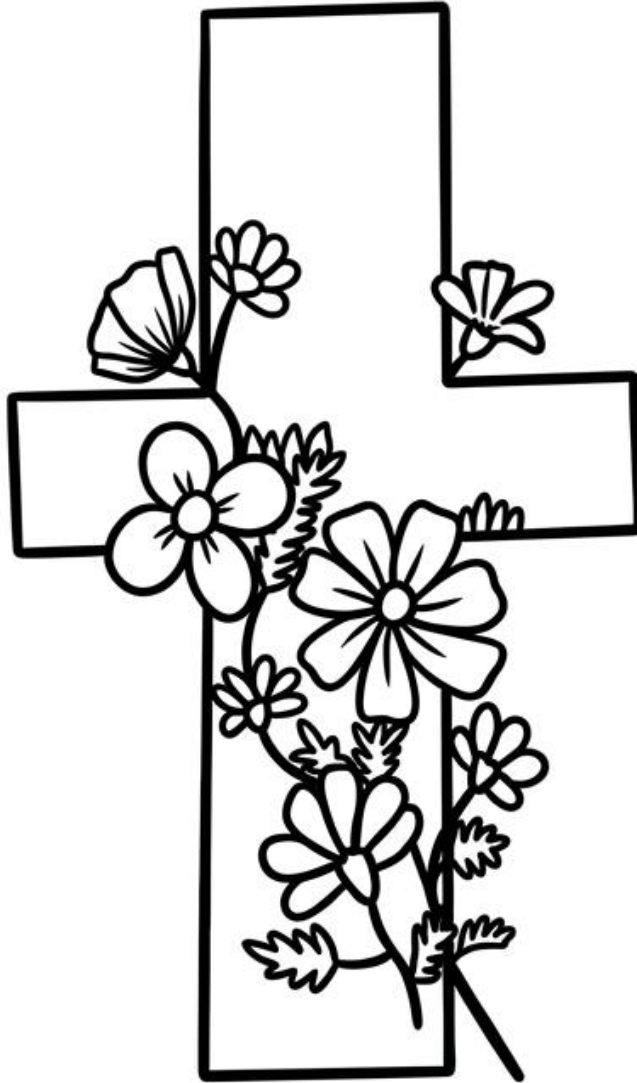


Easter Festival

April 5, 2026



*Cover artwork drawn by Ashley Delimat,
member and 8th grade student at
St. John's Lutheran Church and School*

Easter Makes All the Difference



198 Westridge Ave., Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Rev. Kirk Lahmann | Rev. Kenneth Rodrigue



Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

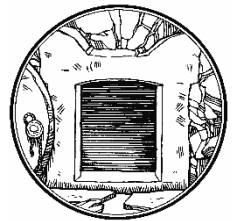
Paschal Triduum

After six weeks of Lent, the Christian Year now reaches its climax. The Paschal Triduum celebrates the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The word *Paschal* comes from the Hebrew word for Passover, and *Triduum* is Latin for three days. The three days of the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday) form one unit – three parts of one continuous worship experience. The Paschal Triduum recounts the dramatic happenings of our Savior’s suffering, death, and resurrection for the salvation of the world. No more important events have ever taken place.



Today’s Focus for Worship – Easter Makes All the Difference

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. “The Son of Man must suffer many things... be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Jesus is alive! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Jesus’ resurrection makes all the difference! Easter is a celebration of that fact.



Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Preacher: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Accompanist: Brenda Hafeman

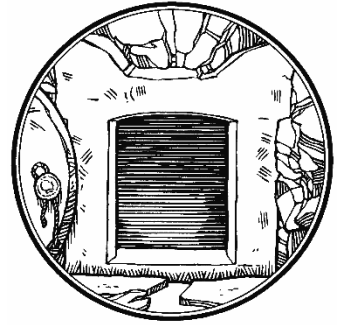
Brass Ensemble: Dan Erikson, Carol A. Neumann, Jeff Neumann, Glen Rubach

Communion Assistants: Jeff Sibley and Tim Sonntag

Acknowledgments

Today’s Communion service is adapted from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House, p. 26 – “Service of Word and Sacrament.” Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Interior artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org. Psalm 118-B – tune: Brian Henkelmann © 1996 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709159.

