

ASCENSION OF JESUS
MAY 17, 2026

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

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are comfortable.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

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.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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,

from Crosswicks and Assunpink Creeks to the Delaware River.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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.

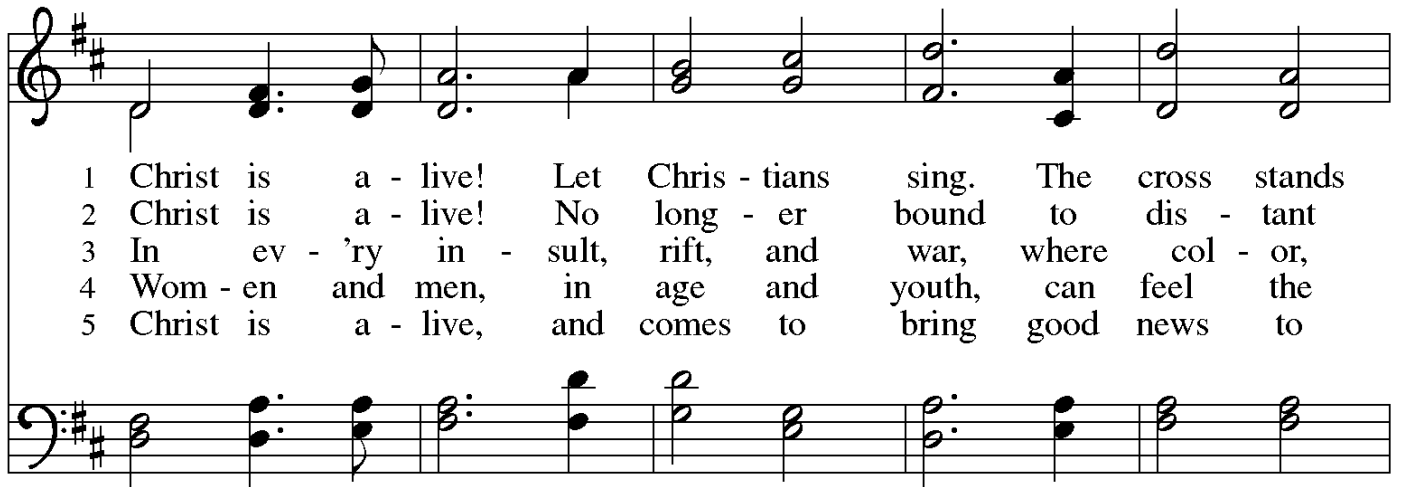
Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,

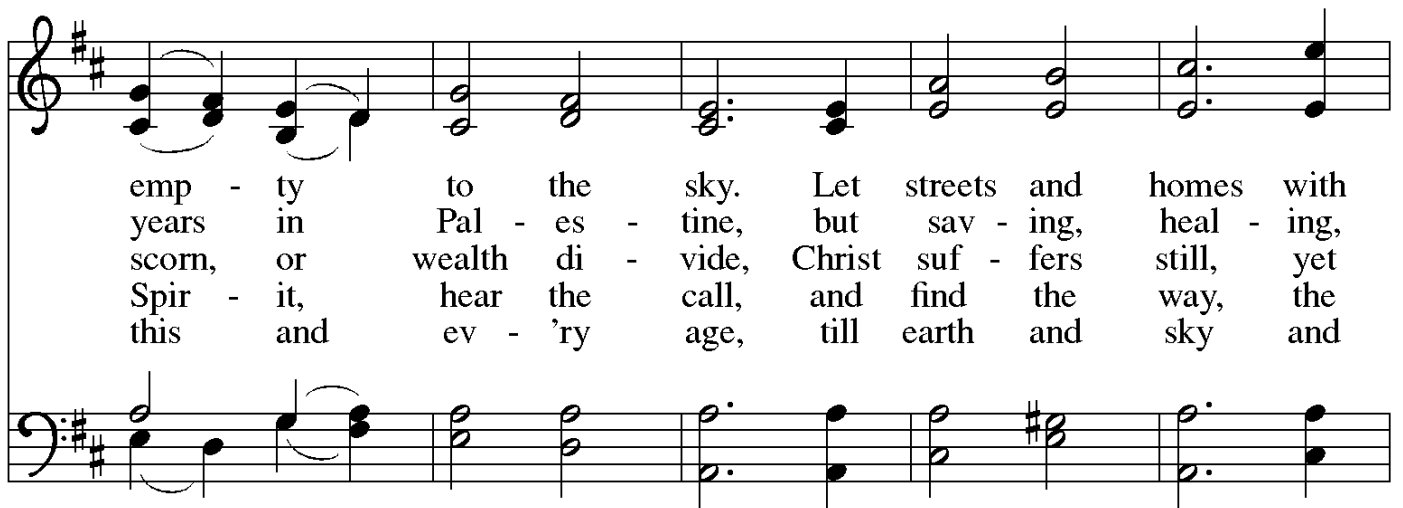
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,

