

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome to morning worship. This is the season of Easter. The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,

holy and merciful,

holy and mighty,

you are the river of life,

you are the everlasting wellspring.

C **In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.**

P Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C **Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.**

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

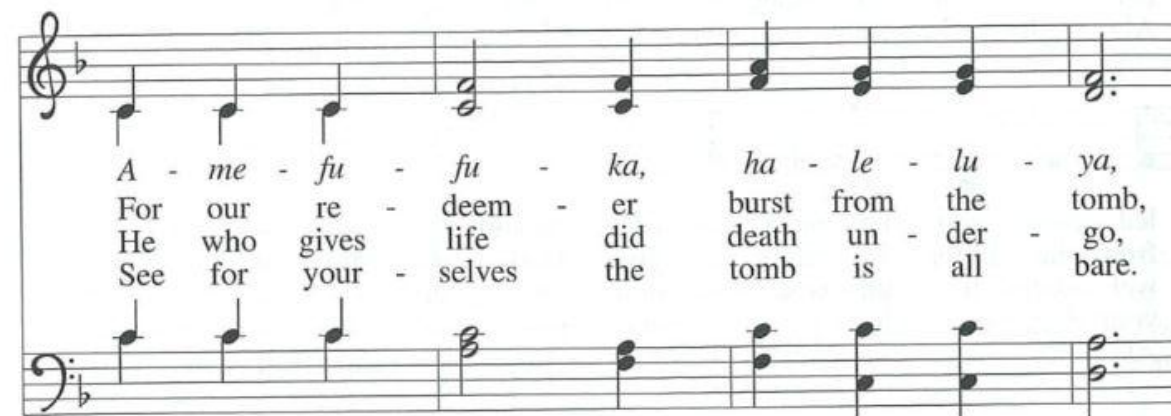
GREETING HYMN “*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*” (ELW 364)



M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
2 For three long days the grave did its worst
3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear.



m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.
Re - jice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.



A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go,
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

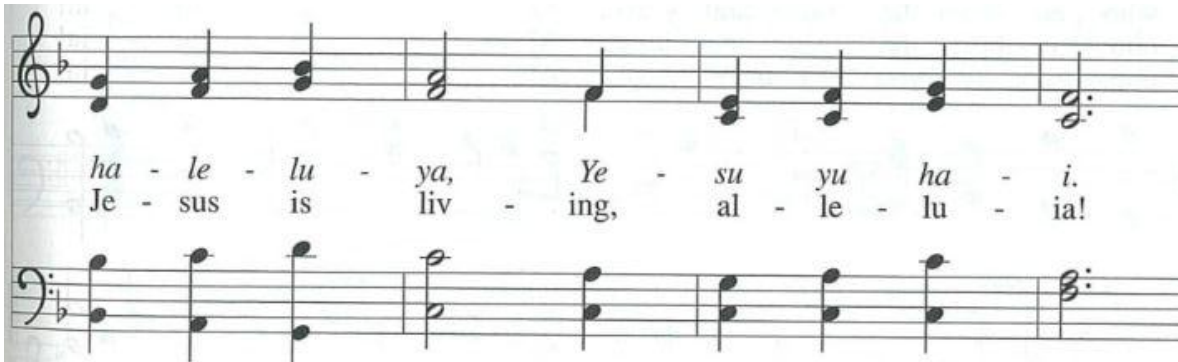
m - si - fu - ni sa - sa *yu ha - i.*
e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling *its gloom.*
and in its con - quest his might *did show.*
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing *there."*

Refrain

Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.
Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.
Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;
Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



4 “Go spread the news: he’s not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus’ redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won.”

Refrain

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly kin

Refrain

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: Tanzanian traditional

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA
9999 and refrain

GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

36 Now in Joppa there was **a disciple whose name was Tabitha**, which in Greek is Dorcas. **She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.**

37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *"Now the Feast and Celebration"* (ELW 167)

Refrain



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!



I 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.

Refrain

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PSALM: Psalm 23

1 The LORD | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.

2 **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3 You restore my | soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.**

**16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;**

**17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**

R Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Be Not Afraid” (ELW 388)

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

P The holy gospel according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; 26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.

27 **My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.** 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand.

30 The Father and I are one.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Seminarian, Mark Achtermann

HYMN OF THE DAY “*The King of Love My Shephard Is*” (ELW 502)



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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APOSTLES' CREED

Together, we announce our faith in the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**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.**

**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 INTERCESSION

*Joining the faithful around the world, we pray for the church, the whole creation, and all who are in need of God's mercy. The response is God of new life, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

P The Risen Christ announces peace to all, both near and far. Peace be with you.

