

Service of Holy Communion
The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
April 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” - Marcel Dupre
“Christians, to the Paschal Victim” - Wipo of Burgundy, 11th century
“Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” - Ludvig M. Lindeman
“Christ Is Arisen” - German Carol, 12th century

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

The congregation stand may turn and face the cross in procession during the gathering hymn.

GATHERING HYMN

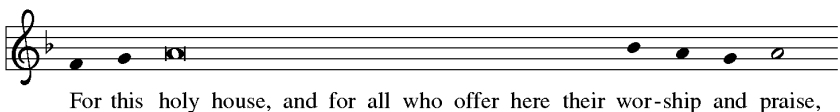
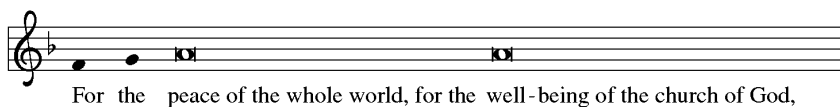
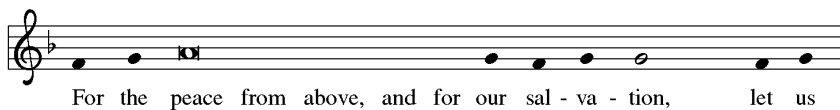
“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!” Red Book #369

GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

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.

KYRIE

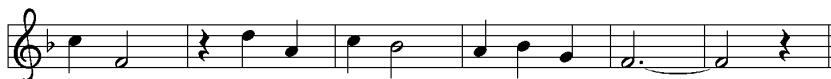


THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



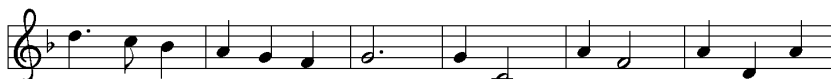
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

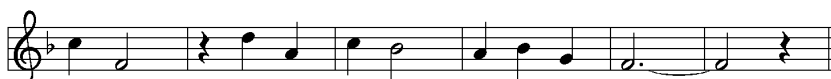


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

read responsively

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
“God's mercy endures forever.”**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the
righteous:**

“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,**

and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰“This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands”

st. 1

Red Book #370

GOSPEL Luke 24:1-12

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

st. 5

Red Book #370

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

Red Book #366

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, on the day of Jesus' resurrection you appointed the women as preachers of good news and the disciples as witnesses to new life. Give us also the freedom to testify to your goodness in the face of the powers of death and despair. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As the women once honored Jesus even in death with spices and ointments, empower us all to recognize and respect the dignity of every human being. Today, we remember those who are imprisoned, detained, or in institutions of any kind, that they would be treated with care as your good creations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring about a new spirit of virtue to this nation. We thank you for the safety of Governor Shapiro and his family, and we ask you to bind up their spirits as they recover from the arson attack. Restrain those who engage in violent speech or words. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Bring new hope among all who are in need. We remember our neighbors who lack food or shelter or who are at risk of losing these things. We remember those who are desperate or hurting for any reason. We seek healing for all who are grieving or ill...God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Awaken new life in this congregation. Open our hearts to new ways we might tell your story here in Butler. Show us what it means to be an Easter people in this place. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until death is destroyed and we are reunited with all of your saints forever. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

After sharing the peace, the congregation may sit.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Christ lag in Todesbanden”

- F. W. Zachau

The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Easter Alleluia”

- Jay Althouse

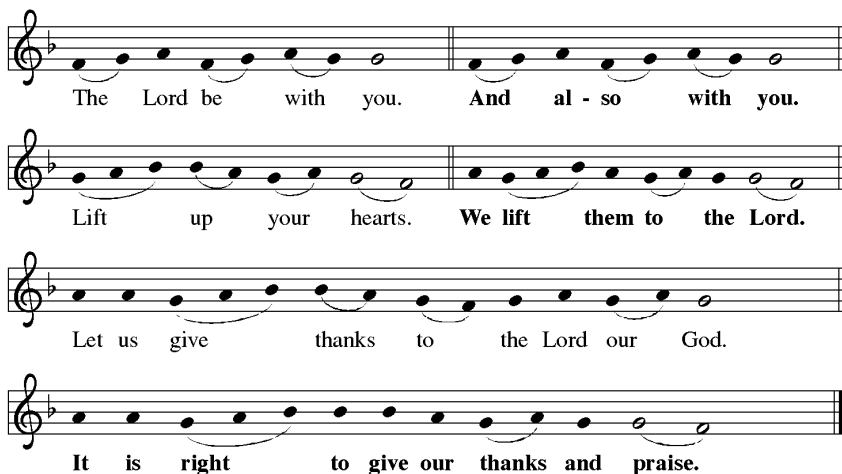
(Jim Cunningham, *first trumpeter*
Brian Helsel, *second trumpeter*)

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



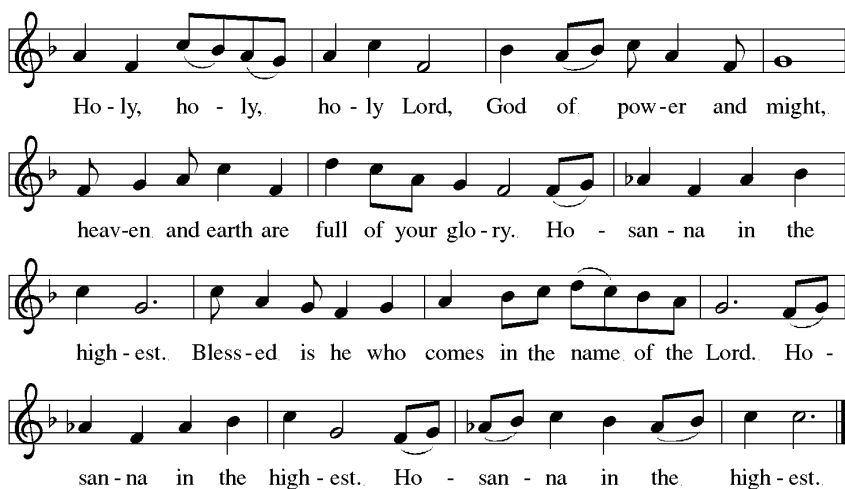
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father ...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

