

*I  
am  
the way  
and  
the truth  
and  
the life*



# The Easter Season

May 3, 2026

9:30am

## GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"



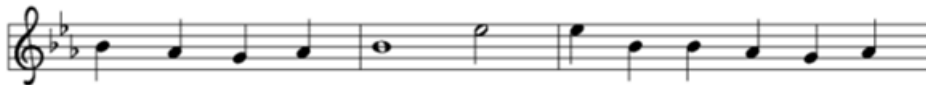
1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



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!

## **Confession and Forgiveness** *(Congregational responses printed in bold.)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the life beyond all death,  
the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

**Amen.**

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,  
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**by the resurrection of your Son  
you make everything new.**

**Newness scares us,**

**and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.**

**We have not listened to voices that challenge us.**

**We have resisted the Holy Spirit  
moving us in new directions.**

**Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**and renew us to embrace without fear**

**the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

People of God:

Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism

you have been born anew by the living word of God.

Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name

and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you

both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **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.**

# Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast and Celebration"

## Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God.

*to Refrain*

## Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

## Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *to Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

**Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Choir Anthem

“A Jubilant Song”

Poete

# WORD

## First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

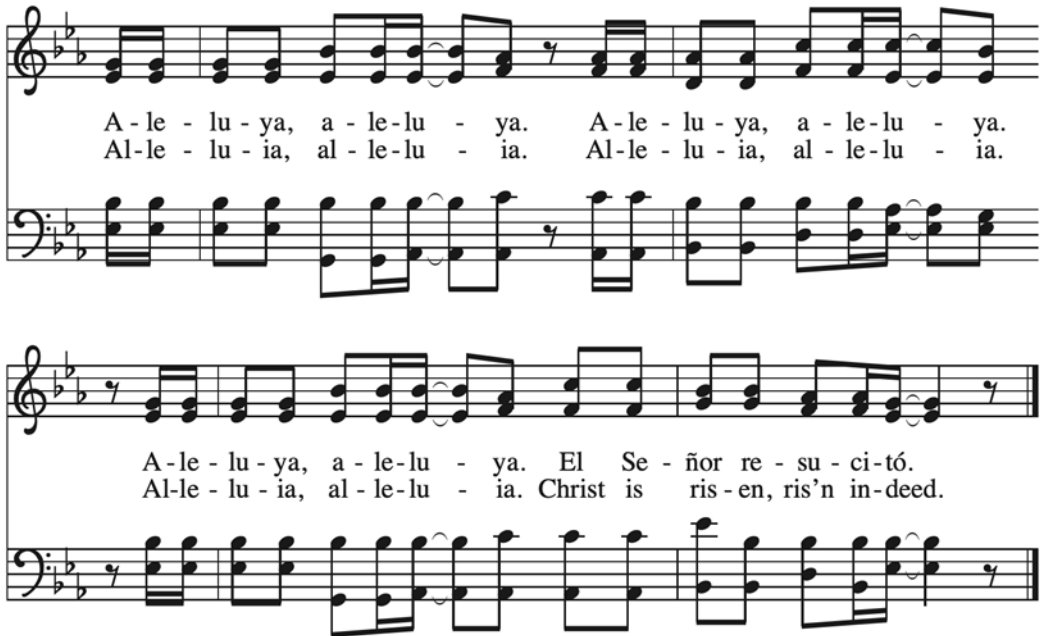
<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children’s Message

## Alleluia Verse



A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris'n in - deed.

The musical score consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the final two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes.

## Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.



## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

## **Prayers of the People**

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

As people of the Good Shepherd ...

**We are a Christian community rooted in grace, connected through  
inclusive worship and fellowship.**

Together

**We embrace and value all people and serve our broader  
community with compassion.**

***MEAL***



*Scan to donate to Good Shepherd*

## **Offering/Ministry Opportunities**

### **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will  
hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of  
Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you  
love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## Celebration of Holy Communion

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



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

*Presider:* *Congregation:*



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

*Presider:* *Congregation:*




Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and delight... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Congregation:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Mighty God, you made the earth, and it trembles in your presence;  
 you rescued your people from slavery,  
 leading them through deepest waters - from death to life.  
 You sent your Son, Jesus, to us, a prophet mighty in word and deed who taught us  
 to celebrate your salvation in sincerity and truth.  
 Though he was condemned to death and crucified by the religious,  
 you raised him from the dead and wiped the tears from our faces.  
 Risen indeed, he is with us always, breathing peace over our fears and  
 spreading a rich banquet before us - so that in the breaking of bread and  
 your Word proclaimed, our eyes might be open and our hearts set on fire with  
 love.

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.

With this bread and cup  
 we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- Christ has died.**
- Christ is risen.**
- Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
 Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us. Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### Distribution of Holy Communion



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



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



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



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion Song:** "Cornerstone"

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name  
(REPEAT)

***Chorus***

*Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

***Chorus***

He is Lord Lord of all  
***Chorus 2X***

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

***SENDING***

**Post-Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** "Alleluia Love Is Alive"

People of God see the morning is new  
Rise from your sleeping and run to the tomb  
Come and see come and see He is alive  
A grave that is empty a promise fulfilled  
God who was with us is here with us still  
He is here He is here He is alive

Chorus

Alleluia love is alive  
Conquered the grave and defeated the night  
Alleluia love is alive  
The Son has arisen for all  
Your people sing alleluia

People of God let your fear fall away  
Your chains have been broken abandon your shame  
Lift your hearts lift your hearts He is alive  
Here now is mercy embracing your soul  
Here the fulfillment that once was foretold  
It is true it is true He is alive

People of God now rejoicing in Christ  
Carry your joy to the darkness of night  
Tell the world tell the world He is alive  
Hear the good news of this glorious day  
Every heart singing as heaven proclaims  
He is Lord He is Lord He is alive

**Prayer after Communion**

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God.**

## May Mission of the Month

BHBL Summer Lunch Program – Local churches provide summer lunches to students whose families lack the resources to provide meals.

### **Blessing Box Needs** (please check expiration dates)

canned meat, oatmeal packets, crackers, granola bars, pasta sauce, canned fruit, laundry detergent, baby supplies, infant formula, boxed milk, tea/coffee, pancake supplies, microwave meals, shampoo/conditioner

*Today's altar flowers were donated by Cathi Duncan in celebration of Hailey Hutchens, Ian Duncan & Brittany Duncan's birthdays.*



**GOOD SHEPHERD  
HIKING**

Today @ Clifton Park's 41 Acre Woods

We'll meet at the parking lot on the right side of Riverview Road just east of Riverview Orchards at 1PM and will walk about 1.5 miles on the mostly flat trails there along the Mohawk River.

For more information or to let us know that you'll be joining us call/text Karen Wang, 518-380-3303.



**Contemplative  
Prayer**

Saturday, May 30th  
10am - at the church

Everyone is welcome.  
Give it a try for personal meditation and for searching for a deeper, more personal relationship with our God.



**BROS  
BIBLES & BEER**

**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 -8 pm**

PIZZA WORKS 720 SARATOGA RD. BURNT HILLS

Guys are invited to this casual bible event discussion over your favorite beer or soft drink.



**Women  
Word  
& Wine**

Next meeting:  
Pizza Works, Burnt Hills  
May 11th , 6 - 8pm