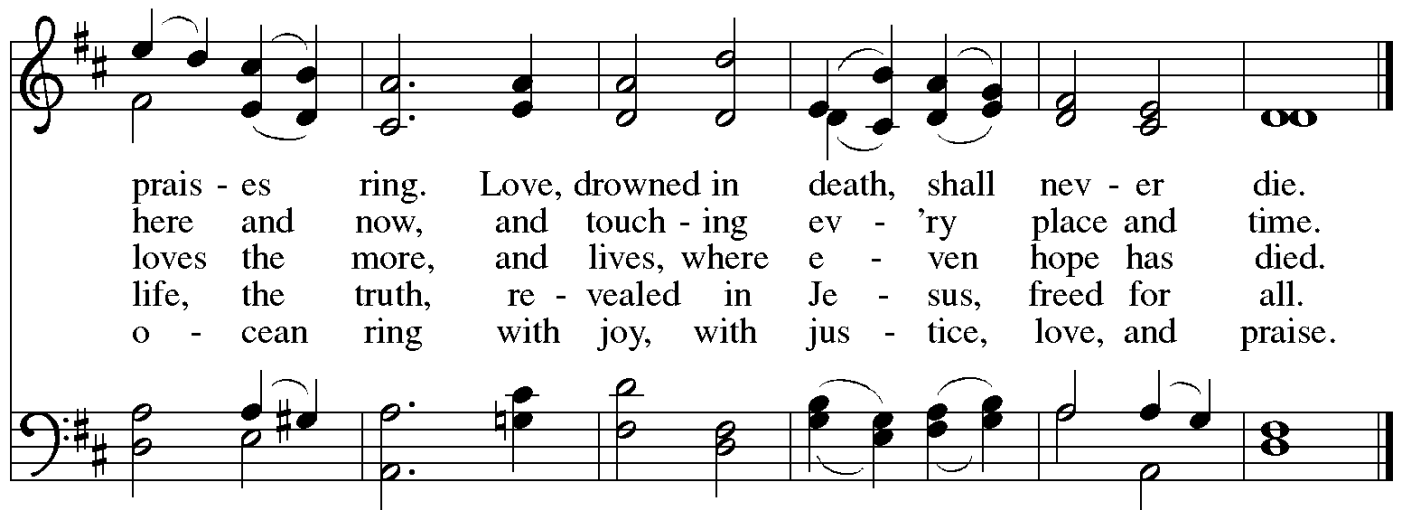
now and forever. **Amen.**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

GREETING

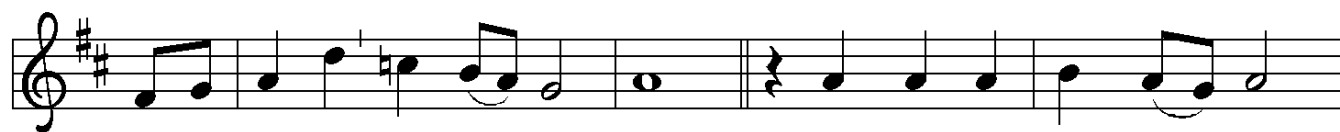
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



