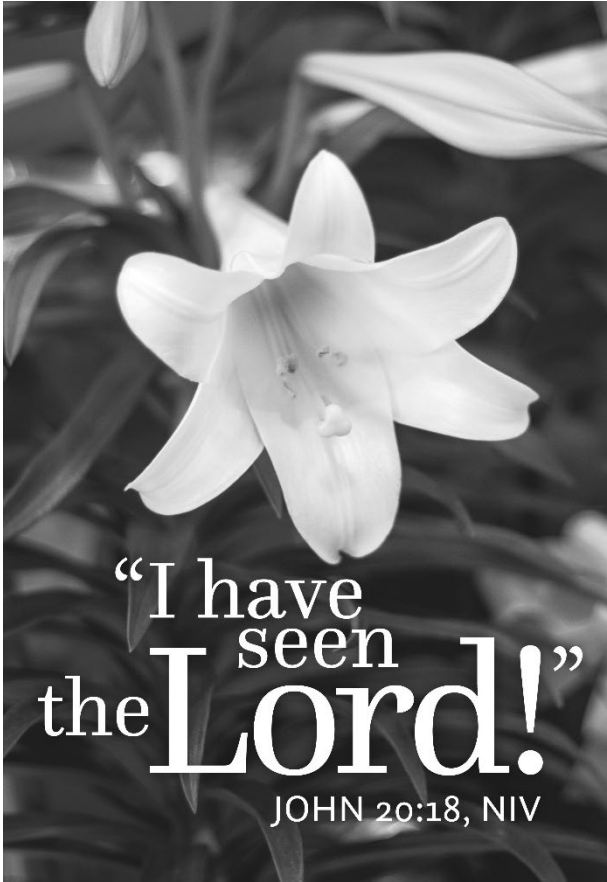


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✝ Holy Communion ✝

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of + the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen

P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters

that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN

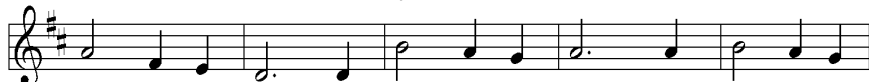
The Day of Resurrection

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

APOSTOLIC GREETING**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!**C:** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**C:** And also with you.**CANTICLE OF PRAISE****A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.**C** 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



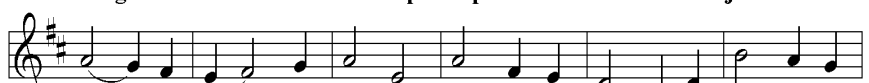
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



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



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-42

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

A: A Reading from Acts:

²⁷ When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. ³⁵ Then he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. ³⁶ For some time

ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them — in that case you may even be found fighting against God!"

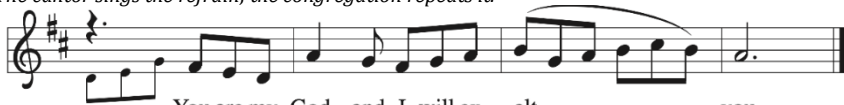
They were convinced by him, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. ⁴²And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

A: The word of the Lord.

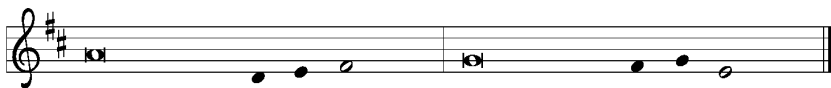
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:14-29

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



¹⁴ The LORD is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the LORD. R**

- ¹⁸ The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**
- ²⁰ “This is the gate | of the LORD;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”
- ²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation. R**
- ²² The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.
- ²³ **By the LORD has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ This is the day that the | LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
- ²⁵ **Hosanna! | O LORD, save us!
We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days! R**
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD;
we bless you from the house | of the LORD.
- ²⁷ **The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light.
Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.**
- ²⁸ You are my God, and | I will thank you;
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.
- ²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;
God’s mercy en- | dures forever. R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

[A]: A Reading from Revelation:

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

A: The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Cantor: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails

and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P

The Gospel of the Lord.

C

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON.....Janet Stroble, ALWL



“STOP DOUBTING AND
BELIEVE!”

JOHN 20:27, NIV

'Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY***Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain.....LBW 132***

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a - mong the twelve Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 his deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts which with true af - fec - tion
 Neith - er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

"AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU."



JOHN 20:21, NIV

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.
He 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

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

C: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: Risen One,

**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.**

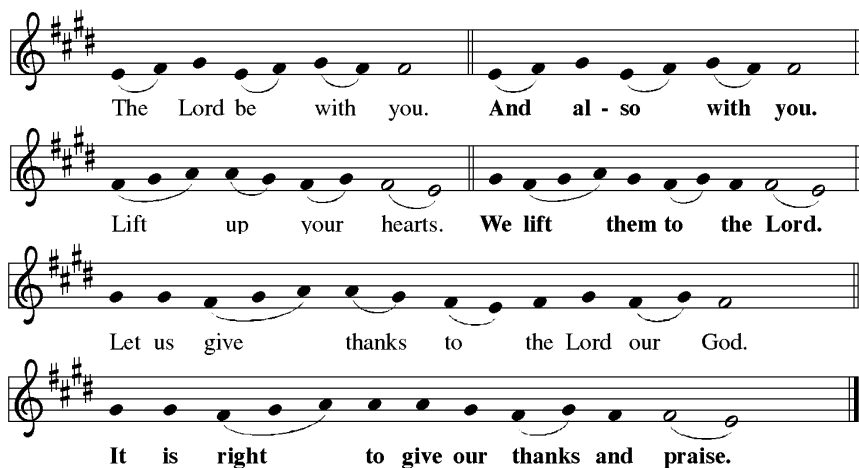
Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

