

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

+ Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter
April 5, 2026



You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth (Ephesians 2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Gathering

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

Prelude

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

** **Welcome**

** **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

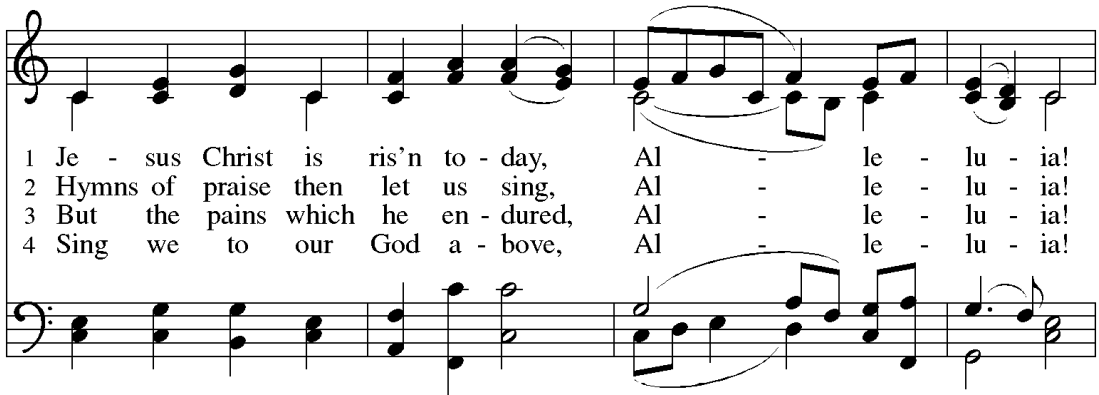
Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever. **Amen.**

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

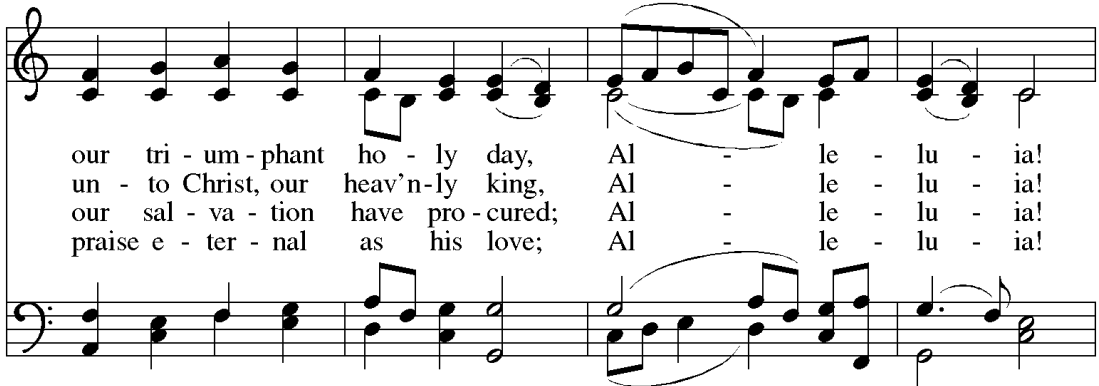
**** Gathering Hymn**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

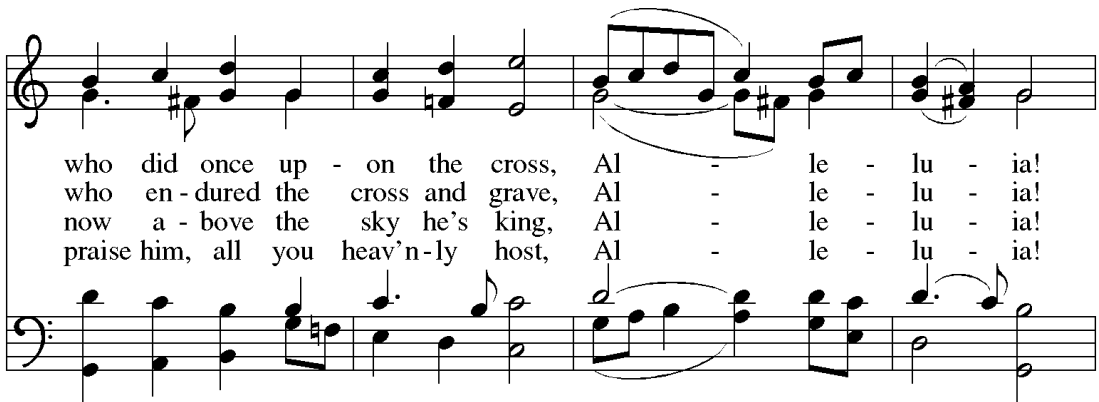
ELW 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

** Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** Hymn of Praise**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
set heart and will on things a - bove that we
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

** **Prayer of the Day**

The Risen Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Word of God, Word of Life.

