

Holy Communion
March 30, 2024
Resurrection of Our Lord
Vigil of Easter



Leading Worship Today
Pastor Cynthia Rader Geyer
Pastor Don Brown
Susie Black
David Umla
Andrew Lutz-Long
Deacon Michael Krentz

Welcome to worship this evening, both online and here in our building. To contact us call the church office at 610-433-4271 or visit us on the web at www.christ-atown.org.

Face masks are welcome, but not required.

This is a service of Holy Communion. All baptized persons are welcome to receive; anyone who is not baptized may come forward for a blessing. The bread (a wafer) will be placed in your hand. Take a cup for the wine from the tray, returning it to the empty tray. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled cups in the center of the tray.

Those attending online are invited to prepare a small bit of bread of any sort, and wine or juice if they are accessible to you, creating sacred space.

Allentown Collaborative Ministries offerings will go to Family Promise, Lehigh Conference of Churches, and Ripple Community, Inc. Offerings may be left in the offering box in the back of the nave.

Following worship everyone is invited to a champagne reception in our chapel, located behind the chancel. You can get there through either door at the front of the nave.



GATHERING

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

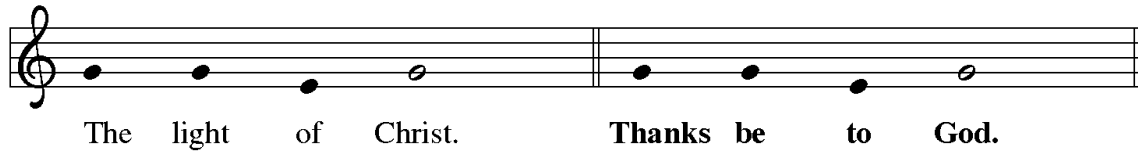
*All gather in silence. A small unlighted candle may be given to each worshipper.
Hymns are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*



Welcome

Procession

As the procession begins, the assisting minister sings:



Easter Proclamation

Prayer of the Day

The assembly is seated.

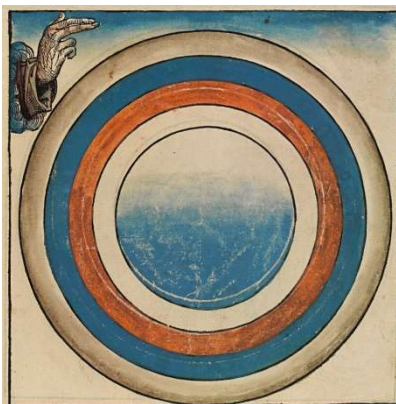
WORD

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

Reading

Creation

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a



Response

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom

(Choir)

1 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly-poly
to the treetop-tall giraffe.

All creation sings in wonder;
even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus:
echoes of our Maker's voice.

(Choir)

2 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
woven into harmony.
Ev'ry creature has a purpose,
ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.

Spider, human, redwood, gecko,
monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake
live within a single fabric:
cloth that only God could make.

(All)

3 Earth is full of wit and wisdom:
penguin, platypus, and snail,
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,
from the microbe to the whale.

In this great and strange creation,
with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards,
called to love and serve the earth.

Prayer

Reading

Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21



Response

Who Is Like Our God

Sung first by the choir, repeated by all



¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá, que con su po -
Who, who, who is like our God, who, with might - y



der el mar a - brió? ¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho -
hand, did part the sea? Who, who, who is like our



vá, que con su po - der el mar a - brió?
God, who, with might - y hand, did part the sea?



Oi - rán las na - cio - nes lo que él hi - zo;
All the na - tions will hear what God has done for us,



tem - bla - rán cuan - do ve - an sus pro - di gios.
and will trem - ble to see such signs and won - ders.



Su pue - blo le a - la - ba - rá, con pan - de - ro dan - za - rá,
Let God's peo - ple praise and sing, dance with joy and tam - bou - rines.



y di - rán, "¿Quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá?"
Let them say, "Who, who is like our God?"

Prayer

Reading

Salvation offered freely to all

Isaiah 55:1-11



Reponse

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty
Sing verses 3 & 5

ELW 777

Prayer

Reading

A new heart and a new spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Response

Sicut cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

*As the hart longs for the water springs,
So longs my soul for thee, O God.*

Prayer

Reading

Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Acclamation

Christus Resurrexit

Gordon Young

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel as the choir sings the acclamation. During the acclamation the church is decorated for Easter.

Gospel

John 20:1-18

Before the reading:

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

We Know that Christ Is Raised

ELW 449

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful . . .
now and forever.

Amen.

Responses:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.

You have made public profession . . .
peace in all the earth?
**I do, and I ask God to help and guide
me.**

The minister addresses the assembly.
People of God, do you promise to
support and pray for one another in
your life in Christ?
**We do, and we ask God to help and
guide us.**

Prayers of Intercession

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer for the church, the world, and all in any need.

