



## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**APRIL 28, 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

*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John.*

## GATHERING

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

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### 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!**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a wilderness pool a traveling Ethiopian  
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 and praise 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!**



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



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!



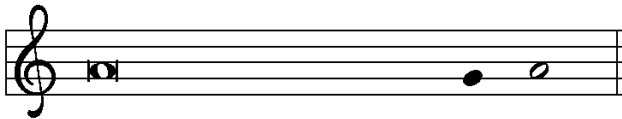
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**GREETING**

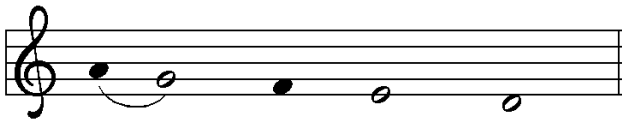
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

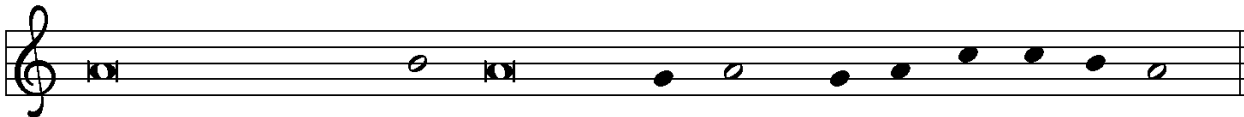
**KYRIE**



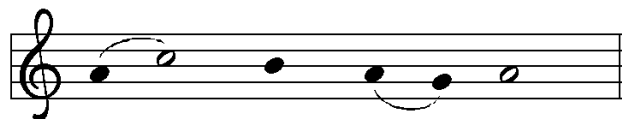
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

**O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

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

### FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**  
**who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

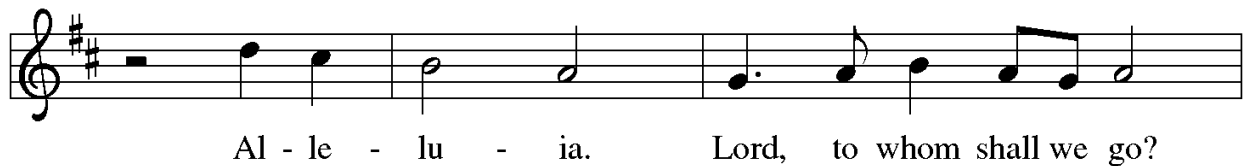
<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that God has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because God first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their siblings, are liars; for those who do not love a sibling whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and God is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches.



Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

This is the good news of the gospel.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED**

**ELW # 449**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

*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.

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. 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.*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## 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

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

The first line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, with lyrics 'And al - so with you.'

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The second line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts.' The second measure contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, with lyrics 'We lift them to the Lord.'

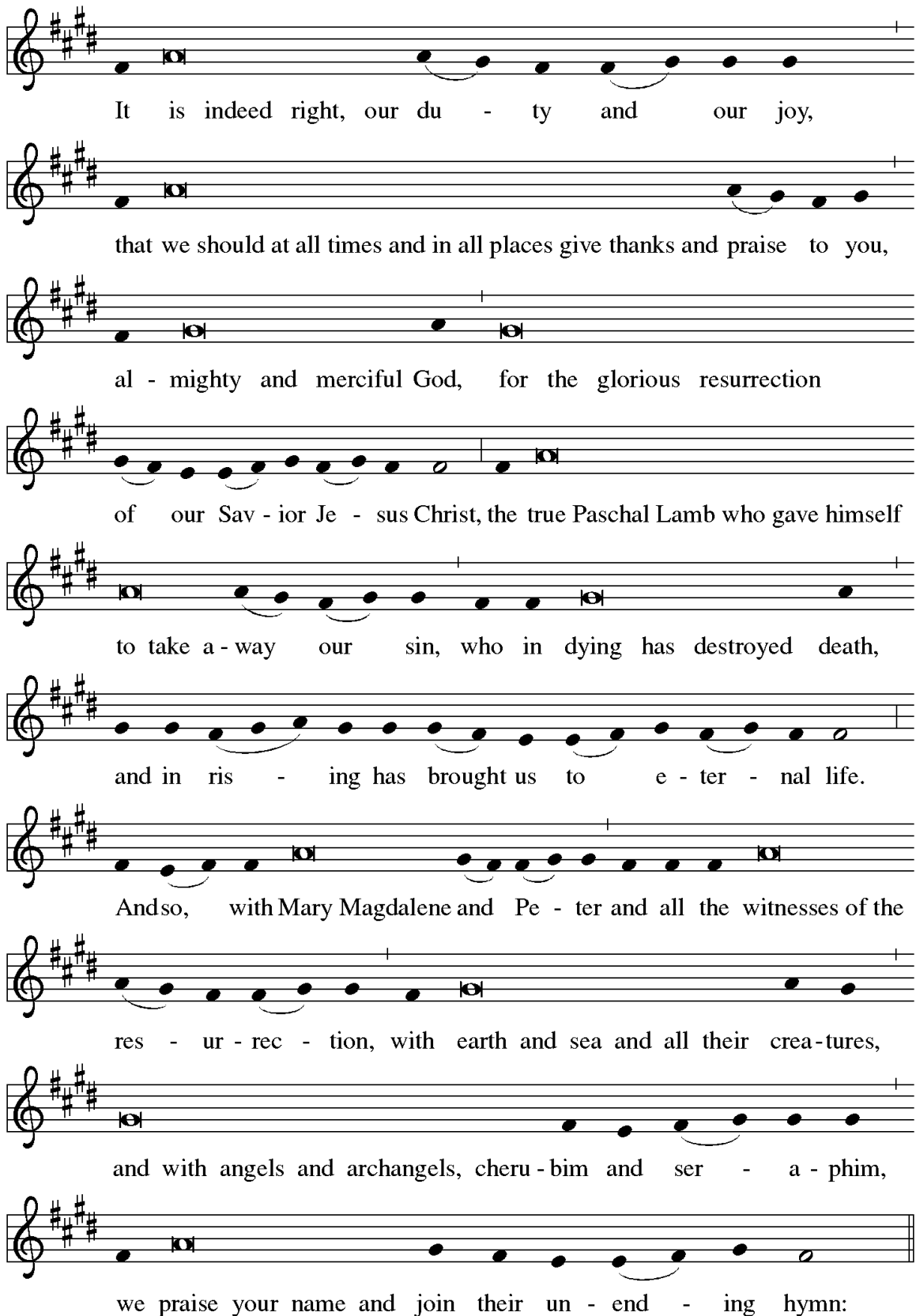
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The third line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of one measure containing the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The fourth line of musical notation is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps. It consists of one measure containing the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with lyrics 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

