

# THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*Cantate Sunday*

APRIL 28, 2024

## WELCOME, GUESTS

Welcome to all who worship with us today. We are thankful for your presence and invite you to share in “the food which endures to eternal life.”

Please sign the visitor’s book at our Welcome Center in the narthex. If you’d like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate. There is a cry room down the stairs off the narthex where the service can still be heard. Busy-bags, children’s bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the Narthex.

We’d like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.



A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin St. Louis), [lcmstl.org](http://lcmstl.org)

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## Cantate Sunday

*Cantate Domino canticum novum, Alleluia!* Today is Cantate Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. The ancient entrance chant for this day began,

“Sing to the Lord a new song, Alleluia, for God has done marvelous deeds!  
In the sight of the nations the Lord’s justice is revealed.”

This text, from Psalm 96, has inspired musicians throughout the ages to extol the wonders of a living God who is at once ancient, eternal, and ever new. We who have been baptized into the death of Christ have come to share in that divine newness of life. We see (and hear) in the renewal of springtime a striking expression of this new life. Indeed, our very lives are new canticles, and all earthly life a symphony of praise to the creator, for it is in this miracle of life that God’s justice is revealed.

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In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God’s creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

# + The Fifth Sunday of Easter +

## *Cantate Sunday*

April 28, 2024

Setting: Iron Mountain Mass

10 AM

*The responses of the assembly appear in **bold** type.*

*“ELW” refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks.*

*Standing and sitting are corporate acts of the assembly.*

*When the assembly stands, those who are able stand on behalf of those who cannot.*

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*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 that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ’s living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ’s life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

*Prélude Modal*

Music of Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

### CHORAL INTROIT

motet: *Cantate Domino*

Music of Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni (1657-1743)

[sung in Latin]

*Cantate Domino canticum novum;*

*Laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.*

*Laetetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum.*

*Et filii Sion exsultet*

*in rege suo.*

Sing to the LORD a new song,

God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in her maker;

let the children of Zion be joyful

in their ruler.

[Psalm 149:1-2]

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*ELW* page 97

*The assembly stands.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*We continue on page 97 near the front of the cranberry book.*

... now and forever. **Amen.**

*It is our custom to turn to face the cross during the procession.*

*As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly is sprinkled with water during the gathering hymn.*

## GATHERING HYMN

*I Saw Water Flowing from the Temple* [1974]