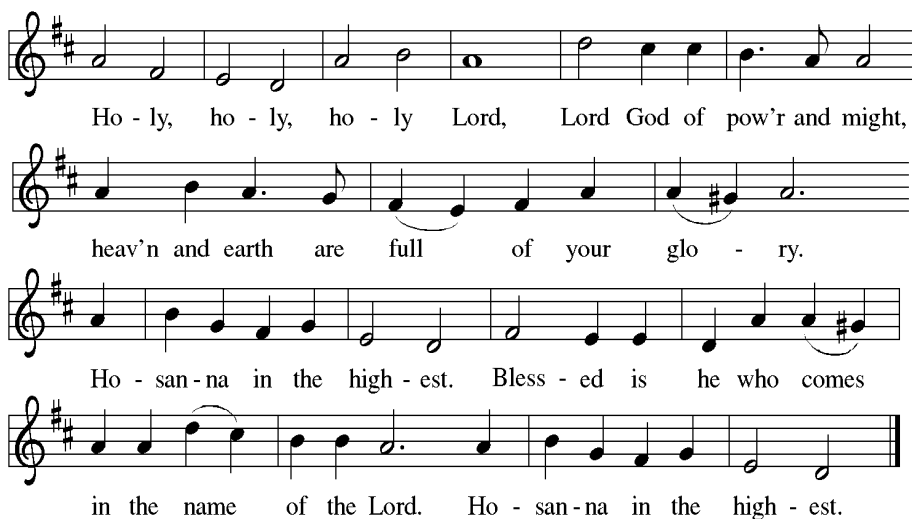
and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

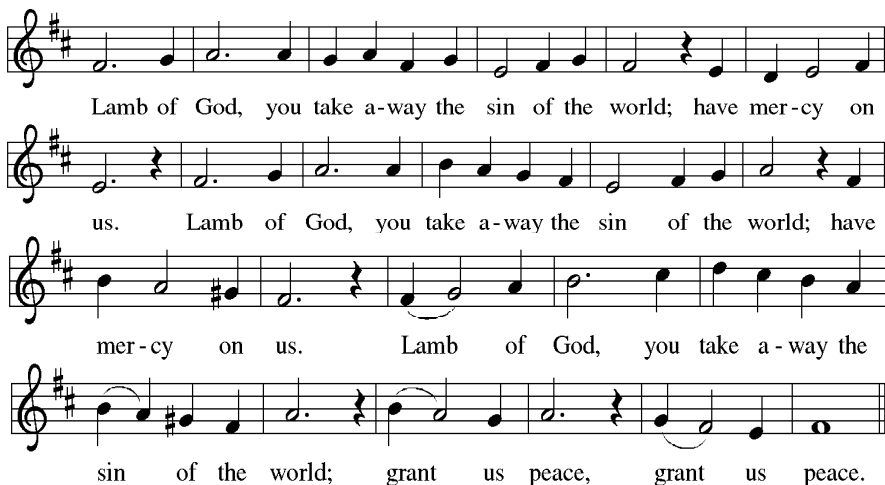
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

C: Thanks be to God.



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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, grant us peace." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with the lyrics placed below the corresponding notes.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

COMMUNION HYMN *We Walk by Faith* sung to tune of LBW 464

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Stand

[P]: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

[C] Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.

G: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

G: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

G: Amen



be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

SENDING HYMN***Thine Is the Glory*..... LBW 145**

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

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomo; **Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Mary Schultz; **Acolyte:** Jordan Morris; **Altar Guild:** Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; **Greeters/Presenters:** Howard and Jean Wilt
Cantor: Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Cindy Bennett

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harold C. Kropp by his wife, Martha and family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study and fellowship at 6:30 p.m.

Kids Helping Kids! In addition to our Advent/Lenten Kids in Mission event, we are going to hold a **second springtime Kids in Mission this year on May 3**. Our service project for that event will be to decorate and assemble **Children's Care Kits for Shepherd of the Streets**.

Tickets are now available in the narthex for the **Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m.** Prices are as follows: Adults - \$13.00; Children age 6 - 12 - \$6.00; children age 5 and under - FREE.

Rehearsal for next Sunday's anthem will be in the choir loft following worship today. If you can't stay today but would still like to sing with us, you could come to the music room at 7 PM this Thursday or join us at 8:45 next Sunday morning. We hope you will add your voice to our anthem singing praise to God.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING
JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Scar Stories

Do you know a person without any scars? It is hard to imagine anyone getting through the years without a few cuts and scrapes, or worse. Some scars we regard with a sense of humor, even pride. These tend to be the marks of superficial injuries that we describe in stories with mostly happy endings. But other scars lay bare deeper physical and emotional pain—the scars of trauma, heartbreak, loss. These are precisely the wounds that benefit most from the attentiveness of others but may be harder to talk about.

If you were to guess what physical form the risen Jesus would take on Easter evening, would you imagine that any sign of suffering and shame would remain? And yet, his scars are intact. What remarkable continuity between the Jesus the disciples have known and the Jesus they encounter in resurrection.

Even more remarkable is Jesus' readiness to draw attention to his scars. "Peace be with you," he greets them (John 20:19). Then he immediately shows them his hands and his side, as if to say, "See my scars? These are the signs of my suffering. They will always be part of me, even though I've overcome them."

In this way, Jesus models courageous vulnerability. If he can tell his scar story, defying the shame of the cross, then maybe his friends can tell theirs too. Rather than locking their pain away, the disciples have permission to throw open the doors. They can own their grief instead of letting it own them.

Easter does not erase Good Friday. Risen life incorporates our scars. But by acknowledging our pain and the pain of others, we bear one another's burdens in the spirit of Christ. This mutual caring engenders trust and closeness. And together we can tell our scar stories with confidence, making way for healing and new life.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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