

# EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2024

## St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

"A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service."

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. Alleluia!

#### **GATHERING**

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

WELCOME

**PRELUDE** 

#### MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Please stand as you are comfortable and turn toward the font.

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

#### Amen.

Look, here is water!

#### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Eve and Adam beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool a traveling Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

#### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river, your beloved child was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

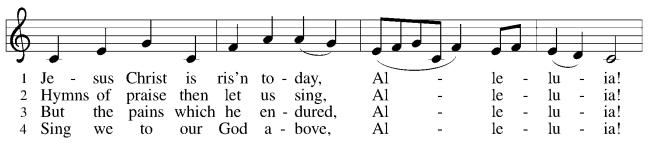
#### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

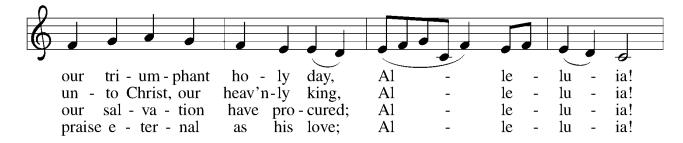
#### **GATHERING HYMN**

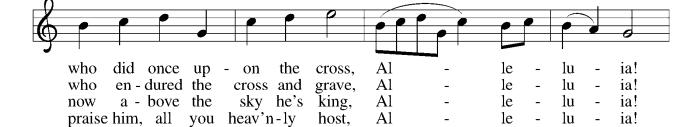
## **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY**

**ELW 365** 

During the hymn, the congregation is sprinkled with water from the font in remembrance of the gift of baptism.









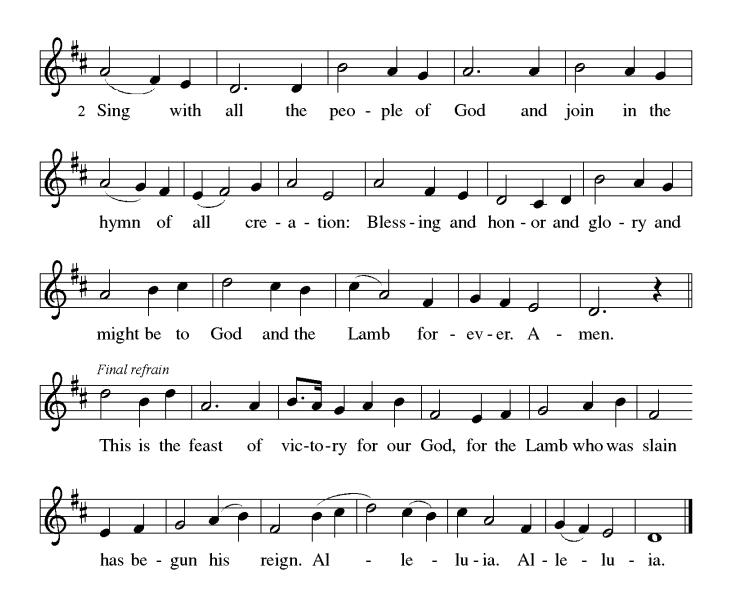
## **GREETING**

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.

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only child 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.

Please be seated.

#### Word

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

#### FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. <sup>36</sup>You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>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

God's mercy en- | dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel | now declare,

"God's mercy en- | dures forever."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength | and my song, and has become | my salvation.

 $^{15}\mbox{Shouts}$  of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents  $^{|}$  of the righteous:

"The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!

 $^{16}\mbox{The right hand of the LORD}|$  is exalted!

The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup>I shall not | die, but live,

and declare the works | of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

<sup>19</sup>Open for me the | gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate | of the LORD; here the righ- | teous may enter."

<sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup>By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the | LORD has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

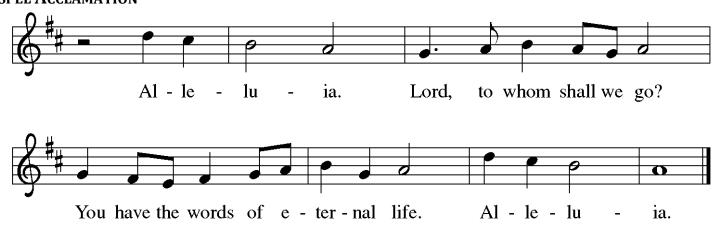
<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, siblings, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred siblings at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**GOSPEL: MARK 16:1-8** 

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁶But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁶So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the good news of the gospel. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

#### **SERMON**

Please stand as you are comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY

## CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA

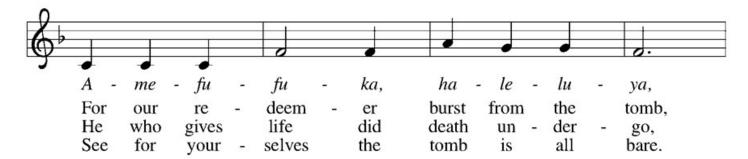
**ELW 364** 

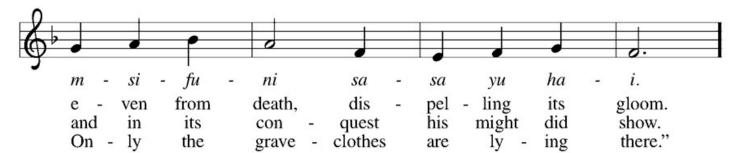


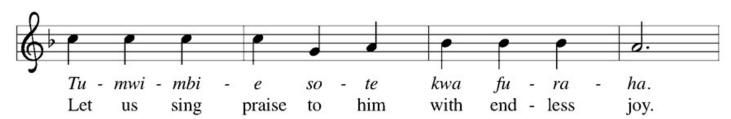
M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,

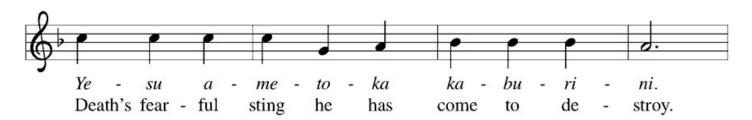
- 1 Christ has a ris en, al le lu ia.
- days 2 For three long the grave did its worst an - gel said them, "Do 3 The fear. to not

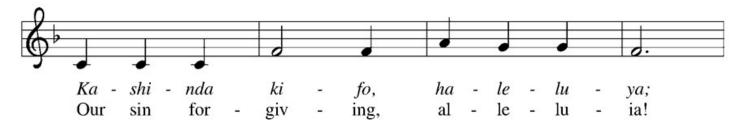
ko zika. mbofu aRe - joice praise and him, al le lu ia. un - til You look dis persed. its God strength by was for Je sus who is not here.

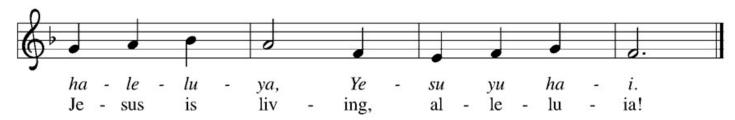












- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain
- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
  Alleluia, to him praises be.
  Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
  he reigns triumphant, heavenly king.
  Refrain

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 be seated.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. Bring healing and comfort to those we name before you now... God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.** 

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

#### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERING**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnerships with local, statewide, and national partners.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM St. Mark Choir

Please stand as you are comfortable.

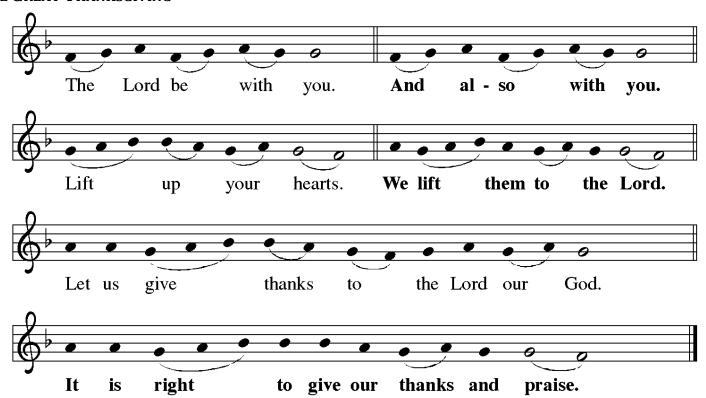
#### **OFFERING HYMN**



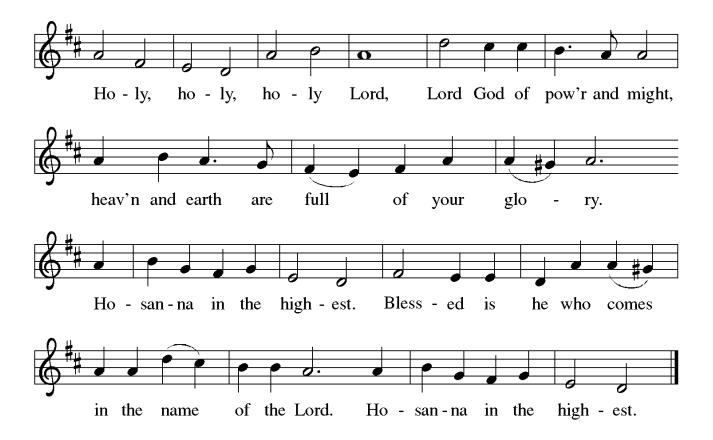
#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING







#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourished the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, for all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, 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.