Acts 10:34-43

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

²Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵**There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

¹⁶the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

¹⁷**I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹**Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹**I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

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

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

²³**This is the LORD's doing;
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

Colossians 3:1-4

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

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

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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**** Gospel**

Matthew 28:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you O Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.**

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see gospel acclamation above.

Sermon

The Rev. Susan Loney

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

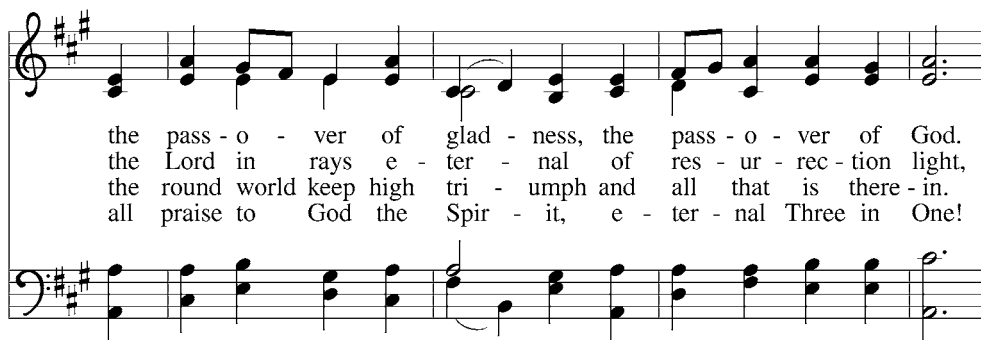
**** Hymn of the Day**

The Day of Resurrection

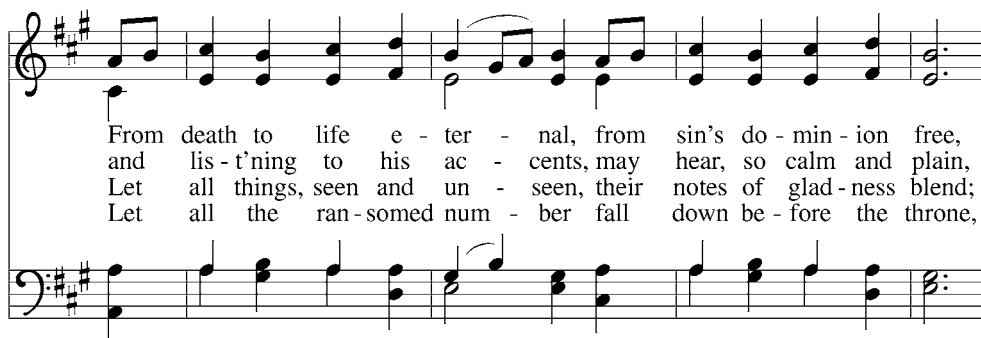
ELW 361



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

**** 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.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Offering Song

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



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

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*. © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Offering Prayer**

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.**

**** Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

**It is right to give our thanks and
praise.**

**** Preface**

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Holy, Holy, Holy



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



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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** Thanksgiving at the Table

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

** Lord's Prayer

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.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Invitation to Communion

Communion

Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.