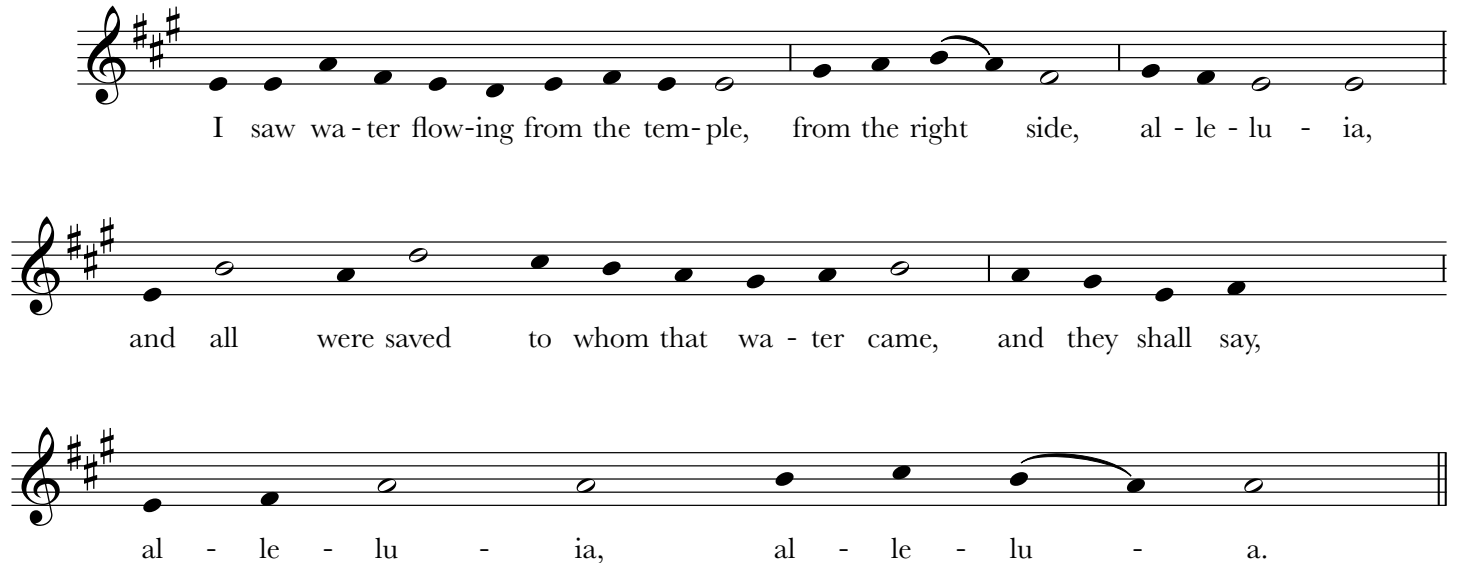
*VIDI AQUAM*

Traditional text for sprinkling during Easter Season

Antiphon based on Ezekiel 47:1-12

Martin B. Hellriegel (1890-1981)

*Antiphon:*



I saw wa-ter flow-ing from the tem-ple, from the right side, al-le-lu-ia,  
and all were saved to whom that wa-ter came, and they shall say,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-a.

*All repeat the antiphon after the choir, and again following the choir verses.*

*Choir* I saw water flowing from the Temple,  
From the right side, Alleluia.  
And all were saved, to whom that water came,  
And they shall say, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Assembly* **I saw water flowing from the Temple,  
From the right side, Alleluia.  
And all were saved, to whom that water came,  
And they shall say, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*Choir* Give thanks to the Lord; the Lord is good.  
For God's mercy endures forever.  
Glory ...

*Assembly* **I saw water flowing from the Temple ...**

## GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

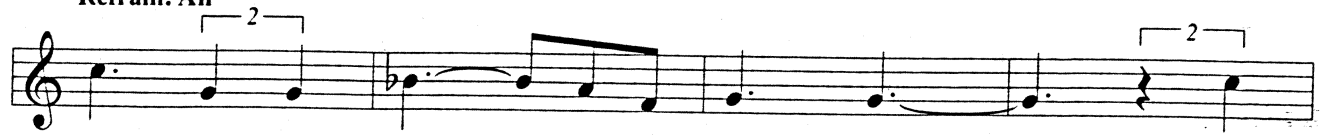
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (GLORIA)

Glory to God

Iron Mountain Mass

Refrain: All



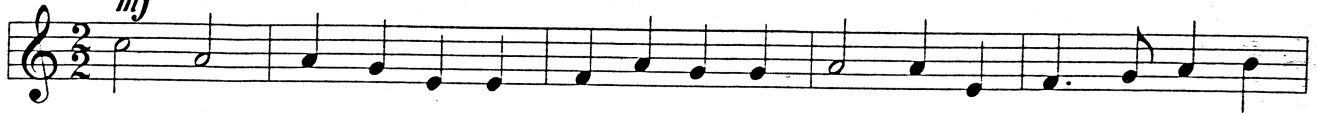
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



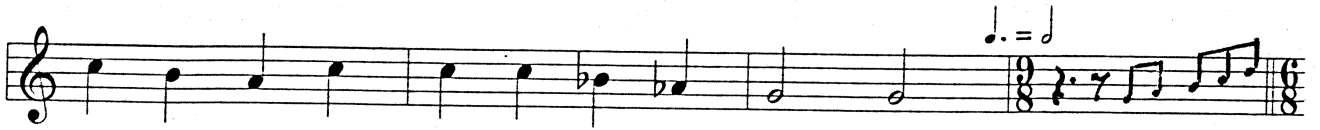
peace to God's peo-ple on earth, peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Verse 1: All/Choir