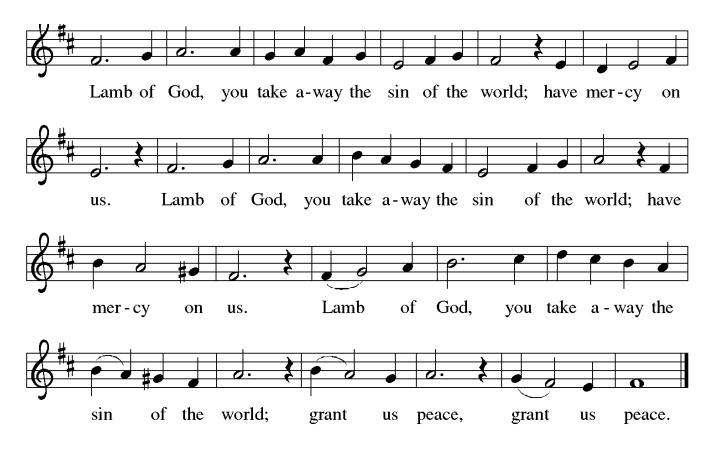
Please be seated.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

We share communion with wheat and gluten-free wafers, wine, and juice. Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of religious background or age.

#### **COMMUNION SONG**



#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

## THE STRIFE IS O'ER, THE BATTLE DONE

#### **ELW 366**





- 1 The strife is o'er, the bat tle done; now is the vic tor's
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je sus their le gions
- 3 The three sad days have quick ly sped, Christ ris es glo rious
- 4 Christ closed the yawn ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. has dis-persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you.

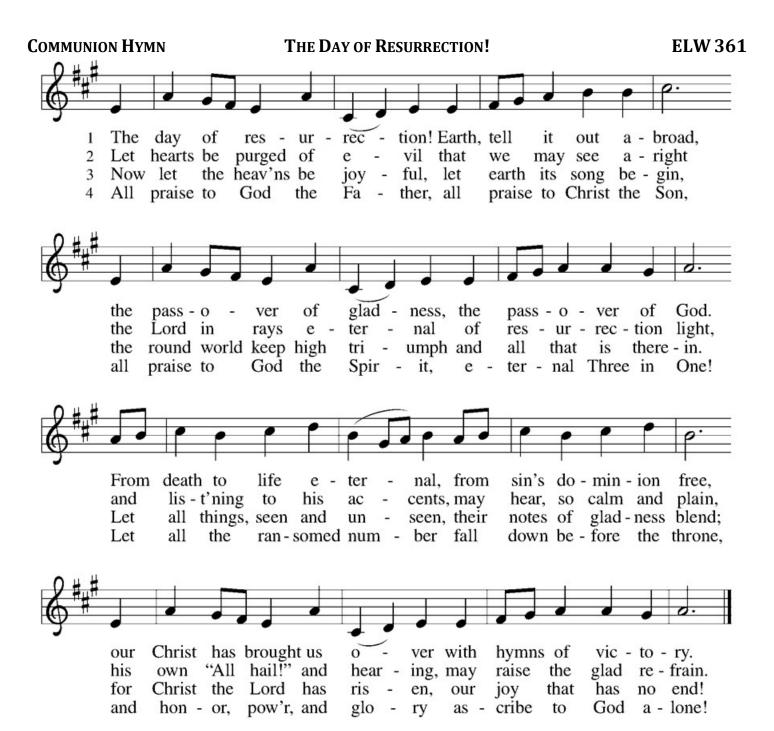
Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!





Please stand as you are comfortable.

#### TABLE BLESSING

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

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

#### **SENDING**

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

**BLESSING** 

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN

#### CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al le lu ia! Ris en our vic to rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev-er death or hell shall us en thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead! through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more; now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day. We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears; death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now, See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground; All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears. an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow. Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found. hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

#### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

#### Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Lector: Michaela Arzt

Communion Assistant: Michaela Arzt Ushers: Haig Kasabach and Leon Boyer Livestream Operator: Jody Hodge

**Altar Guild:** Bobbie Huffman and Dolores McKillip

Pastor: Rev. Linnéa Clark
Office Administrator: Robin Harris
Minister of Music: John Kling

**Ministers:** People of St. Mark

#### Worship with Us

We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service) and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). You are always welcome.

We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.

#### Serve with Us

We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 13,000<sup>th</sup> lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse (kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.

#### **Contact Us**

You can reach our office at admin@stmarkhamilton.org and at (609) 585-7087.

You can reach Pastor Linnéa Clark directly at pastor@stmarkhamilton.org or at (215) 620-4977 in case of emergency.

You can also find us online at stmarkhamilton.org and at facebook.com/stmarkhamilton.

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