Communion Hymn

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

ELW 383



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
- 3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev - er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TURNBULL, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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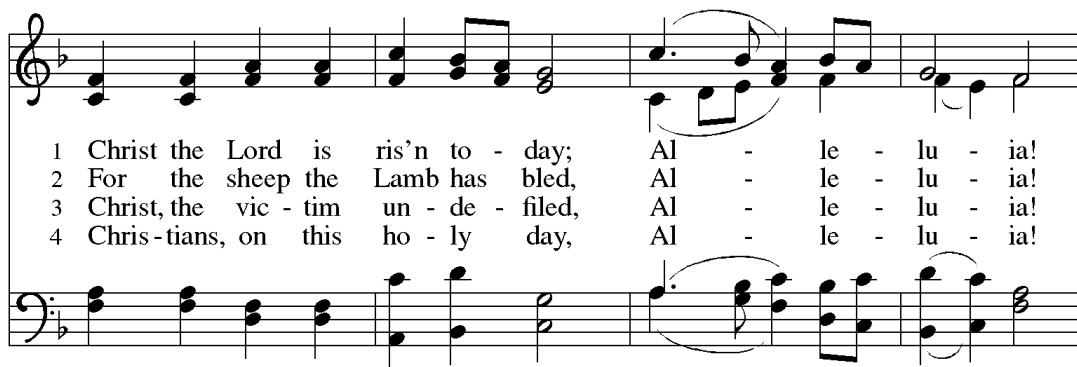
Music © 2006 Thomas Pavlechko, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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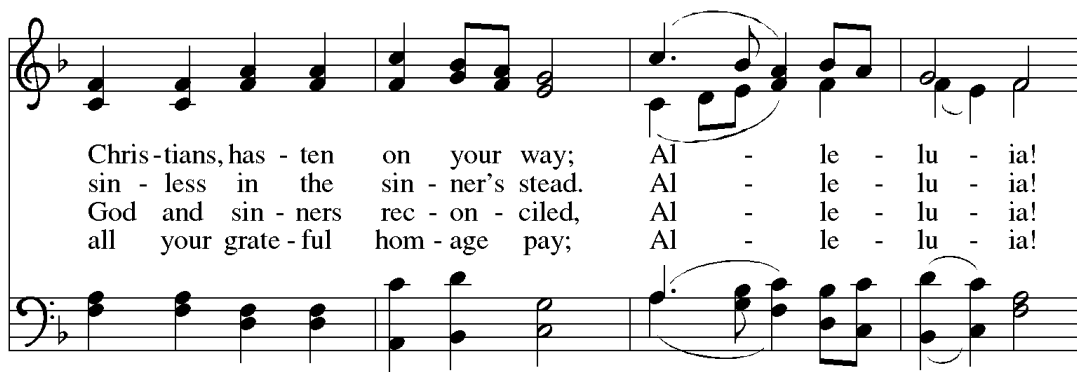
Communion Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

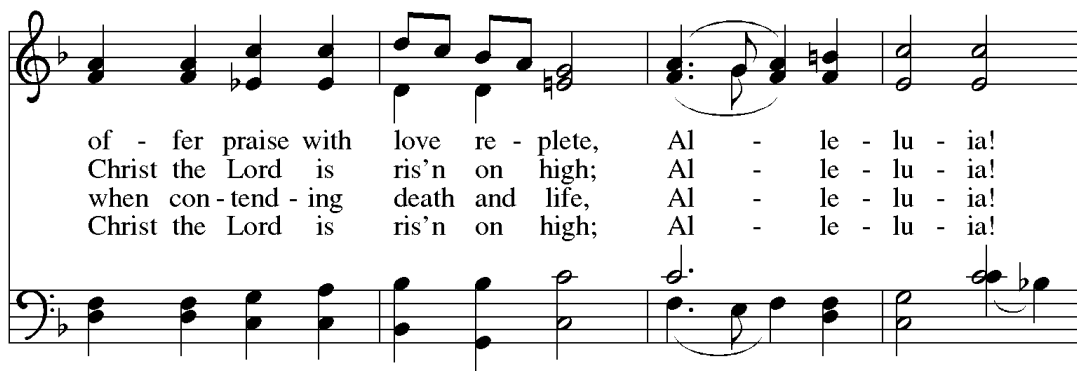
ELW 373



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

**** Communion Blessing**

**** Post Communion Prayer**

Together, 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.