*mf*



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

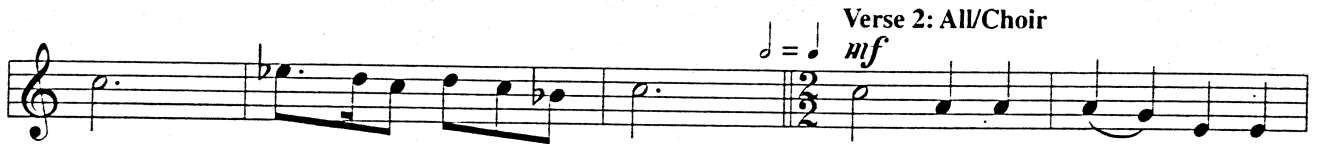


give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

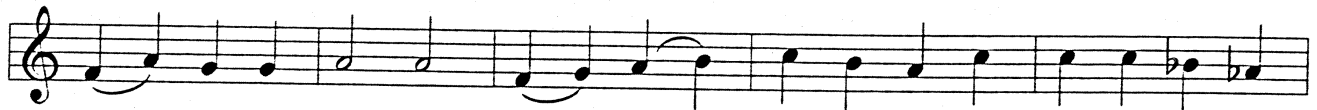
Refrain: All



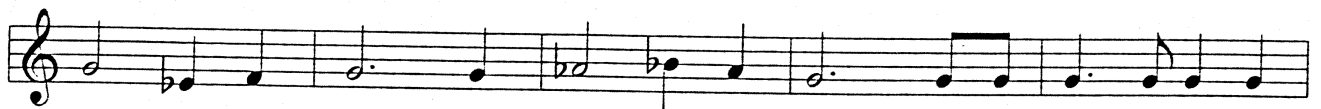
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on



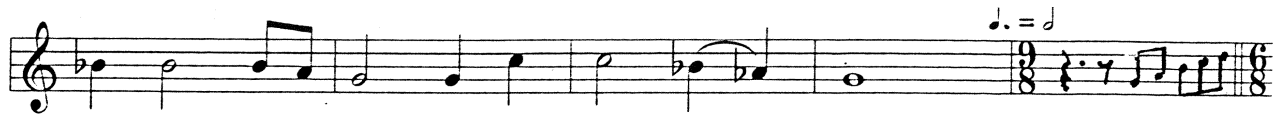
earth, peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

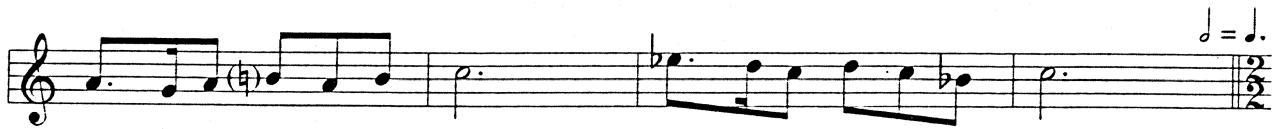


right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our — prayer.

**Refrain: All**



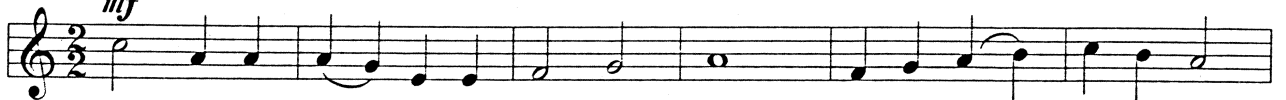
Glo - ry to God — in the high - est, — and



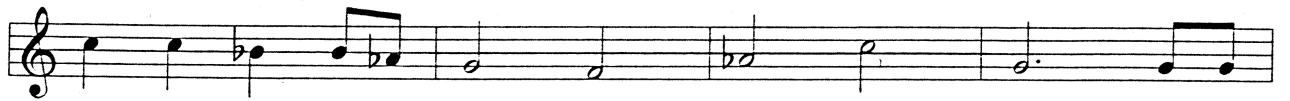
peace to God's peo-ple on earth, peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**Verse 3: All/Choir**

*mf*



For you a - lone — are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone — are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



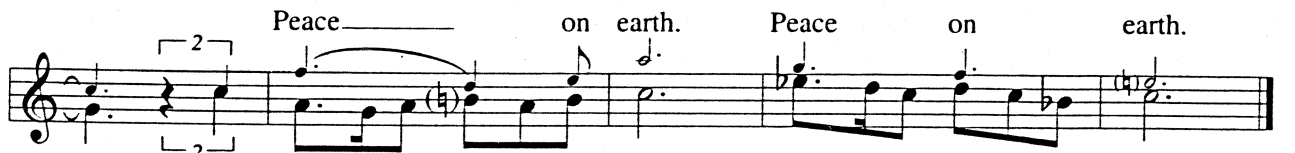
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A -

**Refrain: All**  
*Descant*



men.

