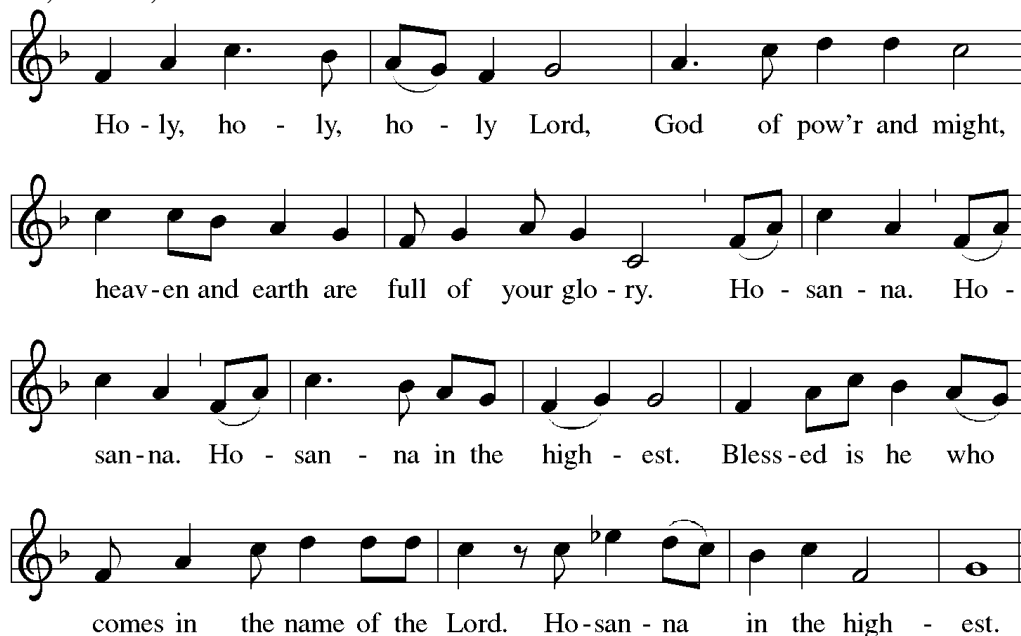
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

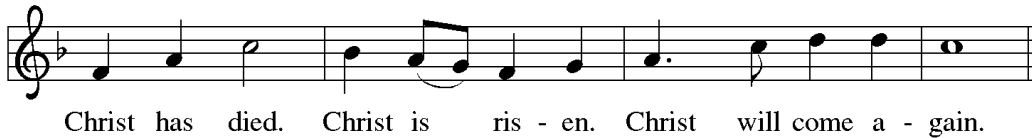


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

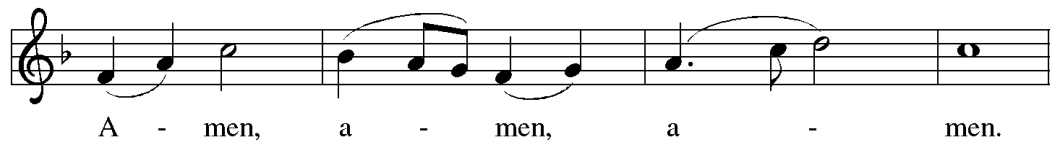
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

You are indeed holy...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Remembering, therefore...in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Spring," Allegro Pastorale, from *The Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
 you have conquered in the fight,
 you have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 now no more the grave enthrall;
 you have opened paradise,
 and your saints in you shall rise.
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.
 Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

**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 Christ.**

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION VERSE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

+ **Sending** +

BENEDICTION

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
 Go in peace. Tell everyone what God has done.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"The Peat Dance/Sekstur from Vandsyssel"

arr. by The Danish String Quartet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion Classes

Student Pastor Derek will be leading a three-week First Communion/Thanksgiving for Communion class with children and youth beginning after Easter. The class will meet during Children's Church time on April 24th, May 1st, and May 8th, in person only. We will celebrate and receive first communion on **May 15th** during the 9:30 am service. All children are welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of whether they've received communion previously. If you'd like to volunteer to assist or have questions, please email derek@stjohnswilmette.com.

