

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

GATHERING

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

Please rise.

Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Dear brothers and sisters, Scripture confesses that our Lord Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens to deliver us from sin and death, and even now He intercedes for us (Hebrews 1, 2, 3, 4). Therefore, with confidence, let us join together to confess our sin against God and one another. Let us pray together:

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of our works, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace as a gift we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4 – 8).

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done #366

GREETING

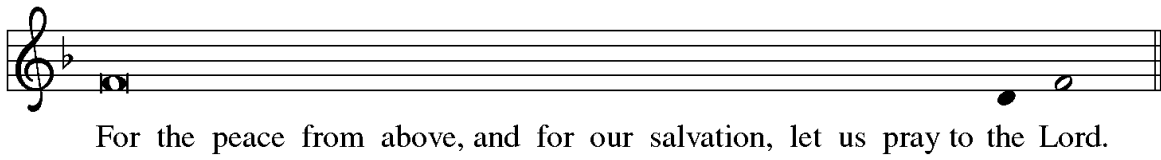
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

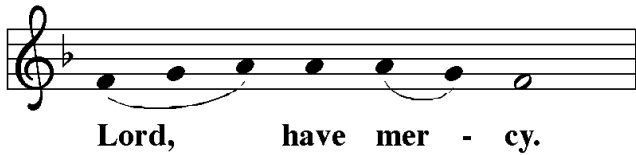
KYRIE



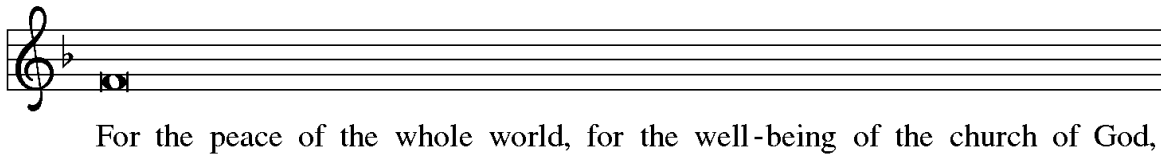
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



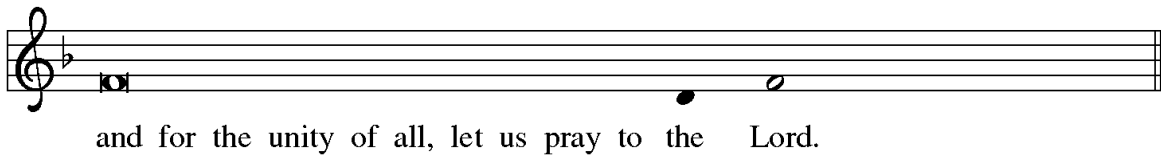
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



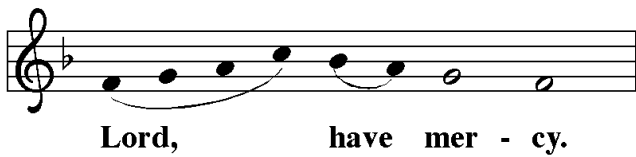
Lord, have mer - cy.



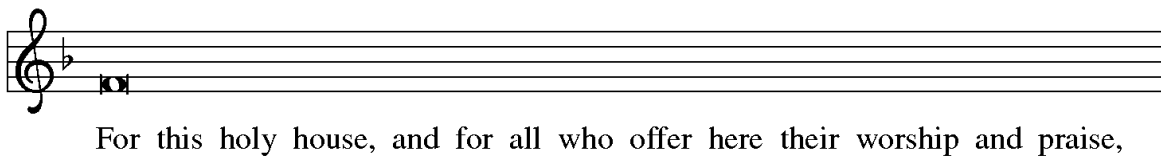
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



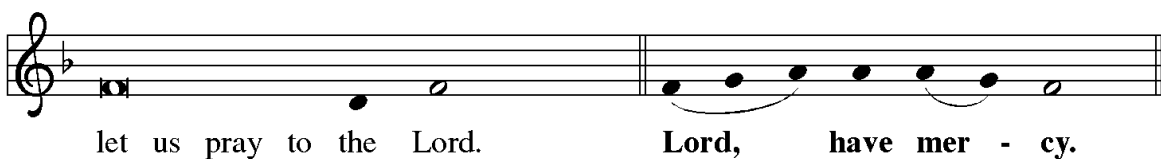
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



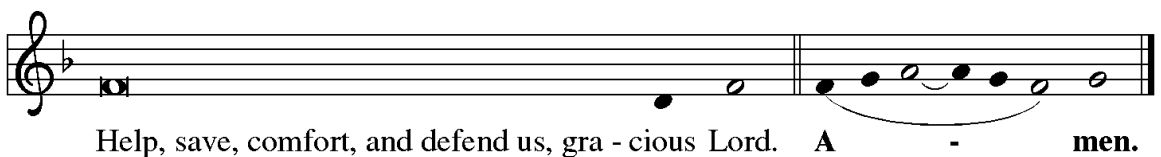
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE


Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb




who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of

what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 133 (Please read responsively by whole verse.)