Glo - ry to God — in the high - est, —



— and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

*Philip teaches and baptizes an Ethiopian*

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

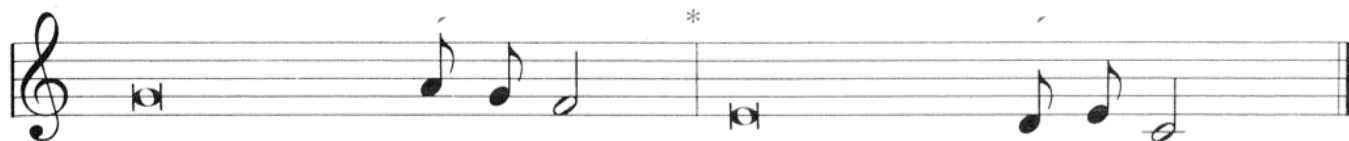
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So Philip got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The eunuch replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Choir* My praise is of God in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship God.

*Assembly* **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord | shall give praise:  
“May your heart | live forever!”**

*Choir* All the ends of the earth shall remember and | turn to God,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall bow be- | fore the Lord.

*Assembly* **For sovereignty belongs | to the Lord,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

*Choir* To the Lord alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall be- | fore the Lord.

*Assembly* **My soul shall live for God;  
my descendants shall | serve the Lord;  
they shall be known as the | Lord’s forever.**

*All* **They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn  
the saving deeds that | God has done.**



## SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

*God's love perfected in love for one another*

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating others, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

A reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent into the world God's only Son so that we might live through him. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because we have been given of God's own Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as the Son is, so are we in this world. 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. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a member of the community, are liars; for those who do not love a person whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love the members of the family also.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for preparation precedes the sequence hymn.*

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*Christ Is Arisen*

ELW # 372

[Medieval paraphrase of *Victimae Paschali*]

CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN

Prelude by Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

# HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

## *Christ the vine*

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*

*As the gospel is announced, a small cross may be traced with the thumb on the forehead, then on the lips, then on the breast, as a prayer that the gospel may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.*

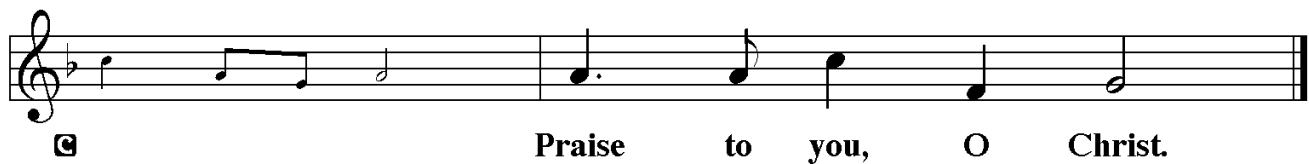
The ☩ holy gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. My Father removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit my Father prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.



# SERMON

Pastor Scott Benolkin

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Blessed Spring*

*O W A L Y W A L Y*

Words by Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021)



High voices = soprano/alto

Low voices = tenor/bass

*All* O blessed spring, where Word and sign  
Embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
Here Christ enjoins each one to be  
A branch of this life-giving Tree.

*High voices* Through summer heat of youthful years,  
Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,  
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain,  
The boughs will shout for joy again.

*All* When autumn cools and youth is cold,  
When limbs their heavy harvest hold,  
Then through us, warm, the Christ will move  
With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

*Low voices* As winter comes, as winters must,  
We breathe our last, return to dust;  
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing  
And trust the promise of the spring.

*All* Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
Be praised for this blest mystery:  
That Word and water thus revive  
And join us to your Tree of Life.

## NICENE 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 invites the assembly into prayer.*

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.

