



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their mothers, Adelaide Ganntt and Elaine Sorenson, by Scott and Chris Sorenson.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Julie Florin
Lector	Josh Warner
Cantor	Jeff Rehm
Prayers	Ida Blalock
Acolytes	Harper Roth Peyton Roth
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Mark Allen Margaret Roth Chris Wannemacher
Greeters	Mark Allen Heather Fanning Pattimarie Janssen Brandy Merritt EmmieMae Peden John Roberts Maria Roberts Suzanne Rudisill
Ushers	Calvin Harmon Lani Ludian David Potts Franklin Sease
Refreshments	The Parish Life Committee
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Emily Hager

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Easter Song
arr. Jay Rouse

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of grace and glory,

**you have brought us through the night of sin
into the light of Jesus' resurrection.**

Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.

Make us alive in Christ, O God.

Make us new as you make all things new.

**Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin,
renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne!

The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,
restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace,
and humbles earthly pride.

Jesus Christ loves you and ✠ frees you from your sins.

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

Amen.

**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; death's mighty stone is
rolled away; let all the earth 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!**

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



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

All



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



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



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

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

²² Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: “Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. ²³ As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you. ²⁴ “For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands, ²⁵ and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath—everything. ²⁶ From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. ²⁷ God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us—²⁸ the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, ‘We too are God’s children.’ ²⁹ “If we are in fact children of God, then it’s inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone—an image formed by the art and thought of mortals. ³⁰ God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. ³¹ For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this by raising this judge from the dead.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

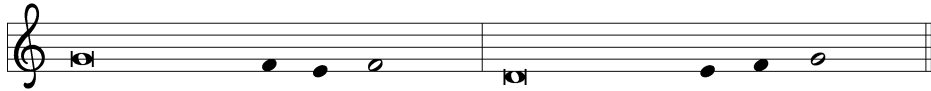
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm
Refrain



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Psalm
Tone



- ⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.
- ⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**
- ¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.
- ¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**
- ¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.
- ¹³**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**
- ¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.
- ¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**
- ¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.
- ¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**
- ¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;
- ¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**
- ²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**

A reading from first Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but reverence Christ as Sovereign in your hearts. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to Christ.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Shelter from the Storm

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the fourteenth chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ Jesus said to the disciples: If you love me, you will obey my commandments and ¹⁶ I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Advocate, another Helper to be with you always— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you. ¹⁸ I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. ¹⁹ A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. ²⁰ On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Love and Obedience

Please stand as able

**Come down, O Love divine; seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O, let it freely burn, till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing—
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far out-pass the pow'r of human telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace till it become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. As our toes long for the sands of your beaches, remind us that even the powerful oceans hold fragile ecosystems and creatures which you protect. Guide us to do the same. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. We are overwhelmed by hateful and sinful voices speaking against the queer community, female identifying persons, people of color, and others on the margins. We praise you for working in this place among these people as you continue building an ark of safety for those who are at risk of drowning in this oppressive world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You grant us rest as we continue on the journey you lay before us. Grant us time to pause and reset with a deep breath. Give us the time, or rather the willingness, to take a nap. We pray especially for Pastor Jim Parham who faithfully heeds your call to sabbath rest this month as he takes sabbatical leave. Grant him peace, restoration, fun, and good health. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, mothers who have made an adoption plan for their child, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, mothers who have lost a child, and women who make the faithful decision not to be mothers. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Grant women more control over their bodies so that motherhood may be a blessed choice rather than a dreaded consequence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear the sound of our praises and you hear our smallest prayers. We thank you for holding us up when we feel unable to stand. Holy God, hear the worries and burdens we carry this day as we name them on our lips or hold them in secret ... In our times of trouble and need, you appear as light on our path. Light the way toward our hopes and dreams in your right time. You hear the hopes and dreams we speak on our lips or hold in secret. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

BLESSING OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We invite Trinity's high school graduates to come and gather around the baptismal font.

Caroline Brightwell

Roger Brown

Paige Geiger

Paul Glass

Bethany Hybl

Cole McCaskill

Adaline McCormack

Ava McNeice

Anna Kay Robinson

Your graduation from high school reflects hard work and dedication, and we are delighted to share in your accomplishments. This is a very significant milestone in your life.

As we recognize and celebrate this milestone in your lives, we gather here at the baptismal font as a reminder of who and whose you are. When you were baptized, you were claimed by God. God's gracious love was poured out on you and you became God's precious children.

As you continue in this baptismal journey of faith, be mindful of these words of Scripture:

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:10

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven. Matthew 5:16

As you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, we invite you to be mindful of your grounding in faith and of God's call upon your life.

