

Holy Communion
April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Leading Worship Today
Pastor David Deal
Donna Lahouchuc
Andrew Lutz-Long
Deacon Michael Krentz

Welcome to worship today, 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.

Our bread today is gluten free. The bread 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.

If you are interested in being baptized or becoming a member of Christ Church, or if we can help you in any way, contact the church office to speak with a pastor.

Offerings may be left in the offering box at the door to the nave or made online at www.christ-atown.org/donate/.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Yost.



GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Prelude on *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

J. S. Bach

Prelude on *O Blessed Spring*

Robert Buckley Farlee

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The assembly stands.

Gathering Song

The Day of Resurrection

ELW 361

Greeting

Canticle of Praise

This Is the Feast

(ELW front portion page 140)

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¹ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of
God.

³ Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

² Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

⁴ For the Lamb who was slain has begun
his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

The assembly is seated.

WORD

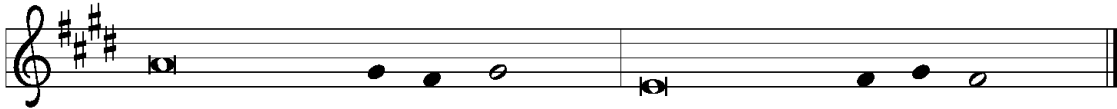
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

The choir and assembly sing the Psalm. The choir begins; the assembly sings the verses in bold.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the Lord.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts | live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the Lord,**
who rules o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed, 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.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,**
saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!"

Reading

1 John 4:7-21



Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands and sings to welcome the Gospel. The choir sings the proper verse.

(All)

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

(Leader or choir)

I am the vine, you are the branches.

(Repeat alleluias)

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

Text: John 15:5

Music: Michael E. Krentz, b. 1954, based on *Sonne der Gerechtigkeit*

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Gospel

John 15:1-8

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

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447

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

Stanza 1 – Choir

Stanzas 2 – 5 – All

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

Response: **hear our prayer.**

Peace

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

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

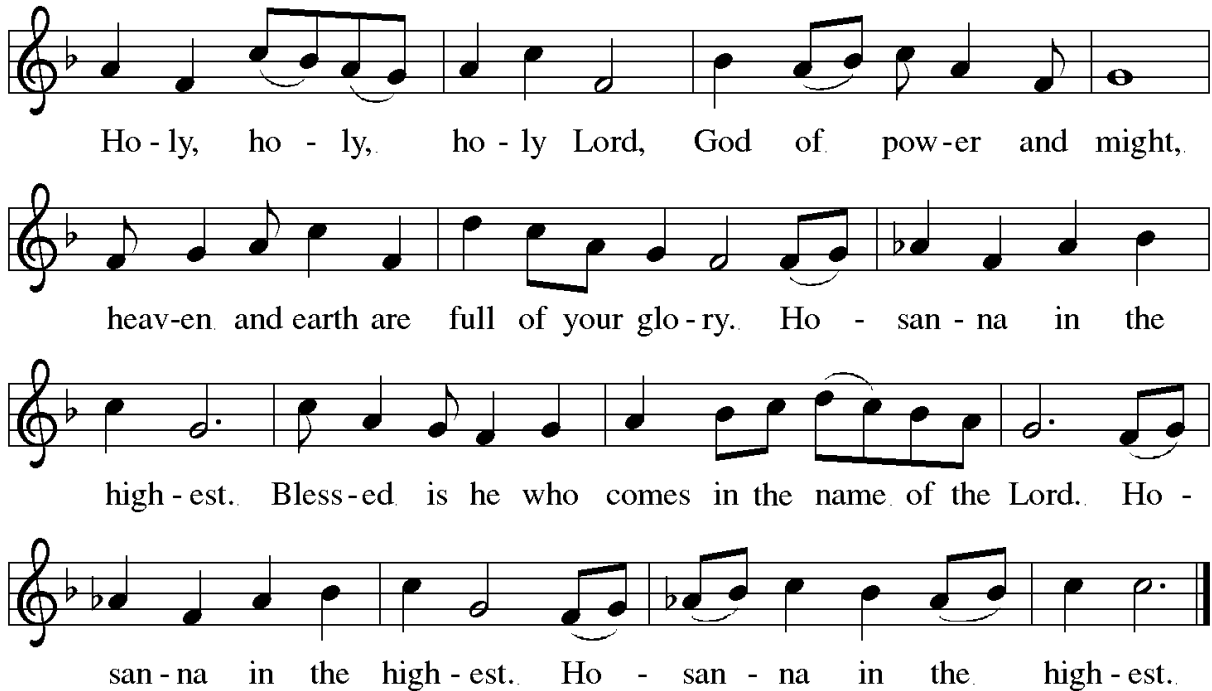
The assembly stands. The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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 . . . and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Responses:

. . . as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

. . . Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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 bread 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 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* ELW 373

Song *Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes* ELW 381

Prayer after Communion

The assembly stands.

SENDING

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

Blessing

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Sending Song *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* ELW 377

Announcements and Dismissal

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Postlude

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

(arr.) Keith Kolander



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