*After each petition:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Yvonne, Angie, Theo, Cindi, Wayne, Will, Mary, Russ, Tom, Lori, Sue, Dyan, David, Richard, Charlene, Richard, Steve, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Ronald, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers:*

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.**

## THE PEACE

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see the schedule and written announcements on the last inside pages.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered, and the table is set.*

*To make an offering online: [bethelstl.org/offering](http://bethelstl.org/offering)*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Cantate Domino*

Music of Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

[Sung in Latin]

This spirited motet extols today's theme with words from Psalm 96.

*Cantate Domino canticum novum;  
cantate Domino omnis terra.  
Cantate Domino,  
et benedicite nomini eius;  
annuntiate de die in diem salutare ejus.  
Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus;  
in omnibus populis mirabilia ejus.*

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD,  
bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.  
Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.  
[Psalm 96:1-3]

## OFFERING CANTICLE

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

*ELW # 182*

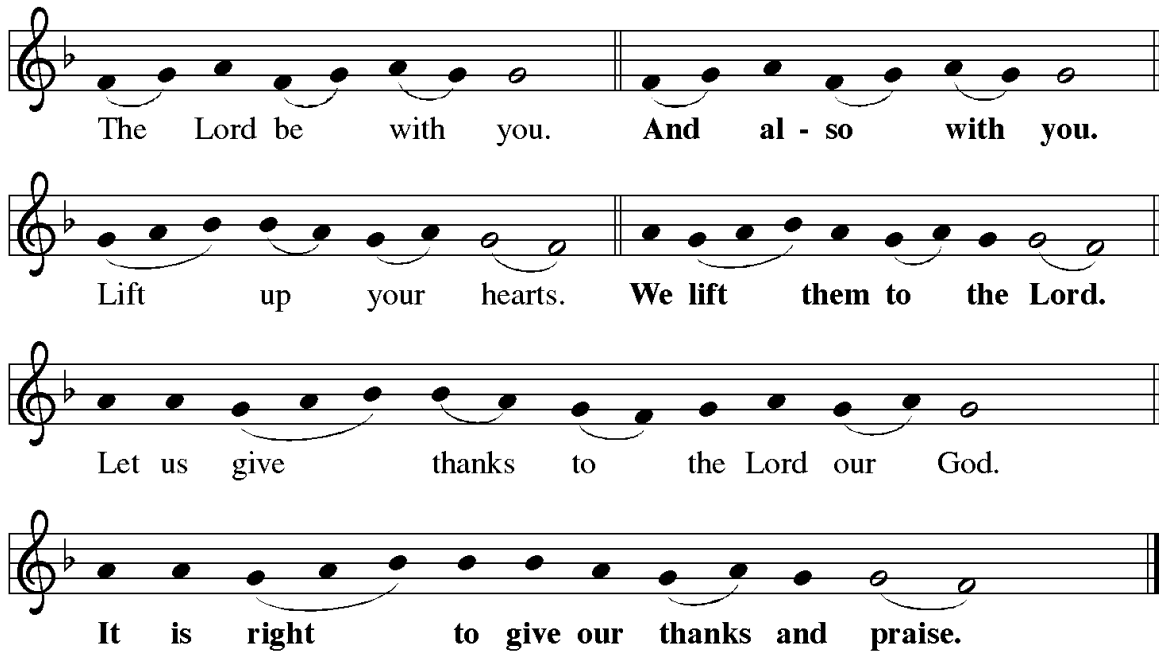
## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assisting minister leads the offering prayer.*

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Believing in the real presence of Christ in the holy meal, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality.  
All are welcome at God's table.*

*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.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



*mf*  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
*mp* 3  
God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your  
*rit.* *a tempo* 3  
glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes— in the  
*rit.* *a tempo* *mf* *f* *broaden*  
name— of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high- est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ... has died,.... Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.-----

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

### **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

### **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.



*The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.*

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

*The assembly is seated.*

*We invite all persons to share in Holy Communion. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The silver chalices contain wine. In the individual cups, wine is clear; grape juice is a rose color. For sanitary reasons, we do not practice self-intinction: please do not dip the bread into the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are available. If any need to commune under one element (only the bread or only the wine/juice), know that the fullness of the sacrament is present in the one element.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM

*Christ, Our Passover*

*All repeat after the choir.*

**Adagio** (♩ = c.68)  
Cantor/Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us. There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

Improvisation: *Adoro te devote* (“Thee we adore”)  
Music of Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

The **communion meditation**, from the *Suite medieval* (1950), is a contemplation of Christ, the Bread of Life. It is a treatment of the Eucharistic hymn, *Adoro te devote* [cf. *ELW* # 476 *Thee we adore*]. This piece is an improvisatory meditation, presenting the venerable chant melody in fragments, interspersed with an ethereal accompaniment.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Day of Arising*

*ELW* # 374

RAABE

Music of Carl F. Schalk (1929-2021)

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

*Sicut cervus*

Music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1524-1594)

[sung in Latin]

The flowing, graceful character of this motet suggests both the bounding deer and the flowing streams of Baptismal water.

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

As the deer longs  
for running waters,  
so too, desires my soul  
for you, O God.

[Psalm 42:1]

*The assembly stands for the postcommunion canticle.*

**POSTCOMMUNION**

*This Joyful Eastertide*  
VRUECHTEN

ELW # 391

Stanza 1 only.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**

**SENDING HYMN**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*  
ENGELBERG

ELW # 449

**DISMISSAL**

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

from *Organ Book*, Op. 91 [1956]  
X. Pasticcio  
Music of Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

**Today's postlude**, likewise offering a new sound, is by the twentieth-century French composer, Jean Langlais, whose music explores striking new harmonies and melodic contours. Musicians often talk about harmonies in terms of "color," and there is a striking connection between the colors of modern French music, the blazing hues of stained-glass windows, what the French call, *vitraux*. Stained glass was not a French invention, but it was the French achievement in Gothic architecture that gave these 'singing windows' their profoundly spiritual power. The music of Jean Langlais might well be understood in these colorful terms.

\* \* \*

## Cantate – Sing to the Lord a new song

**Many of today's hymns** are *new songs*, perhaps not brand new, but nonetheless representative of our own times.

Our **service order** [*Iron Mountain Mass*] is the work of contemporary composer Robert Hawthorne, who is today very active in the Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon.

Our **Hymn of the Day** is a recently composed text, by the late Minnesota poet and hymnist, Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021). The words, especially pertinent to today's Gospel lesson of the vine and branches, are sung to a venerable Scottish tune (O WALY WALY), for which the author originally intended these inspired lyrics.

The **Communion Hymn** [#374] is another recent hymn by Susan Cherwien, sung to a melody by well-known Lutheran composer, Carl Schalk. (Incidentally, Carl Schalk is a former organist of Bethel; Susan Cherwien was the wife of David Cherwien, director of the National Lutheran Choir.)

Our **Sending Hymn** [# 449], by the British composer Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), rejoices in our new life in baptism to words by the contemporary author, John Geyer.

**Today's organ selections**, likewise offering a new sound, are by the twentieth-century French composer, **Jean Langlais** (1907-1991). This music explores striking new harmonies and melodic contours.

One of the glorious gifts of creation is the song of birds, especially in the springtime. There is nothing "novel" about this, yet how fresh it sounds after the gloom of winter! So too, our feeble human attempts to recreate God's beautiful music can refresh and renew us. In this sense, good music done well becomes a new canticle to the Lord.

## IN OUR PRAYER CONTINUALLY

We pray for **Yvonne Fisher** (sister of Jane Orling), who started chemotherapy.

We pray for **Angie Brlas** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who has started chemo.

We pray for **Theo Heuer** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer) as he recovers from surgery and radiation.

We pray for **Wayne Grupe** (brother of Mike Grupe), who is diagnosed with both Alzheimer's and Lewy Body Dementia.

We pray for God's guidance and peace for the **Grenda family** during a difficult time for their son **Will**. Heidi and Dave Grenda are dear friends and former members of Bethel.

We pray for peace and comfort for **Mary Ditton** (aunt of Cindy Gross), who is dealing with serious health conditions.

We pray for the health and wellbeing for **Russ Ficker**, who is recovering from a recent illness and hospitalization. Russ is a cousin of Dr. Mager.