Announcements

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,

Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,

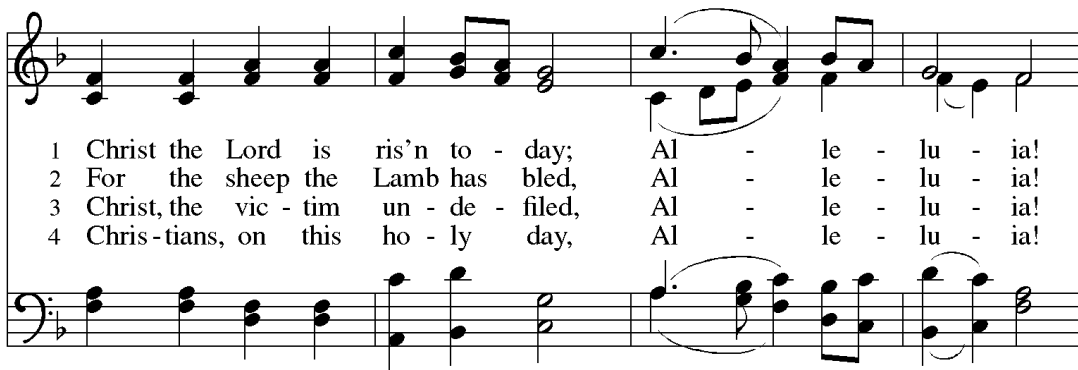
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

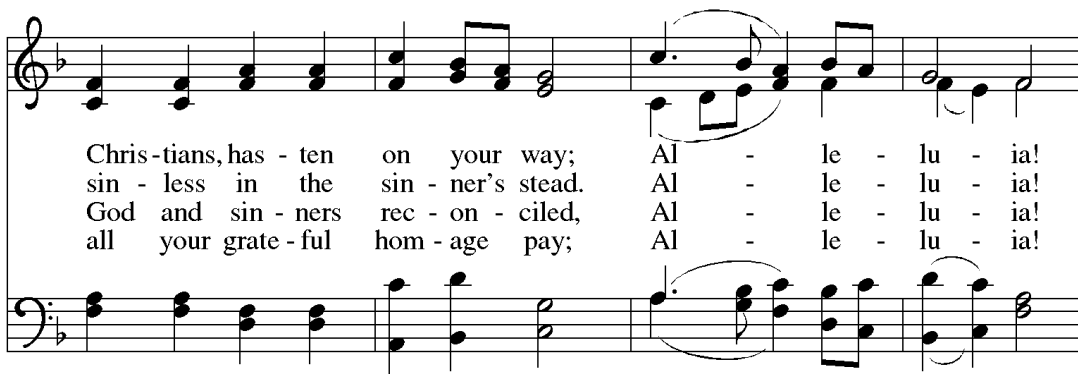
** Sending Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

ELW 369



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3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



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Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

**** Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
 Go in peace.
 Thanks be to God.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
To Love, To Invite, To Serve.
Alleluia!

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by Elizabeth Bornemann celebrating Easter Sunday

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Easter Flower Dedications

Ruth Barritt: In honor of John Rodammer

Ann Dransfield: In honor of Pastor Sue and Claudio Espejo

Sally & Mark Dudderar: To the Glory of God

Todd Gockley & Michael Farthing: In honor of Michael's parents, Mike & Lynn Farthing and Todd's father, Moe Gockley and sisters. In memory of Todd's mother, Ruthann Gockley

Gary & Sue Gooden: In memory of Betty Gooden

John Gordon: In honor of Judith Pacileo and Linda Gordon. In memory of Wallace Stack, Doris Stack, Fred Gordon and James Pacileo

Tim Gough Jr.

Carol Landry: In memory of loved ones

Pastor Sue & Kevin Loney: To the Glory of God

Bill & Betty Sperati: In honor of our children Jacob (Christa), Joshua (Gloriana) and Becky Sperati; Our grandchildren Aurora, Lydia, Roland Lillith and Athena Sperati and Douglas and Francis Fagnant-Sperati; Pastor Sue Loney, St. Stephen's staff. In memory of Bill's parents Carleton & Eloise Sperati, Betty's parents and sister, Horace & Betty Short and and Mary Short

The Strayer family: In memory of Gerald & Dorothy Strayer, Edsel & Delores Carlson and Shirleen Hoffman

Michele Torchia: In memory of Pauline & Stanly Feltman and Frank & Lena Torchia

Karen, Joy & Kathy Weber: In memory of Al Weber

Karen Weber: In memory of Elaine Jackson, Mary Snyder and Marge Griffith, Karen's sisters

Participants in Today's Service

Presiding Minister:
The Rev. Susan Loney

Music Director:
Dr. Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:
Ann Dransfield

Altar Guild:
Sally Dudderar, Karleen Strayer, Michele Torchia

Ministers:
The people of St. Stephen's

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Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.
May God go with you today and every day.

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