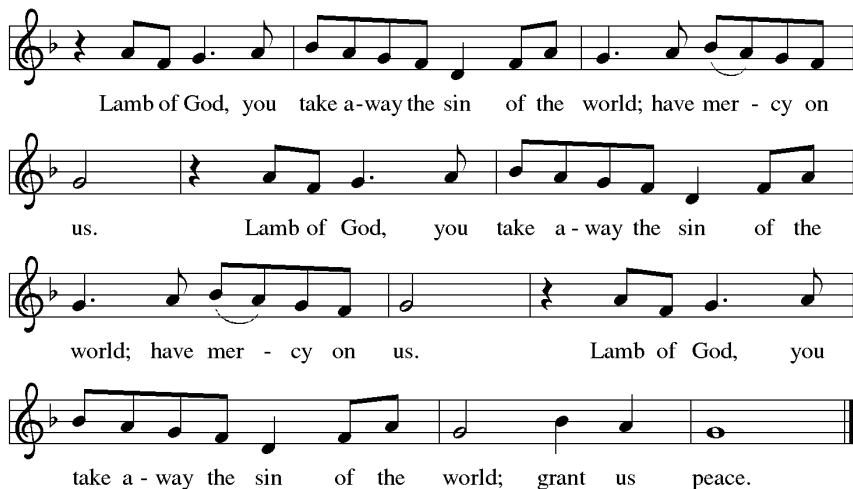
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

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

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, invites you to share in this banquet of forgiveness and new life. Come to his table!

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The congregation may sit.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

After all have received, the congregation may stand.

“Signs and Wonders”

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Red Book #362

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

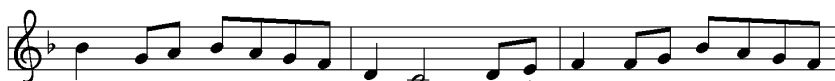
SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

led by the assisting minister

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

Red Book #377

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news of the risen Christ!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

- Frederick C. Maker

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Linda Mathias	Communion Assistant
Tracy Gullickson	Reader
Mollie Hibbs	Torchbearers
Christiaan van Driel	Crucifer
Christiaan van Driel	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Jim Cunningham and Bryan Helsel	Trumpeters
Harry Cunningham	Choir Director
Marlin Boltz	AV Assisting Minister
Karen Boltz	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Jack and Amy Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Jack and Sue Lebew in loving memory of their daughter, Tamm Lebew Whitty.

Join us for an Easter potluck coffee hour and intergenerational event in the social hall after worship today!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 4/21	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thurs., 4/24	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 4/26	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 4/27	9:00 AM	Bible Study (Social Hall)
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Myrna Hamil	Judy Vilcheck
Brandi Stein	Tracy Gullickson
Debbie and Jeff Gallagher	Larry Hamil
Sandy Lefebvre	Jessie Kamerer
George Schaney	Susan Farrell, in memory of Gretchen

Flowers for the cross are given to the glory of God by: Debbie Gallagher, Judy Vilcheck, Karen Domanski, Rose Cooper, Pr. Kimberly van Driel, Li Stoehr, Marj Rogner, Trudi Stevens, and Jan Nieto

If you ordered Easter flowers, you may pick them up after the worship service.

Submissions for the May newsletter are due to Caitlyn in the church office by Tuesday, April 22.

PRAYERS

Bruce Solomon & family; family of Karen Cranmer; Norman Butler; family of John Banks; Keith Graff; Jim Cunningham; Signe Mitchell; Cindy Regis; Marsh Miller; Paul & Mary; Becky Smith; Peter Osborne; Eric Love; Nancy & Dave McDermitt; family of Walter Fitzpatrick; family of Bernhard Klann; Hannah Love; Larry Hamil; Jake Stevens; Kathy & Tom Frank; Gerry and John O'Rourke; family of Thomas Olson; Karen Boltz's sister & her family; Randy & Gigi Kosier; Tim Reamer; Shirley Mould; Nelson Ng; Jack Goetz; Debbie & family; family of Alice Miller; Mackenzie Hunt; Tatam Scilia; Fred Miller; Jaime Rickert; family of Dorothy Croupe; family of Amy; Warmbrod's mother; Rob; Jamie Maluk & family; David Fisher & family; Tommy, Jenny, & Aspen Zarnick; family of Richard Daller (brother of Betty Turner); Scott Tammaro; George Schaney; Stephen Wright; Steve; Don Eckels; Valerie Kurth; family of John Mileski; Cindy Halin; Mike Gibson; Dennis; Debra Williamson; Amy Waldron; Evelyn Shaulis; Bill Brown; Ben & the Keelser family; Tracy Tucci; Iman; Aryl Bashline; Julie, Greg & family; family of Kenneth Mathias; Pr. Jim Dollhopf & family; family & friends of Walter Szczurek; Paul Eicholtz; Frank Miller; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Carol Johnson

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 5:27-32

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus

Psalm 118:14-29

You are my God, and I will exalt you. (Ps. 118:28)

Revelation 1:4-8

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming

John 20:19-31

Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

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