Family Promise Returns

We are excited to announce that St. John's will be hosting Family Promise families for three weeks, from May 1-22. Currently there is one family in the program (a father and his 12-year-old son), with another family expected to join soon. Our youth ministry program is hosting a welcome party on Sunday, May 1, which will include supper and getting to know our guests. For the evenings that follow, we are asking volunteers from St. John's to sign up to provide dinner and/or spend time with the families. Family Promise staff will stay overnight each night, so overnight hosts are not needed. Please check the Signup Genius link in your Enews or contact the church office to sign up to participate!

Adult Forum Completes Book Study - Newcomers Invited

This book study will be held on the two Sundays after Easter: April 24 and May 1, from 11 am to 12 pm, in person. The book is *Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World* by Walter Brueggemann. Copies of the book are available if you'd like to read in advance, but it is not necessary. Please contact Peter Knobel at 847-494-2815 if you would like a copy of the book or have any questions.

Bible Study Remains Online Only

Weekly Bible Study will remain meeting online from 11:00 am-12:00 pm on Tuesdays. Bible Study can be accessed via our worship Zoom link.

Visitors for Sarah

Sarah Rink, a regular participant at the Saturday service and now a participant in Sunday morning services, is looking for folks who would be willing to visit her in her home (1900 Wilmette Ave. #2F). She is experiencing chronic pain, and having visitors would be a great blessing in her life. She is open to hosting visitors at 4 pm or 5 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Sarah is fully vaccinated and happy to wear a mask if that is preferred. Please give her a call at 847-251-2758 to let her know when you can stop by!

Mask Update

In light of new CDC and Metro Chicago Synod guidelines, masks are now optional for activities at St. John's with the important exceptions of worship and youth programming. Worship leaders, including cantors/song leaders, may now remove masks while leading, but the congregation will remain masked and socially distanced from leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about our current policy, please contact our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, Christi Wise).

Amazon Smile

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search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate “St John Evangelical Lutheran Church” as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John’s encourages all its members to make purchases locally.

From Holy Family Ministries: You are invited to A Hope and A Future 2022!

Each year, Holy Family Ministries raises funds to enable west side children to attend our programs through our Spring Benefit. Through the generosity of friends like you, we raise funds to support the more than 600 children who excel academically, grow spiritually, become effective leaders and expand their life experiences through Holy Family programs. You are invited to Holy Family Ministries’ annual Spring Benefit in celebration and support of the children of Holy Family. Join us online from the comfort of your own home and share with us in a very special evening Saturday, April 30, 2022. “Virtual Doors” open at 6:45 pm. Program begins at 7:00 pm. Use the link in this week’s eNews to register for free.

Considering Matthew Shepard: An Oratorio

In October of 1998, Matthew Shepard, a young, gay student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence and left to die in a lonely field under a blanket of stars. Five days later, when Matt passed away, the world was watching. Approaching the eve of the 20th anniversary, Craig Hella Johnson has responded with his first concert-length work, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. This three-part fusion oratorio speaks with a fresh and bold voice, incorporating a variety of musical styles seamlessly woven into a unified whole. Johnson sets a wide range of poetic and soulful texts by poets including Hildegard of Bingen, Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Browne, and Rumi. Passages from Matt’s personal journal, interviews and writings from his parents Judy and Dennis Shepard, newspaper reports, and additional texts by Johnson and Browne are poignantly appointed throughout the work. Tickets can be purchased at chicagochoralartists.org/events.

Performance Dates:

- Friday, April 29, 7:30 pm, St. Luke's Lutheran Church (1500 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL)
- Saturday, April 30, 7:30 pm, Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division, River Forest, IL)
- Sunday, May 1, 4:00 pm Grace Lutheran Church (7300 Division, River Forest, IL)