We pray for continued healing for **Tom Dewey** at the completion of his medical treatments.

We pray for **Lori Cornell**, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for **Sue Boettcher** as she recovers from a recent hospitalization.

We pray for **Dyan Glaenzer** (daughter-in-law of Richard and Jeanette Glaenzer). She is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

We pray for **David Harms** (brother of Dan Harms), who is recovering after a stroke.

We pray for **Richard Glaenzer**, who is at home in long-term hospice care. We ask God's comfort and peace for Rich and Jeanette, and their family.

We pray for **Charlene Reimann** in her time of need.

We pray for **Richard Jones**, help in seeking renewed living arrangements and employment.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather and Zachary), who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of Jennifer Williamson), who has dementia. May he and his family find support in learning to find joy in the new.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller**, who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of Ann and Bob Mottl) for her continued healing as she begins radiation treatments that will be followed by five months of chemotherapy.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of Vicki Baker Lottes) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley** whose Alzheimer's is progressing rapidly.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of Emily Pelcak) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of Gail Heyne Hafer), who is facing personal challenges.

We give thanks for the recovery of **Ronald Thompson** (stepbrother of Kristin Soifer) from the injury he sustained in a fall, and pray for him as he continues to face chronic illness.

We pray for **Meredith Sallee** (sister of Katy Koontz) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to Tim Gutknecht), who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann**, who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition. May God's peace comfort her during this time.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.

# **Announcements**

## **Concert invitation - Masterworks Concert next Sunday**

The **Masterworks Chorale** of Metro-East will present *Handel's Messiah, parts II-III* on **Sunday, May 5, 2:00 p.m.** (early time) at **Saint Peter's Cathedral, 200 W. Harrison, Belleville, Illinois.** Music from the Easter portion of Handel's celebrated oratorio, performed by the Masterworks Chorale, Orchestra and guest soloists, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Mager. Some Bethel members will participate.

See Dr. Mager about tickets and directions. Or visit [singmasterworks.org](http://singmasterworks.org).

## **Sunday's Cool and Youth**

Sunday's Cool, Confirmation and Bethel Youth sessions begin at 8:45 am in the Youth Lounge. Bethel Youth: Sherman has some great LEGO-type kits for us to assemble as we talk.

## **LuMin – Give STL Day**

May 9, 2024, is Ascension Day in our church year. This year, it is also Give STL Day, powered by the St. Louis Community Foundation. LuMin St. Louis is one of the non-profit ministries that will benefit from your online donation to further our work in welcoming, empowering, supporting, and sending our young adults into the world with a deeper understanding of their faith journey.

Early giving begins April 24. And we'll update you when your dollar can go a little further with power hours. We are also challenging our alumni groups (by decade) to see which group donates the most to campus ministry. Please take some time to rise up to our challenge of \$5,000.

More information, as well as a donation page, is found online at [givestlday.org/organization/lumin](http://givestlday.org/organization/lumin)

## SCHEDULE

[bethelstl.org/events](http://bethelstl.org/events)

SUN	4/28	<b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>Cantate Sunday</i>
	8:45 AM	Faith Formation hour	
	10 AM	Holy Communion	
SUN	5/5	<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>Rogate Sunday</i>
	10 AM	Holy Communion at Bethel	
	12 noon	Holy Communion at the Windegger Shelter in Tilles Park, 9551 Litzsinger Rd, Ladue, MO 63124	
WED	5/8	<b>The Eve of Ascension</b>	
	7 PM	Holy Communion	<i>Incense will be used at this service</i>
SUN	5/12	<b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>Exaudi Sunday</i>
	8:45 AM	Faith Formation hour	
	10 AM	Holy Communion	
SUN	5/19	<b>The Day of Pentecost</b>	<i>All are invited to wear red</i>
	8:45 AM	Faith Formation hour	
	10 AM	Holy Communion	<i>All are invited to gather in the chancel after the postlude for a photo</i>
SUN	5/26	<b>The Holy Trinity</b>	
	10 AM	Holy Communion	

\* \* \*

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To make an offering electronically, go to [bethelstl.org/give](http://bethelstl.org/give)