As a token of our love and our hopes for you, we give you these Trinity blankets. May they give you comfort and warmth on long trips and late nights. May they help you remember your place in this community of faith. May they remind you, that no matter how far away from us you are, you are always wrapped in God's warm and loving embrace.

Please stand as able

Let us pray. Gracious God, we praise you for blessing us and claiming us as your own. We thank you for Caroline, Roger, Paige, Paul, Bethany, Cole, Adaline, Ava, and Anna Kay and for the blessing they are to us. Be with them as they begin this new journey in life. Give them wisdom and discernment in decision-making; courage in the face of challenge; strength to confront temptation; comfort in distress; and the peace that comes with the knowledge that you will never let them go. We ask this blessing upon each of them, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless
by Everett Titcomb

Adult Choir

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

#674

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

Refrain

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! Repeat***

**Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'ry where! *Refrain***

Let us pray, Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

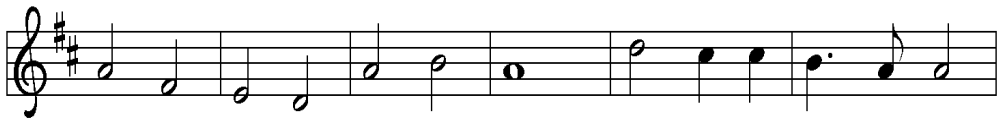
Lift up your hearts.

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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin,
who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

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

**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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

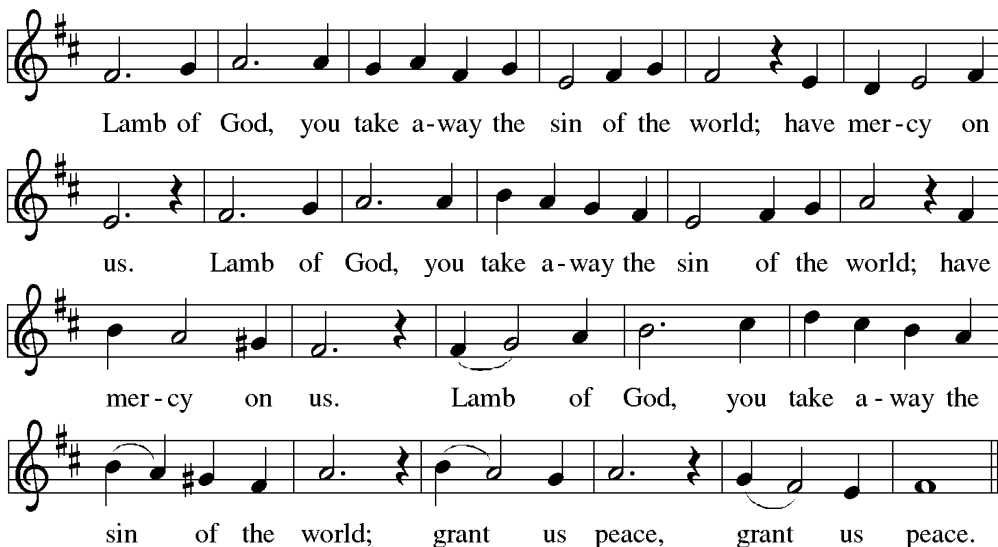
Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

*Worshippers will come forward to receive a wafer
and a small cup of wine.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "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, grant us peace." The music ends with a double bar line.

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, grant us peace.

Thy Holy Wings

#613

**Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.**

**Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**

**Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

We Know that Christ Is Raised

#449

**We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!**

**We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!**

**The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!**

**A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!**

Refrain

**Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.**

**Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving
thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be
satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound.** *Refrain*

**Seek not the food that will pass away; set your
hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the
living way, that the fullness of life may be yours.** *Refrain*

**Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself
for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more.** *Refrain*

**Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
home in the life-giving Word. Know only Christ, Holy
One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard.** *Refrain*

**Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this
bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with
ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn.** *Refrain*

Please stand as able

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
 Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
 In the dessert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
 Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
 Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
 Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
 Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven never more shall be the same.
 Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
 Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, ev'ryone!**

DISMISSAL

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
 Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Sing Hallelujah
 arr. Mark Hayes

Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym following worship for refreshments and fellowship to honor the High School Graduates.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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Youth

Wynne Boliek

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Heather Fanning

Jimmy Reynolds

Debbie Farstad

Peggy Schotsch

Greg Hamluk

Kerry Sease

Calvin Harmon

Chris Sorenson

Lane Lewis

Chris Wannemacher