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



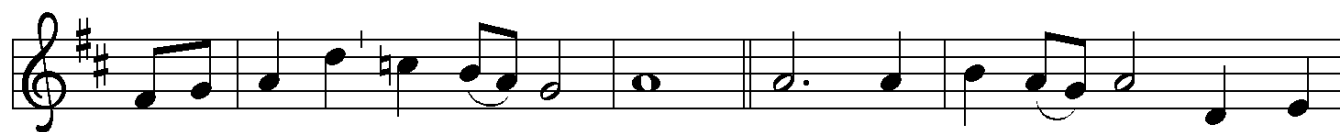
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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: Daniel 7:9-14

⁹ As I watched,

thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 24:7-10

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸Who is this | King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰Who is this | King of glory?

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the | King of glory.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of God power for us who believe, according to the working of God’s great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and seated him at God’s right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And God has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of Christ who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-52

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Then [Jesus] said to [the apostles], “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what God promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

This is the good news of the gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are comfortable.



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
 sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE VINYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW 181

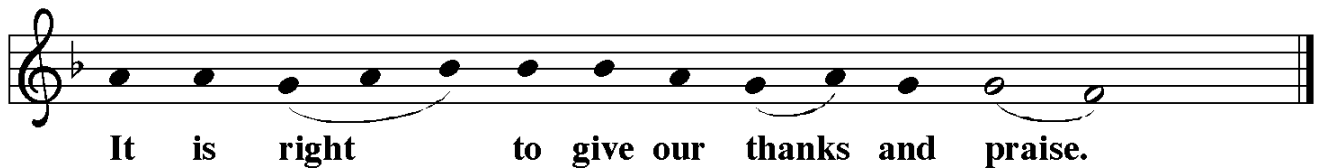
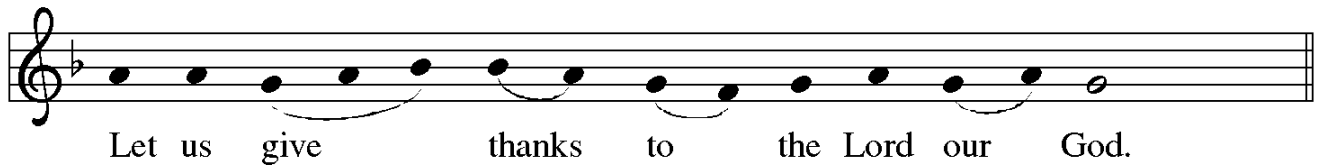
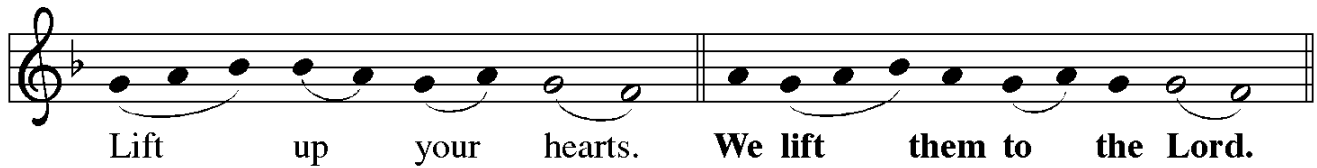
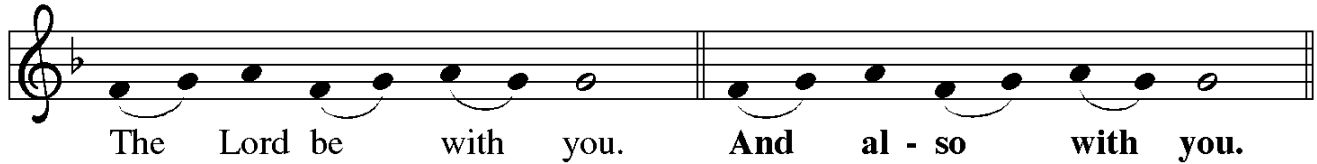
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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

Creator of the cosmos, Breath of heaven, Lover of us all,
you are our praise, our life, our joy.

You are there through desert wanderings and willful murmurings,
rebellious running and tears of complaint.

