

Vigil of Easter

Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026

8:00pm

Introduction to the day

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



+++ GATHERING +++

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We gather in the memorial garden.

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.

Beloved people of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

We process into the narthex.

PROCESSION

(Sing three times during the procession.)



+++ WORD +++

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Creation

RESPONSE

When Long Before Time

- 1-Choir
- 2-All in unison
- 3-Choir
- 4-All in harmony

When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,

when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,

and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,

and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Flood

RESPONSE

The Lord of Hosts Is with Us

The cantor introduces the refrain; all repeat it.

The cantor sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.

Refrain

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: "The LORD of hosts is with us, the God of Ja-cob our". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "strong - hold, the God of Ja-cob our strong - hold." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult. **Refrain***

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day. The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. **Refrain***

*Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth; behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." **Refrain***

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Deliverance at the Red Sea

RESPONSE

I Will Sing Unto the Lord



Cantor: I will sing un - to the Lord, for God has tri-umphed glo - rious - ly, the



horse and rid - er thrown in - to the sea.



All: I will sing un - to the Lord, for God has tri-umphed glo-rious-ly, the



horse and rid - er thrown in - to the sea.



Cantor: The Lord, my God, my strength and song, has




now be - come my vic - to - ry.



All: The Lord, my God, my strength and song, has



now be - come my vic - to - ry.



Cantor: The Lord is God and I'll sing prais - es, our



cov - enant God; I'll bless the ho - ly name of God.



All: The Lord is God and I'll sing prais - es, our



cov - enant God; I'll bless God's name for - ev - er!

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Isaiah 55:1-11

Salvation freely offered to all

RESPONSE

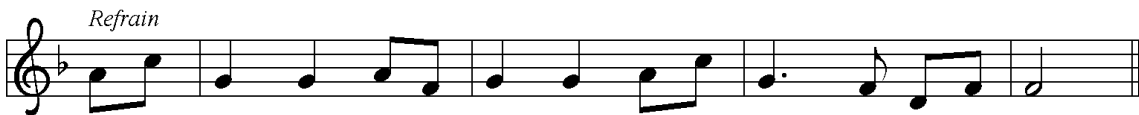
As the Deer Runs to the River



1-Choir	As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
2-All	When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
3-Choir	“Come and drink,” I - sa - iah sum-moned, “all who for God’s mer - cy plead!
4-All	Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God’s for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need.”
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

The wisdom of God

RESPONSE

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

1-Cantor
2-All in unison
3-All in harmony
4-All in harmony

Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -
Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries
Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -
In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly

signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by

light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

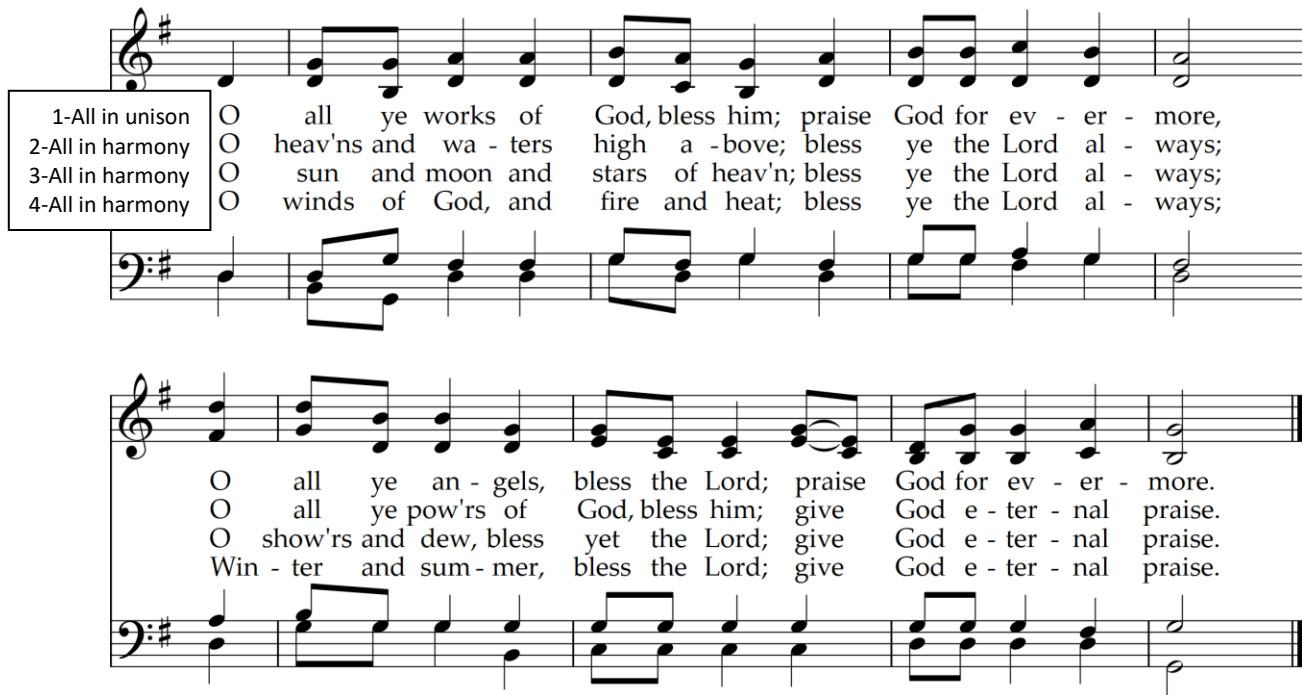
Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