C **And also with you.**

We share a sign of peace with one another; a hug, a handshake, and the words, "peace be with you."

OFFERING

*We receive an offering for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts support weekly worship, pastoral ministry, and service to those in need locally and globally. **Please deposit your gifts in the offering plate located on the stand in the back of the sanctuary.** You may also give online at www.zionakron.org.*

OFFERING SONG "As the Grains of Wheat" (ELW 465)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace

along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score for 'GREAT THANKSGIVING' is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal part and a corresponding lyric line. The first system is labeled 'President:' and the second through fifth are labeled 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are: '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 God thanks and praise.'

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

Congregation: you. Lift up your hearts. We

President: lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is

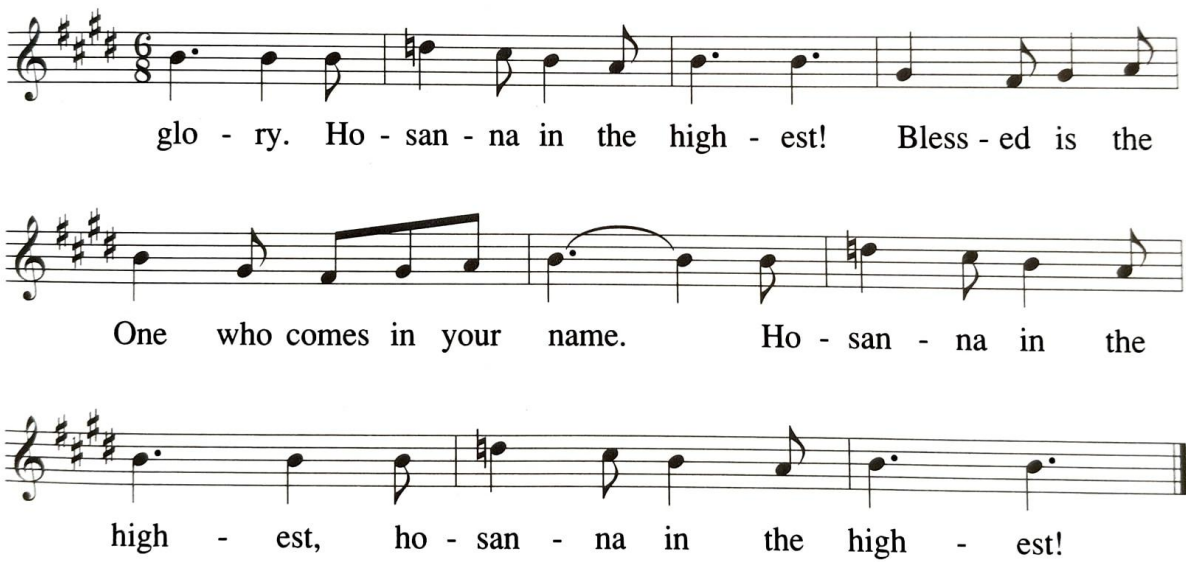
right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score for 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY' is written for a single melodic line in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal part and a corresponding lyric line. The first system is labeled 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your'.

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

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor gives thanks to God for the gifts of creation, for the cross of Christ and the means of salvation, for the bread and cup that become His body and blood, and for the Holy Spirit, sent to dwell in our hearts and minds by faith. 'Eucharist' literally means 'thanksgiving' and so we come to the table with thankful hearts lifted up to God, the giver of life.

We hear the instructions of St. Paul to the Corinthian church on celebrating the Lord's Supper; and we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Trust that Christ is present for you in this meal.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C **Blest are all invited to the feast.**

MEAL

COMMUNION

We practice the ancient rite of the Lord's Supper every week. All people who hunger for God's grace and peace in their lives are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Please come forward in the center aisle, take an empty cup, kneel at the altar, and return by the side aisle.

In this meal, you are joined with Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you receive God's strength for daily life. We are sent from the table to serve others in his name. We offer gluten free bread and grape juice, as an alternative to the bread and wine, for those who require or prefer it. All are fed at the table of grace!