Easter Festival



Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, today we come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Let us draw near to him in worship and in praise, in our hymns and in our prayers.
Amen.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Opening Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today | 438
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8-9

Upon the hill the cross now stands empty. Morning light breaks upon the tomb. As we come before our God and King this holy Easter morning, let us confess to him our sins.
Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.

Upon this, your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's proofs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life.

The Lord is gracious and righteous!
When I was in great need, he saved me.

Psalm 116:5-6

The Lord is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.

Psalm 118:14-17

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:
The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live;
And will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn Response

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds | 471



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



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
heart and will on things a - bove that we
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 thro' 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!

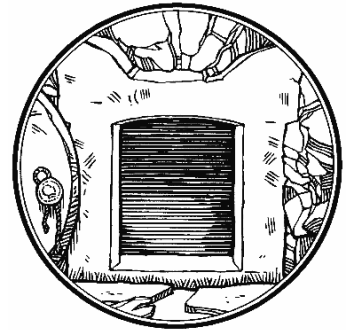


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623
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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who have been raised with him through baptism, may walk in newness of life and ever rejoice in the hope of sharing his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be dominion and praise now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Jonah 2:2-9

²He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. ³You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. ⁴I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’ ⁵The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. ⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

⁷“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

⁸“Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them. ⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

I Will Not Die But Live | 118-F

Refrain

I will not die but live, and will pro -

claim what the LORD has done. I will not die but

live, and will pro - claim what the LORD has done.

Verse



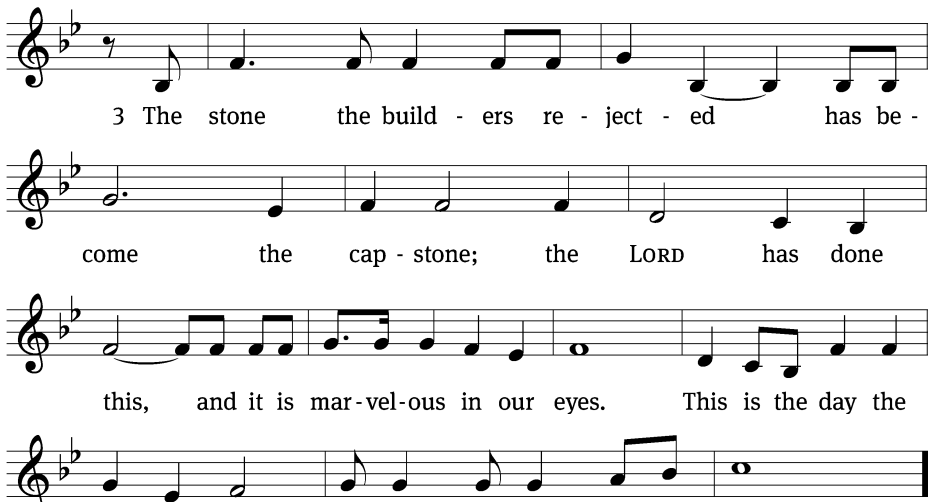
1 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has be -
come my sal - va - tion. The LORD's right hand is lift - ed
high; the LORD's right hand has done might - y things! *Refrain*

Verse



2 I will not die but live, and will pro -
claim what the LORD has done. I will give you thanks for you
an - swered me; you have be - come my sal - va - tion. *Refrain*

Verse



3 The stone the build - ers re - ject - ed has be -
come the cap - stone; the LORD has done
this, and it is mar - vel - ous in our eyes. This is the day the
LORD has made; let us re - jice and be glad. *Refrain*

¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

I Will Not Die But Live | 118-F

I will not die but live, and will pro -
claim what the LORD has done. I will not die but
live, and will pro - claim what the LORD has done.