You are there when sorrow becomes our daily food;
you rescue us from ruin and anoint us with blessing.
You are there in stable and temple, river and hillside,
cross and tomb and even beyond the grave.

Rising Sun, Soaring Spirit, Radiant Lord,
you are there in shining glory,
overcoming death and welcoming us to life.
You meet us in the breaking of the bread;
you pour out the cup of salvation;
you feed us with grace and overwhelm us with love.

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.*

Christ, by your Spirit,
make these gifts your body and your blood.
By your Spirit,
make us one with you and with each other.
By your Spirit,
make us strong that we will share your love
with your blessed and broken world.

Fount of mercy, Fire of justice, dearest Friend,
bind us to you and send us out
to seek and serve and sing your praise,
until you gather us up in glory
and bright, unending song.

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

Come to meet Jesus in the broken bread. These are the gifts of God for the people of God,
holy things for holy people, and they are for you.

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

COMMUNION SONG: LAMB OF GOD

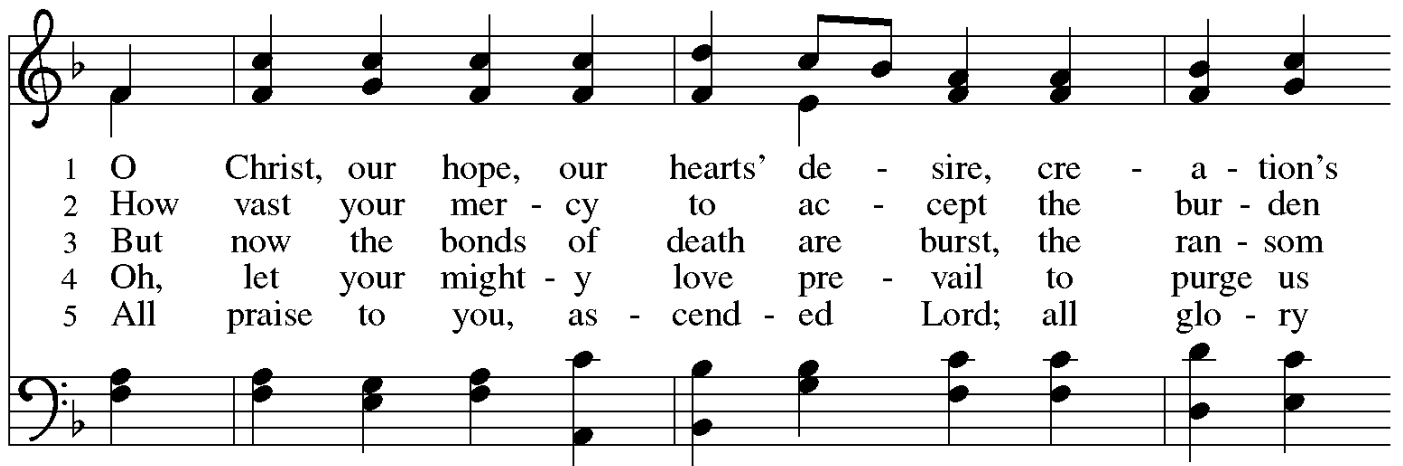
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

