

AS WE GATHER

Witnesses!

Christianity is rooted in Jesus' actions in space and time. The original witnesses helped change the world and we can, too!

+ WITNESS TO GOD'S GOODNESS +

LSB 549 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME sts. 1, 3–4

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
- 3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
- 4 Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 118:24; Rom. 6:9; MT 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8

- P** This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C He has put all things under His feet.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our

lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C Amen.

LSB 549 ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME sts. 5–7

5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (st. 5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY +

FIRST READING

Acts 3:11–21 NIV

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him

over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 3:1–7 NIV

^{3:1} See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:36–49 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”
⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.
⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”
⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 825 RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE

sts. 1, 3–4

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.
- 3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.
- 4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, 1939, alt.

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MESSAGE

Witnesses!

APOSTLES' CREED

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

LSB 813 REJOICE, O PILGRIM THRONG

sts. 1, ref, 2

1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your king. **Refrain**

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 With voice as full and strong
As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

Text: Public domain

OUR PRAYERS

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

LSB 737 REJOICE, MY HEART, BE GLAD AND SING

1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

- 2 He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great
reward.
- 3 Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the
night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.
- 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?
- 5 He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.
- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessèd ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n
above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.

Text: Public domain

LSB 744 AMAZING GRACE

sts. 1, 3, 5

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1, 3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Text: Public domain

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HWC 354 LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

CHORUS

Leaning, Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

1 What a fellowship what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms (**CHORUS**)

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms

O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms **(CHORUS)**

CHORUS

Leaning, Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

3 What have I to dread what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms **(CHORUS)**

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