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "I will not die but live, and will pro - claim what the LORD has done. I will not die but live, and will pro - claim what the LORD has done." The first staff ends with a fermata over the word "live,". The second staff ends with a fermata over the word "done." The third staff ends with a double bar line.

I will not die but live, and will pro -

claim what the LORD has done. I will not die but

live, and will pro - claim what the LORD has done.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 440:1-4

*The congregation speaks the words printed in **bold**.*

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; **his love endures forever.** ² Let Israel say: **“His love endures forever.”** ³ Let the house of Aaron say: **“His love endures forever.”** ⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say: **“His love endures forever.”**

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; **he brought me into a spacious place.** ⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? ⁷ **The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies.**

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans. ⁹ **It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.** ¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. ¹¹ They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down. ¹² They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down. ¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me. ¹⁴ **The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.**

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: **“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”** ¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high; **the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”** ¹⁷ **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; **I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.** ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. ²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; **you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ²³ **the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.** ²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; **let us rejoice today and be glad.**

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! ²⁶ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.** From the house of the LORD we bless you. ²⁷ **The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us.** With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; **you are my God, and I will exalt you.**


²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; **his love endures forever.**

I Will Not Die But Live!


1. And Give Thanks to the LORD
2. And Trust in God
3. And Not Fear Death
4. And Rejoice

Hymn Response


Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 440:5-7




5 Here the true Pas - chal Lamb we see, whom God so
6 So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the
7 Then let us feast this Eas - ter Day on Christ, the



free - ly gave us; he died on the ac - curs - ed
Lord in - vites us; Christ is him - self the joy of
bread of heav - en; the Word of grace has purged a -



tree— so strong his love— to save us.
all, the sun that warms and lights us.
way the old and e - vil leav - en.



See, his blood now marks our door; faith points to
Now his grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal
Christ a - lone our souls will feed; he is our



it; death pass - es o'er, and Sa - tan
sun - shine to our hearts; the night of
meat and drink in - deed; faith lives up -



can - not harm us. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
on no oth - er! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Text: Public domain

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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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 118:17

Living Lord Jesus Christ, through the testimony of the Scriptures we know that you are risen indeed. Our hearts yearn to see you face to face.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Just as you have shared your victory with us in the promise of resurrection, share your hope with us that we may be sustained by the power of your gospel as we wait for your return.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Empower us with your victory that we let our faith shine to all and proclaim what you have done to those who live without hope.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Give your blessing to all who read, preach, sing and play instruments to your glory today. Fill their hearts with joy, and let their praise gladden and strengthen those who hear as we give you thanks and praise for your mighty deeds.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Bless those who mourn, and give them comfort and hope with your resurrection gospel that those who have fallen asleep in you live in joy in your presence, and because you live, we will live also.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

In mercy help those who are pushed back and about to fall; those who struggle with persecution, doubt, despair and pain. Be their strength, their defense and salvation.

We will not die but live. We will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Merciful, holy and faithful Lord Jesus Christ, you died for our sins and were raised for our justification. In view of your resurrection we ask that you would awaken us also from the death of our sins and iniquities, that by your grace we may arise to life at the final resurrection of all the dead; just as you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

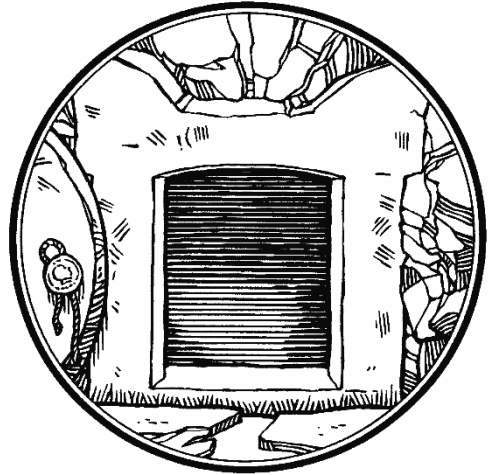


C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



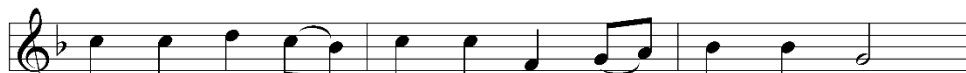
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:28, 21



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Matthew 26:26

Blessed are you, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his victory over the grave, our Savior declared death's reign ended, the door to heaven open, and the payment for sin complete.

