

Free Cabarrus County Pre-K

Do you live in Cabarrus County?

Will your child turn 4 years old on or before August 31?

See if your family qualifies for a preschool program.

Visit www.cabarruspartnership.org or call 704-933-8278 for information.

I AM NAMI Walks

NAMIWalks powers the life-changing work of NAMI Cabarrus, And NAMI Cabarrus powers “Mental Health for All.” Join NAMIWalks Cabarrus on May 18 at 9 am at Frank Liske Park.

Together, we will all be NAMIWalks 2024 — through our commitment, unity, and laughter leading up to, and of course on, Walk Day.

Registration is live | Vendor opportunities available. -NAMI Cabarrus Super Team
(namiwalks.org)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Children and Volunteers...*Please save the dates July 28-30, 2024 for Vacation Bible School.* All volunteers will be required to have a current Safe Gatherings background check. Please contact the Church Office to receive instructions as to how to complete this process. You will receive written instructions as to how to fill out information online.

SAINT JAMES STAFF

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Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian

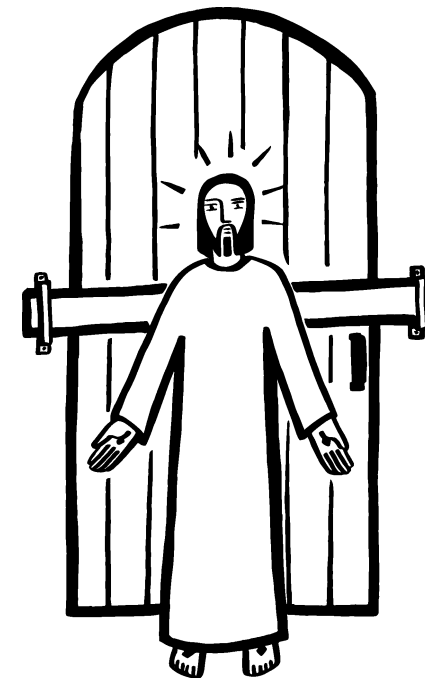
Tfh1990@yahoo.com

The SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

April 7, 2024

The Holy Communion

Ten O'clock



St James Lutheran Church

104 Union Street South

PO Box 684

Concord, North Carolina 28026

704-786-0166

Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At St. James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of our city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building (ages 0-up to and including ages 5)

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building. **Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Holly Sloop any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted to holly@sjnc.net.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

April 9 Myers Jones
April 11 Alison Monk
April 13 David Hardister, Amanda Irvin, Ciprian Popovici

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 7	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15am	Evangelism Committee
Monday, April 8	10:30 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Scouts
Tuesday, April 9	12:00 pm	Lively Leisures
	6:00 pm	Congregation Council
Wednesday, April 10	6:00 pm	Bella Voce Choir
	7:00 pm	Parish Choir
Thursday, April 11	6:00 pm	Handbells
Sunday, April 14	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00 am	Parish Choir
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

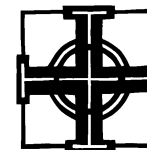
Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman
Communion Assistant: Elizabeth Hurley
Acolyte/Crucifer: Noah Pittard
Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,
Jeff Koenig, Barbara Albright
Videographer: Ann Blackwelder
Greeter: Laura Overby
Building Supervisors: Wendell Overby

PRAYER LIST

Tom Grady; Tom Ridenhour; Noah Clifton; Linda and Paul Jones (family members of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Susan Tadlock (friend of Deb Black); Mary Dorothy White (friend of Patsy Black); Samantha Hillegrass.

Bible Study Returns April 15th

Bible Study returns Monday, April 15 at 6:30pm.
It is the Year of Mark (Cycle B in the lectionary).
So, we'll do Mark.
Don't forget to file those tax returns.



**EASTER SEASON
THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Gathering



Chimes of the Trinity and Welcome

Opening Voluntary *Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major* Johann Seb. Bach

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

THE REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

A When we were joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we were clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Together let us remember our baptism.

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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight. You led Israel safely through the Red Sea into the land of promise, and in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus your beloved one. By water and the Spirit you adopted us as your daughters and sons, making us heirs of the promise and servants of God. Through this water remind us of our baptism. Shower us with your Spirit, that your forgiveness, grace, and love may be renewed in our lives. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

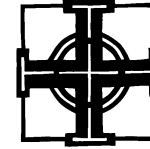
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary

Fanfare in D

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens



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THE SENDING HYMN: *The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done* Victory

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

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es glo - rious
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Silence for reflection.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* Gaudeamus Partiter

A harmony graphic is not available. See Hymnal #132

- 1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,
- 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
- 4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
- 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,

God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.

loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

Sending



THE HYMN OF PRAISE



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



Ⓑ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis-dom and



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



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



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: *Amen (from The Easter Song of Praise)* Richard Shepherd

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

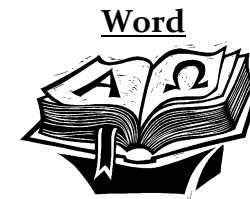
THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P Let us pray.
P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen

Please sit.



THE FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

THE SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to

us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther’s Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

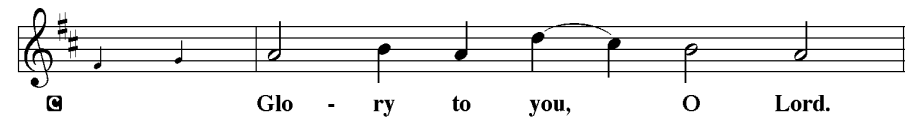


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.



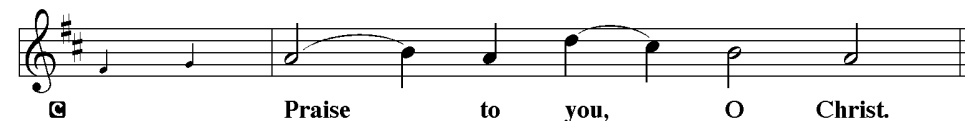
¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit.

THE SERMON

Please stand.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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

☪ Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

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

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, 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.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Sons and Daughters of the King* O Filii et Filiae

A harmony graphic is not available. See Hymnal #139

Stanzas 1-4, 9

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 4 That night the_a - pos - tles met in fear;
 whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way to seek the
 who sits and speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear, and said, "My
 grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
 peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 After stanza 9:
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

9 On this most holy day of days,
 be laud and jubilee and praise:
 to God your hearts and voices raise.
 Alleluia!

THE NICENE CREED

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Table



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE OFFERTORY



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e-fits to me?



I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks-giv - ing and will call on the



name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the



pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are you,

C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Please kneel or sit, as able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For his holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For travelers, for the sick and suffering, for captives, for all who need our prayers and for all who we remember silently in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O God by your grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

P O God, you gladden our hearts by the annual celebration of the resurrection of our Lord: In your mercy grant that we, who celebrate these joyous days on earth, may at length attain to the eternal Easter in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please stand.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

The Easter Song of Praise

Richard Shepherd

Sing choirs of heaven, let saints and angels sing.

Around God's throne exult in harmony!

Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave, salute your king in glorious symphony.

Sing choirs of earth, behold your light has come.

The glory of the Lord shines radiantly.

Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death, the night is past, the day of life is here.

Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured! The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!

Your Saviour lives, He's with you evermore. Let all God's people shout the long Amen.

THE OFFERING

Please stand.