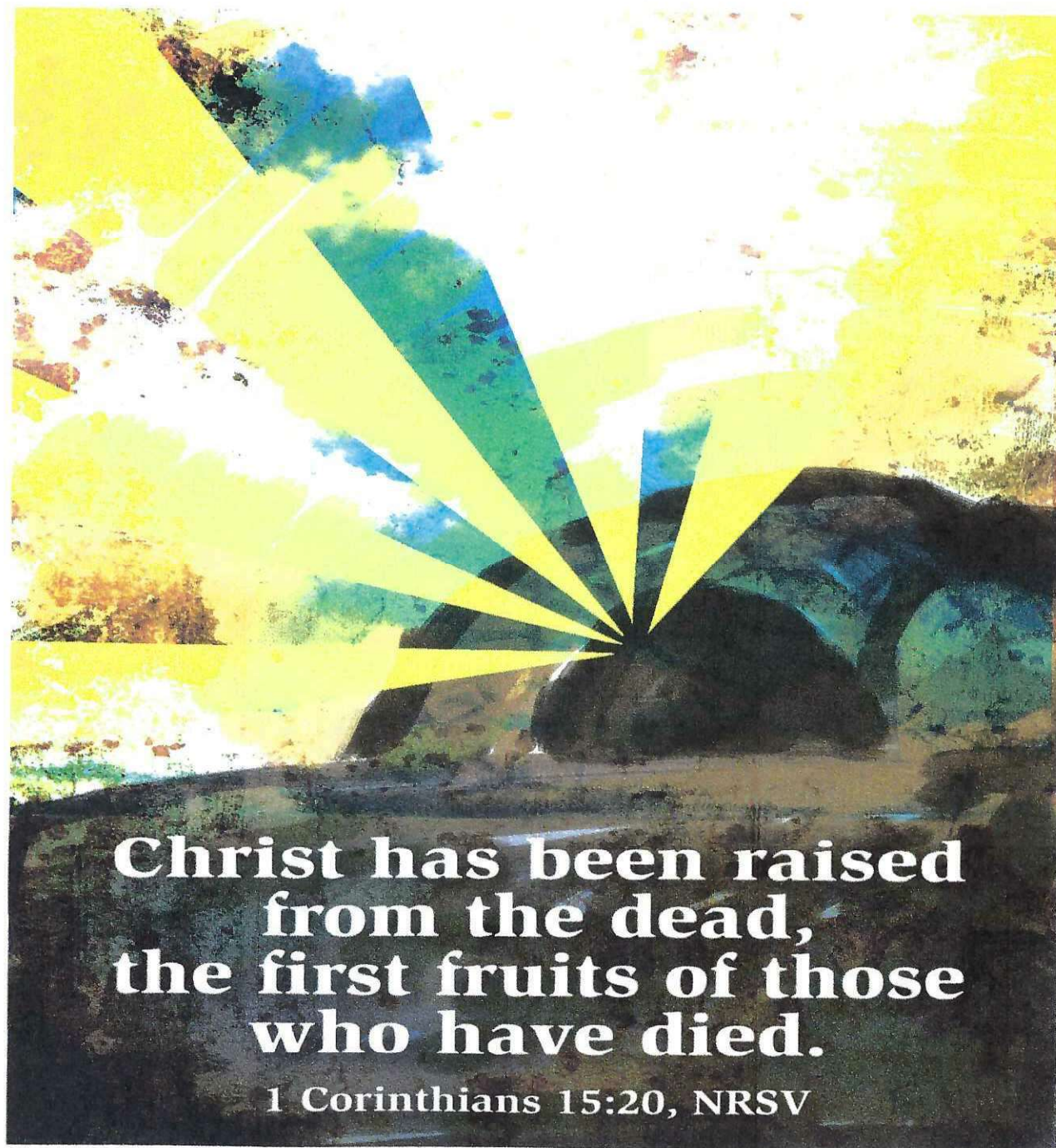


Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



**Christ has been raised
from the dead,
the first fruits of those
who have died.**

1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV

Easter Celebration Service

A TIME TO RISE!

April 5, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: A TIME TO RISE!

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die...” (Eccl. 3:1) For Jesus, the time to die was during the Passover (on the day we call “Good Friday”) when He, the Passover Lamb, was led to the cross where He suffered and died for your sins and for the sins of all people. We continue to proclaim and live by the cross of Jesus, through which our sins are forgiven. But today is not a time to die. Today is a time to rise! Jesus has risen. In baptism, you were raised to a new life in Him. And when Jesus comes again, all of God’s people will rise to live forever with Him in heaven. Today, and every day, is a time to rise. Jesus is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord’s Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God’s Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord’s Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord’s Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord’s Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? AND (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God’s Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God’s Word says concerning the Lord’s Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled “Fellowship in the Lord’s Supper”.

Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Prelude

Please rise and turn toward the entrance of the church, facing the cross and the "Christ candle".

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Opening Verses

P: [Jesus said:] This is what is written:

"The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations." *Luke 24:45*

P: Christ has risen as He said.

C: **He has risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

LSB 457

Please turn and face the cross and the "Christ candle" as they are carried to the altar.