We celebrate with joy the glorious resurrection of your Son.

We marvel at the depth of your love.

We stand in awe of your power.

We are humbled by the compassion you have shown our fallen race.

Lead us to rejoice in the pardon offered and sealed in this Sacrament and to live a life worthy of your name. Christ is risen!

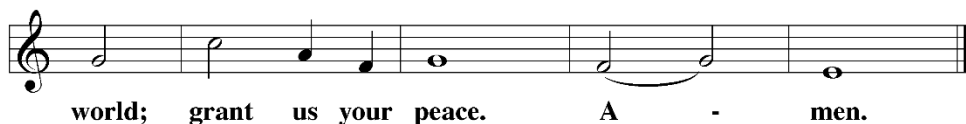
He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense
"The Lutheran Hymnal" (1941), hymn #206

1. Jesus Christ, my sure Defense
And my Savior, ever liveth;
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope it giveth
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious tho't.

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
I, too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives;
Shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave His members dead?

3. Nay, too closely am I bound
Unto Him by hope forever;
Faith's strong hand the Rock hath found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never;
Even death now cannot part
From its Lord the trusting heart.

4. I am flesh and must return
Unto dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken
With my Savior to abide
In His glory, at His side.

5. Glorified, I shall anew
With this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see
Jesus Christ eternally.

6. Then these eyes my Lord shall know,
My Redeemer and my Brother;
In His love my soul shall glow--
I myself, and not another!
Then the weakness I feel here
Shall forever disappear.

7. They who sorrow here and moan
There in gladness shall be reigning;
Earthly here the seed is sown,
There immortal life attaining.
Here our sinful bodies die,
Glorified to dwell on high.

8. Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they shall never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

9. Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave
And at death no longer tremble;
He, the Lord, who came to save
Will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet,
Treading death beneath their feet.

10. Oh, then, draw away your hearts
Now from pleasures base and hollow.
There to share what He imparts,
Here His footsteps ye must follow.
Fix your hearts beyond the skies,
Whither ye yourselves would rise.

This Is the Feast | 938
He's Risen, He's Risen | 445
I Know That My Redeemer Lives | 441

Stand



Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on.



We now re - joice with glad - ness; Christ will end all sad - ness.



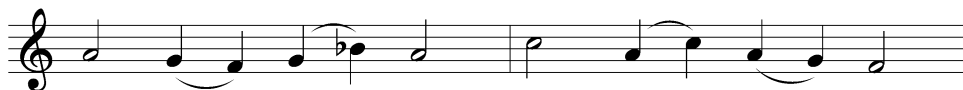
Lord, have mer - cy. All our hopes were end - ed



had Je - sus not as - cend - ed from the grave tri - um - phant - ly.



For this, Lord Christ, our thanks shall be. Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Al - le - lu - ia! We now re - joice with glad - ness;



Christ will end all sad - ness. Lord, have mer - cy.

Text: German, c. 1100; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: Latin, c. 1100, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus, you were crucified, but now you are the Living One, and you tell us not to be afraid. Help us to keep the gospel of your resurrection as of first importance, that living or dying, we always have true life in you. You, Jesus, are the Lord of Life, who died, but now you live forever, reigning in triumph with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one living God, in power and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

Now may the glorious Father, who by his power raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the Spirit of wisdom to know the hope to which he has called you. And may he preserve you in body, soul, and spirit until our own resurrection on the day of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Be seated

Closing Hymn

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word | 461