Response: **receive our prayer.**

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ



Great Thanksgiving

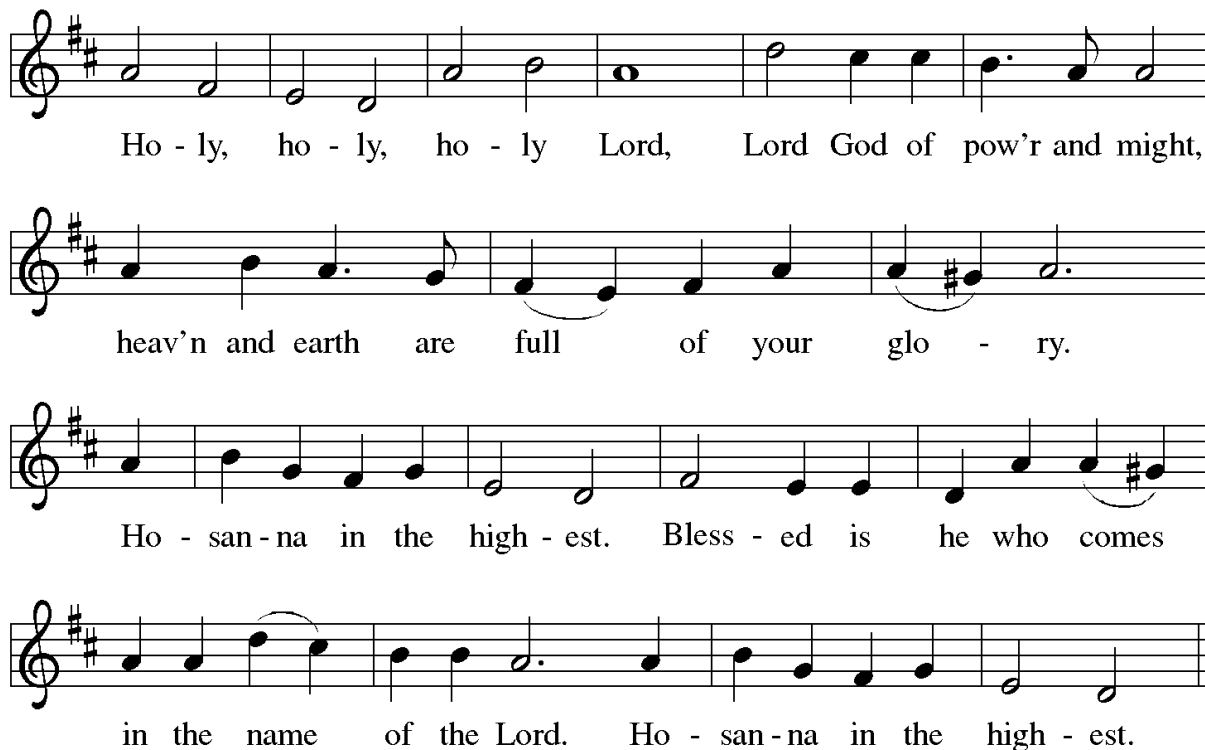
The assembly stands. The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and
praise.**

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

It is indeed right . . . join their unending
hymn:



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

Lord's Prayer

... let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Padre nuestro

**que estás en los cielos,
 santificado sea tu nombre;
 venga a nos tu reino;
 hágase tu voluntad,
 así en la tierra como en el
 cielo;
 el pan nuestro de cada día,
 dánoslo hoy;
 y perdónanos nuestras deudas
 así como nosotros perdonamos
 a nuestros deudores;
 y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
 mas líbranos del mal.
 Porque tuyo es el reino,
 el poder y la gloria
 por los siglos de los siglos. Amén**

Communion

The assembly is seated. Come forward to receive the wafer in your hand, taking a cup for the wine from the tray. Return it to the tray after drinking the wine. Grape juice is found in the pre-filled cups in the tray.

Song

This Is the Feast

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

Refrain



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



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.



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.

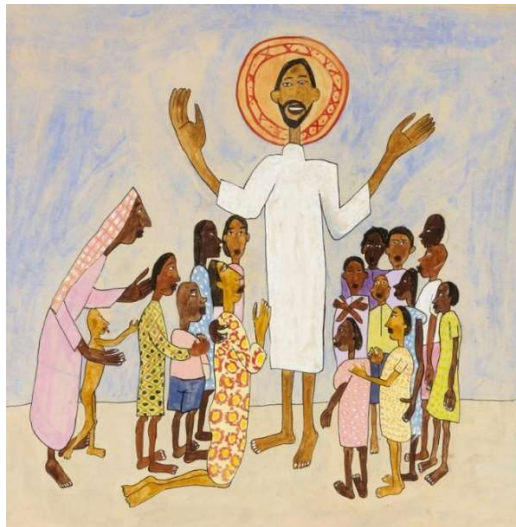
Song *You Belong to Christ* ELW 212

Song *Hallelujah: Helehuyan* ELW 171

Prayer after Communion
The assembly stands to pray.

SENDING

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



Blessing

Song *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

Refrain— sung twice each time

Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
 Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our

bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
 hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

End

ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
 prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
 2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
 strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Dismissal

Song (again)

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises



From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission, Augsburg Fortress liturgies license SAS000344.

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom Text: Adam L. Tice, b. 1979; © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission, Onelicense.net license A-701085; all rights reserved.

Who Is Like Our God Text: Anonymous, based on Exodus 15; tr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966; English text © 2019 Greg Scheer, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Used by permission, Onelicense.net license A-701085; all rights reserved.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises text: South African; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984; music: South African, arr. Freedom Is Coming. English text and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp. Reprinted by permission, Onelicense.net license A-701085; all rights reserved.