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today. Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day. Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross. Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing. Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king. Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave. Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which He endured. Alleluia! Our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king. Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above. Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love. Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host. Alleluia! Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9 and John 20:19-23

P: Standing in the presence of our holy God, we begin to comprehend the depth of our sin. We have failed to be what He has called us to be in His Son, Jesus Christ. Our sin separates us from God and leaves us deserving of His judgment and eternal punishment. Only by the grace and love of God shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are we saved from death and eternal condemnation. Before God and before one another we now make confession of our sin, seeking the forgiveness that Christ has won for us by His death and His victorious resurrection.

ALL: Father, we confess before you and before one another that we are unworthy to stand before you. We have sinned against you and against one another. We deserve only your wrath and punishment, but we earnestly seek your forgiveness in the name of Jesus. We place our faith and trust in Him and the blood Christ shed for us on Calvary's cross. Forgive us our sins and empower us by your Spirit to live the life you have called us to, in the name of your risen Son.

P: Rejoice, celebrate, children of God! The Father has promised to hear and answer your pleas for forgiveness. God in Christ Jesus has opened the tomb, destroyed death, and silenced the grave. God is faithful and willingly grants forgiveness to those who confess their sin. Thanks be to God, that our salvation is secure in the resurrection of Christ. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and His Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you and by His command, I forgive you of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [ESV]

Psalm 118:13-24

P: The LORD is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

C: **The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.**

P: Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:

C: **“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

P: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

C: **The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.**

ALL: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

P: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
C: **I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
C: **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

P: This is the day that the LORD has made.
C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

P: The LORD is risen!
C: **He is risen indeed!**

ALL: Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" LSB 475

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris'n this day. Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way.
Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise we in songs of victory, that love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.
C: *(sung)* And also with you.

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Heavenly Father, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross to save us from our sins, and by his glorious resurrection you have delivered us from the power of death. Give us your Holy Spirit that we may die to sin and arise to live with Jesus today, tomorrow and forever in the joy of his resurrection; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Epistle Reading [ESV]

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to our RISEN Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Matthew 28:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

LSB 474

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center, telling the story to open our eyes.
Breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches. Life in the Spirit, the fruit of the tree.
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Weeping, be gone, sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

✠ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy, Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By his death he has destroyed death and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)* *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord *Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*

C: *(sung)* **A - men.**

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

John 1:29

**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

“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won”

LSB 490

**Jesus lives! The victory’s won! Death no longer can appall me.
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence. This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To Him the throne, high above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone. Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful, doubtings hence! This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me He died. Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense. This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well, nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell, part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense. This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! And now is death, but the gate of life immortal.
This shall calm my trembling breath, when I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!**

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

LSB 461

**I know that my Redeemer lives. What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead. He lives, my ever living Head.**

**He lives triumphant from the grave. He lives eternally to save.
He lives all glorious in the sky. He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives to bless me with His love. He lives to plead for me above.
He lives my hungry soul to feed. He lives to help in time of need.**

**He lives to grant me rich supply. He lives to guide me with His eye.
He lives to comfort me when faint. He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

**He lives to silence all my fears. He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart. He lives all blessings to impart.**

**He lives my kind, wise, heavenly friend. He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives and while He lives, I'll sing: He lives my Prophet, Priest and King.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath. He lives and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare. He lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives all glory to His name! He lives my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives. "I know that my Redeemer lives!"**

"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

LSB 467

**Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done.
Now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid, where our bed must be made,
When to the realms of light, our spirit wings its flight.**

**The foe in triumph shouted, when Christ lay in the tomb.
But lo, he now is routed, his boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free, in glorious victory.
He who is strong to save, has triumphed o'er the grave.**

**This is a sight that gladdens. What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens, the joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take,
The hope which God's own Son, in love for me has won.**

**Now hell, its prince, the devil, of all their pow'r are shorn.
Now I am safe from evil, and sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might, cannot my soul affright.
It is a pow'rless form, howe'er it rave and storm.**

**The world against me rages, its fury I disdain.
Though bitter war it wages, its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, no trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play, and night is bright as day.**

**Now I will cling forever, to Christ, my Savior true.
My Lord will leave me never, whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain. He breaks through sin and pain.
He shatters hell's grim thrall. I follow Him through all.**

**He brings me to the portal, that leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal, is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared, finds here a crown prepared."
"Who there with Me has died, shall here be glorified."**

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing, praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide, flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine, gives His sacred blood for wine.
Gives His body for the feast. Christ the victim. Christ the priest. Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured, death's dread angel sheathes the sword.
Israel's hosts triumphant go, through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread.
With sincerity and love, eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**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!**

**Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall.
You have opened paradise, and Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!**

**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!**

(STAND) **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!**

Song of Thanksgiving

“Thank the Lord”

Psalm 100

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all
who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to
come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the
true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we
may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in
His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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

C: *(sung)* A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

LSB 525 (v.1, 3-5)

**Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake my soul and sing, of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king, through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side.
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky, can fully bear that sight.
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high.
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**

The congregation turns facing the cross and the "Christ candle" as they are taken toward the entrance of the church symbolizing our taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall.
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is king of all.**

✝ Christ is RISEN! He is RISEN Indeed! Alleluia! ✝

CLC MISSION STATEMENT: "We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word, sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name."