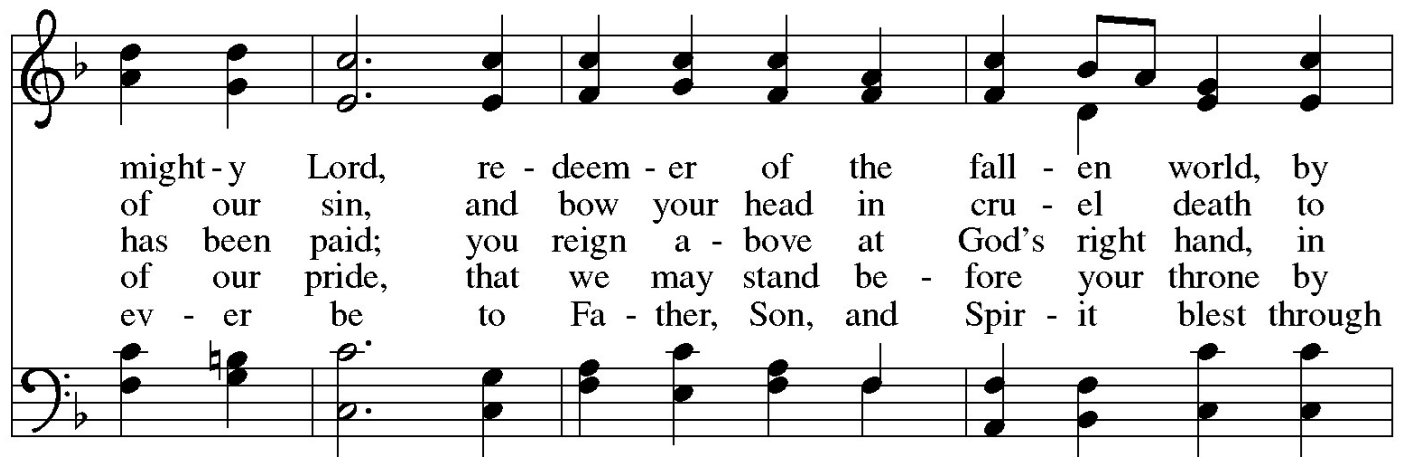
THAT EASTER DAY WITH JOY WAS BRIGHT

ELW 384

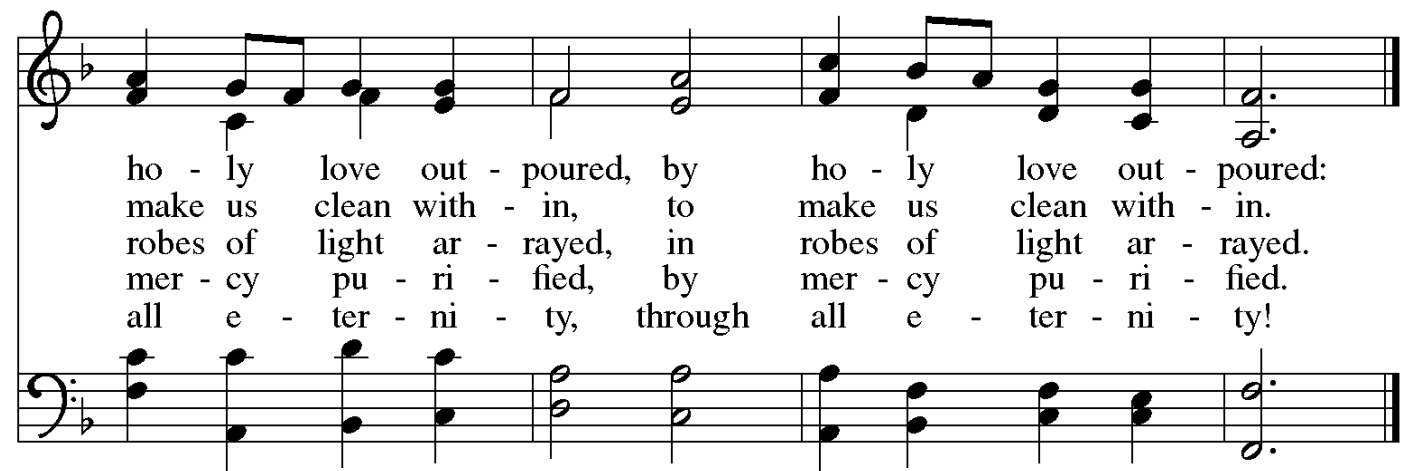
1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to
 sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther
 eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Receive the good news: Christ is risen from the dead.

Tell the good news: the power of death shall no more oppress us.

Live the good news: we are free to love as he has loved us.

God, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you

and by the power of the Holy Spirit raise you with him in glory. **Amen.**

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Lector: Debbie Guido

Communion Assistant: Debbie Guido

Ushers: Mary Hoh and Nadine Mileski

Livestream Operator: Eileen Mansfield

Altar Guild: Linda Scalzo

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 19,000th 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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