O God, our wisdom, teacher of truth, you fill your house by continuing to call all peoples into the way of insight. With your food and drink sustain us in the path of justice, and by your love watch over those whom you have called through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Jonah 1:1--2:1

The deliverance of Jonah

RESPONSE:*A Song of Creation*


1-All in unison
2-All in harmony
3-All in harmony
4-All in harmony

O all ye works of God, bless him; praise God for ev - er - more,
O heav'ns and wa - ters high a - bove; bless ye the Lord al - ways;
O sun and moon and stars of heav'n; bless ye the Lord al - ways;
O winds of God, and fire and heat; bless ye the Lord al - ways;

O all ye an - gels, bless the Lord; praise God for ev - er - more.
O all ye pow'rs of God, bless him; give God e - ter - nal praise.
O show'rs and dew, bless yet the Lord; give God e - ter - nal praise.
Win - ter and sum - mer, bless the Lord; give God e - ter - nal praise.

Choir: 5. O all ye dews and frost and cold; bless ye the Lord always;
O ice and snow, bless ye the Lord; give God eternal praise.

All: 6. O nights and days, O light and dark; bless ye the Lord always;
Lightnings and clouds, bless ye the Lord; give God eternal praise.

High voices (SA): 7. O let the earth now bless the Lord, mountains and hills, give praise;
O all ye green things on the earth, give God eternal praise.

All: 8. O wells, O seas and floods, bless him, bless ye the Lord always;
O whales and all in the great seas, give God eternal praise.

Low voices (TB): 9. O beasts and cattle, flying fowl, bless ye the Lord always;
Children of earth, bless ye the Lord; give God eternal praise.

All: 10. O people of the Lord, bless him, ye priests, bless God always;
O servants of the Lord, bless him, give God eternal praise.

Choir: 11. Spirits and souls of righteous ones, bless ye the Lord always;
Ye holy, humble folk of heart, give God eternal praise.

All: 12. O let us bless the eternal God and worship God always;
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we give eternal praise.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER

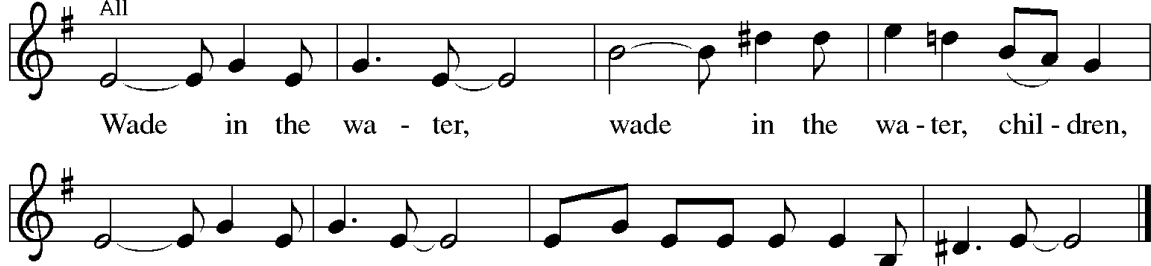
Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able. We process to the font as we sing this song.

PROCESSION TO THE FONT


Wade in the Water

Refrain
All




Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader All




1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

+++ HOLY BAPTISM +++

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Derek's family and Sponsor/s: We present Derek James for baptism.

Here, we teach that through our baptismal identity, we:
live among God's faithful people,
hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Do you promise to help Derek grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Do you promise to nurture Derek in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Derek and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things...one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Derek James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Derek with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Derek James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11

We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.

A reading from Romans.

³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



We process to the front of the sanctuary as we sing this song.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Sing repeatedly in harmony as the lights come up, flowers move forward and the altar is prepared.

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a strong harmonic accompaniment.

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week ... said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #363, *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

To donate electronically, use this QR code.



Please be seated.

+++ MEAL +++

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM

Sing We Now of Jesus
Vigil Choir

French carol, text: Michael Burkhardt

Sing we now of Jesus, risen on Easter Day. Sing we now of Jesus, risen from death's dark grave.
Lift up your voice, with all the world rejoice; sing we now of Jesus, risen the world to save.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night ... Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Variations on "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

Jacques Berthier

See hymn #368 to meditate on the text.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

+++ SENDING +++

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW #380, *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Wilbur Held

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Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pastoral Intern:	Laura Olsen
Vigil Choir:	Ruth Anderson, Carolyn Bentsen, Nancy Gradwohl, Phil Gregg, Candy Koch, Sherry Krebs, Kristi Lee, Dane Schmidt, Marshall Thomas
Readers:	Marshall Thomas, Phil Gregg, Joyce Owens, Sophia Rudell, Erik Olson, Dane Schmidt
Altar Guild:	Denise Miller

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The Lord of Hosts Is with Us Text: Psalm 46 Music: Rawn Harbor, refrain; Daniel Schwandt, tone. Text © 2006 and music © 1999, 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

I Will Sing Unto the Lord Text: Exodus 15:1-2. Music: Israeli folk song. P.D.

As the Deer Runs to the River Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007 © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Music: David Hurd, b. 1950 © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Send Me, Lord Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Music: South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming* English text and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp. All rights reserved.

A Song of Creation Text: Christopher L. Webber © 1986 Church Publishing Incorporated. Used by permission. Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. P.D.

Wade in the Water Text and Music: African American spiritual. P.D.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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