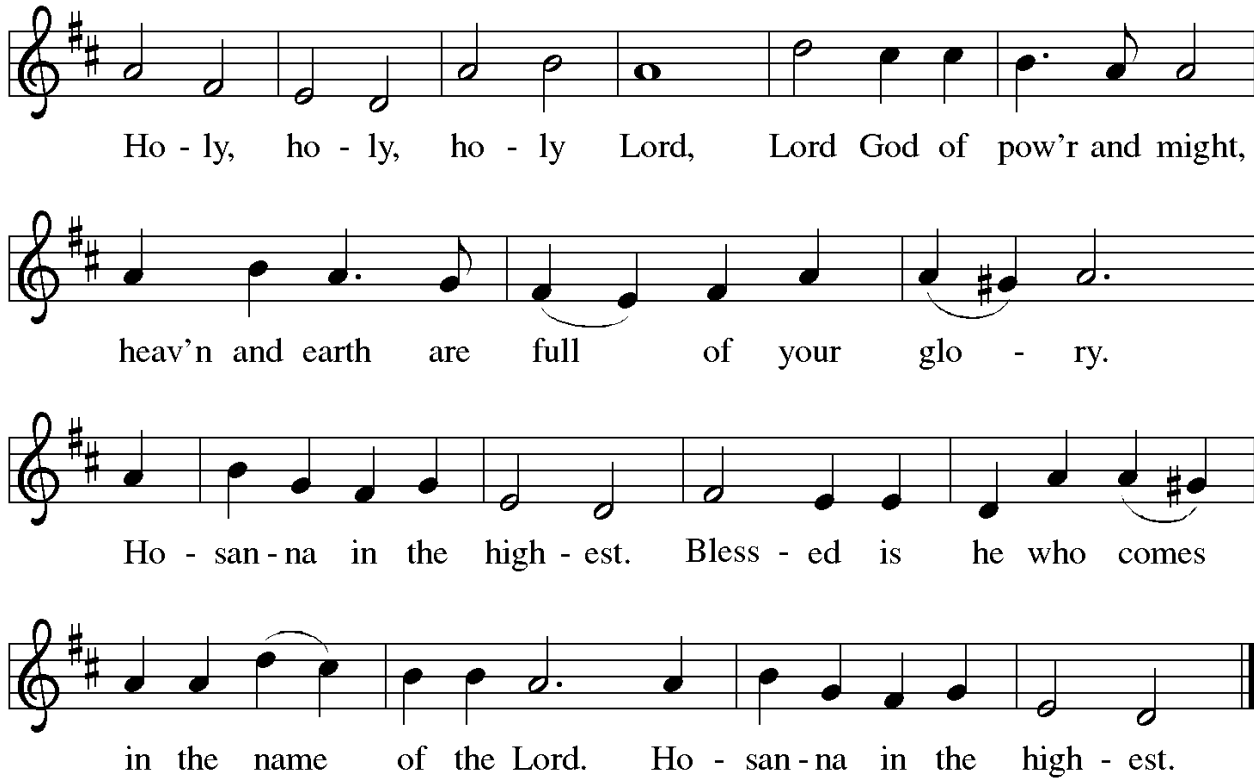
## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection  
of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself  
to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the  
res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,  
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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## SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, 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,  
would 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, 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.**

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, saying:

**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**

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.*

*Please be seated.*







1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

*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.*

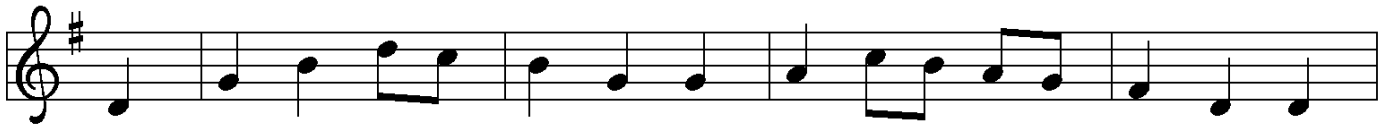
#### BLESSING

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.**



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### ***Thank you to today's worship leaders!***

**Lector:** Eileen Mansfield

**Communion Assistant:** Eileen Mansfield

**Ushers:** Haig Kasabach and Leon Boyer

**Livestream Operator:** Michaela Arzt

**Altar Guild:** Mary and Tim Hoh

**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](mailto:admin@stmarkhamilton.org) and at (609) 585-7087.*

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

*You can also find us online at [stmarkhamilton.org](http://stmarkhamilton.org)  
and at [facebook.com/stmarkhamilton](https://facebook.com/stmarkhamilton).*

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