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
* you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

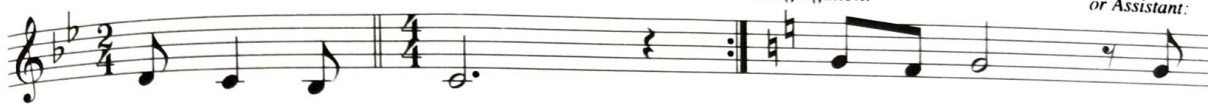
Congregation:



world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

Congregation:

Congregation
or Assistant:

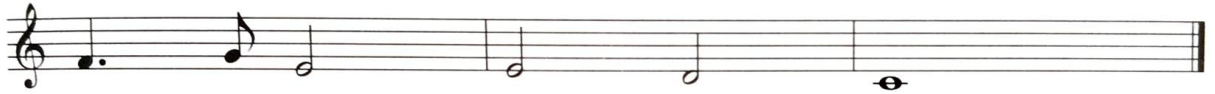


mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG *"Now the Green Blade Rises"* (ELW 379) verses 1, 3



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, the one who raised + Jesus from the dead, the one who sends the Holy Spirit upon us, bless you with the abundance of life, the fruit of creation, and the joy of salvation.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “Praise the Lord, Rise Up, Rejoicing” (ELW 544)



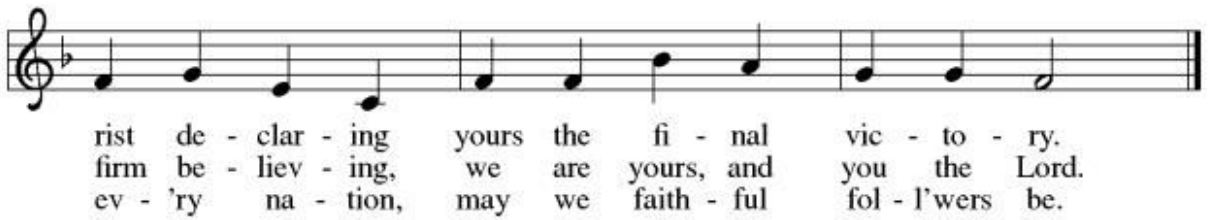
1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Betsy, Ron Ayers, Suzanne Baumgardner, Doris Bernadicci, Bonnie Bleacher, Olivia Campbell, Stephanie Campbell, Shahnaz Daneschvar, Logan Dohner, Arthur Drescher, Jaime Fager and Sharon, Tracy Fox and family, Anna Hertzog, Tim Hertzog, Lois Hicks, Len and Janet Hoffman, Missy Hoffman, Waltraut Karklins, Karen Laudenslager, Jacob Longenecker, Linda Losito, Susan Mindermann, Svetlana Nikin, Gisela Pilarte, David and Chris Preisinger, Marie Rosati, friends and family of Shirley Royer, Judy Schaffer, Dale Shepherd, Jerry Solomon, Martha Weidman and Family, Jim and Sandy Young.

COMING UP NEXT

Every Wednesday, 8:15-9:30 am: Morning Meditation. At Zion Lutheran Church.

Today, 11:15am: Rail Trail Worship. Meet in pavilion behind the Warwick Twp building.

May 13, 8:30am: Lutheran Day in the Capitol with LAMPa.

May 13, 11:30am: Widow and Widowers Luncheon at Udder Choice. More details in Weekly Newsletter.

May 18, 3:30pm: Lutheran Camping Corporation Summer Camp Kick-Off. More details in Weekly Newsletter.

May 18, 11:15am: Sunday Learning Group. Meeting at Patti & Phil Lehman's Home, 649 Lincoln Road, Lititz.

Birthdays this week:

On the 11th - Irma Kelly

On the 15th - Krys Craver

On the 17th - Scott Trefny

On the 17th - Skip Kopp (died September 17, 2024)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Breakfast Church in May

In commemoration of 20 years of ministry together, Matt and Cherie will be catering the meal for Breakfast Church on Sunday, May 18. There is no need to bring food to share this month. Come and enjoy!

Sunday Learning Group

"We Make The Road By Walking"

1st and 3rd Sundays ~ 11:15 AM

Next Meeting:

Sunday May 18th at Patti & Phil Lehman's Home

649 Lincoln Road, Lititz

We are studying Brian McLaren's book "We Make The Road By Walking". McLaren says that "Christian faith continues to grow, evolve, learn, change, emerge, and mature ... in and through us, walking forward together in the Spirit." Come join us!

On May 18, we will be covering Chapter 12 "Stories That Shape Us". Please bring your Bible. The Scripture readings we will be studying on May 18th are:

2 Kings 2: 1-15

Psalm 23

Acts 1:1-11

Please also bring your book. If you need a book or have questions, contact Missy Hoffman at mkh060455@gmail.com.



Zion Lutheran Church

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Check our website: www.zionakron.org and Facebook page.