*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?  
Email it to [submissions@bethelstl.org](mailto:submissions@bethelstl.org) by 9 AM Monday morning.*

**SERVING TODAY**

Celebrant & Preacher	Pastor Scott Benolkin
Assisting Minister	Jody Kluender
Steward	Silas Johnson
Acolyte	Chloe Al-Shathir
Lectors and Communion Assistants	Evelyn Meyer Pastor Roy Ledbetter Sue Flesch
Musicians	Bethel Chancel Choir Stephen Mager, organist and choir director
Ushers	Kristina Stierholz Cindy Clausen
Audio-Visual Engineers	Nathan Schroeder Brittany Upchurch



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Office: (314) 863-3112  
Pastoral Emergencies: (614) 446-9693  
LuMin Pastor: (314) 636-3202

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin (he/him), Pastor, [pastor.scott@bethelstl.org](mailto:pastor.scott@bethelstl.org)  
Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director

The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis, [pastor.luminstl@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.luminstl@gmail.com)  
Deb Grupe, Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministry  
Eric Townsley, Custodian, [custodian@bethelstl.org](mailto:custodian@bethelstl.org)  
Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, [office@bethelstl.org](mailto:office@bethelstl.org)

*Have a prayer request? Email it to [prayers@bethelstl.org](mailto:prayers@bethelstl.org) anytime.  
Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.*



## **Christ Is Arisen**

- 1 Christ is arisen  
from the grave's dark prison.  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Were Christ not arisen,  
then death were still our prison.  
Now, with him to life restored,  
we praise the Father of our Lord.  
Alleluia!
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967  
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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# Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

## *Offering Song*



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



bles - sing. 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.

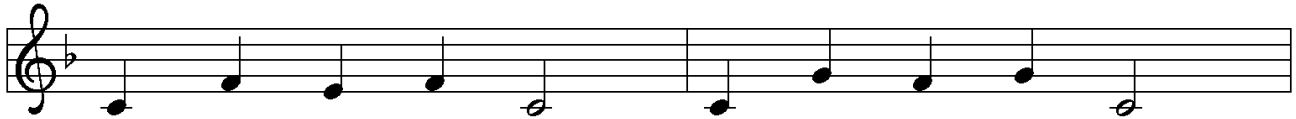
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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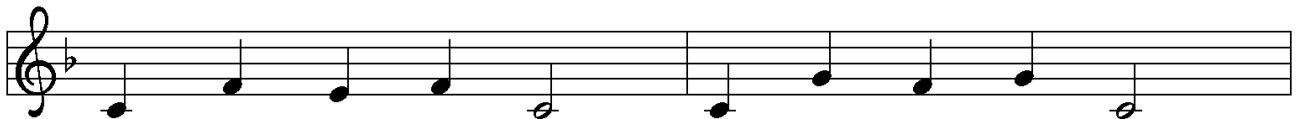
# Day of Arising



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: RAABE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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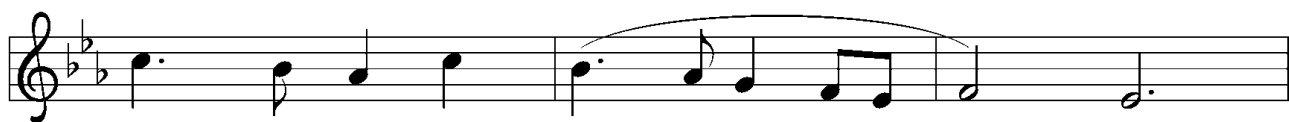
# This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - this row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

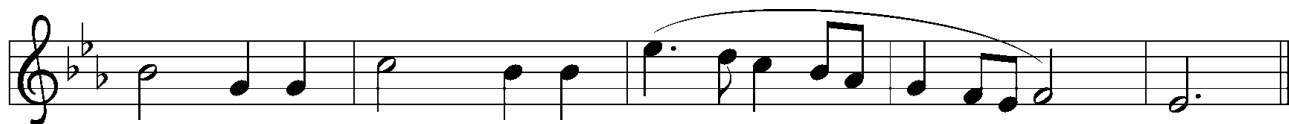
## *Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934

Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

# We Know That Christ Is Raised



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!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Text © John B. Geyer.

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