¹How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to St. John the 20th Chapter.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

PASTOR SCOTT DENNIS

Please rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Now the Green Blade Rises #379

NICENE CREED

WORDS ON SCREEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

...our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We may greet one another with a wave, handshake or hug in the name of the Lord. God's peace is more than an absence of conflict. Our prayer for one another is that we live together in the wholeness of God's love and grace.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to support our ministry through automatic, electronic giving, please visit our website (see QR code on last page) or download the Vanco mobile app to your phone, or you can mail your offering directly to the church. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts.

OFFERING

Please rise.

OFFERTORY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Praise Him all creatures here below!

Oh praise Him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father; Praise the Son;
Praise, praise the Spirit: Three-in-One!
Oh praise Him, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

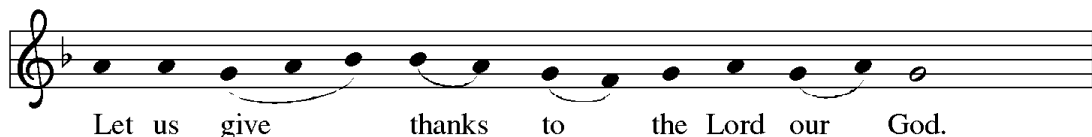
DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



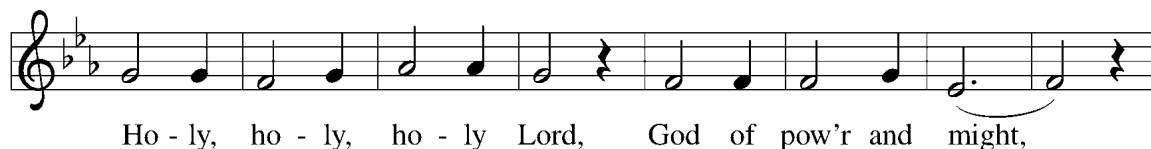
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



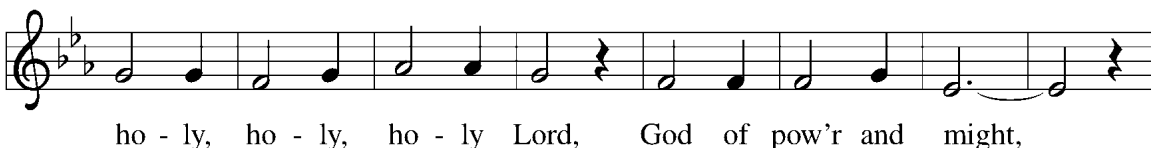
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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

Blessed are you...until He comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

.... now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS ON SCREEN

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

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



COMMUNION

As Christians in the Lutheran tradition we believe, teach, and confess that in the bread and the wine we do truly and really receive the body and blood of Christ. All Christians baptized in the name of the Triune God are warmly welcome and invited to come forward to receive communion. If you would like to stay in your place you are welcome to do so. You may also come forward for a baptismal blessing, in which case you may fold your hands in front of you. Come, for all things are now ready.

Please rise.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in Your mercy You would strengthen us,

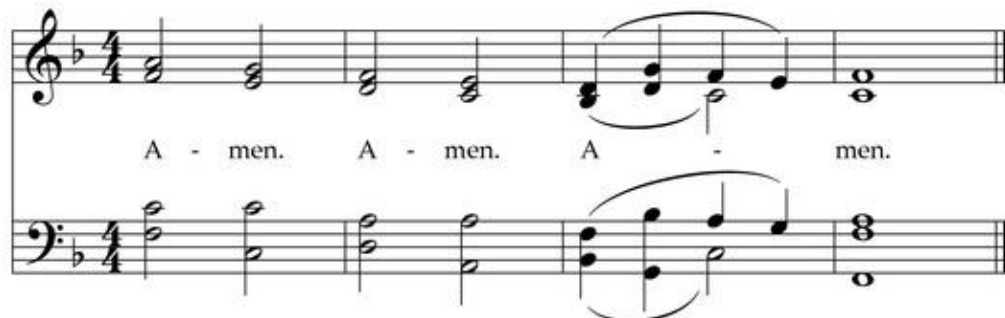
through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



SENDING HYMN:

Sent Forth by God's Blessing #547

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister – The Reverend Dr. Scott Dennis, Ph.D.

Assisting Minister – Carole Bauer

Acolytes/Psalm Reader – Jack Bellinotti

AV Operator – Cheri McKee

Greeters/Ushers – Sharon Saffer & Sharon Matty

Lector – Gary Bauer

Organist – Nancy Sweetland

Spring Congregation Meeting-Saturday, April 13, 2024 immediately following the worship service. Purpose of the meeting: nominate Council members, give an update on Bethesda's 175th anniversary celebration and other important business.

Beginning April 13th, our Saturday worship service will begin at 4:00 PM.

Synod Assembly – June 14 – 15, 2024. Assembly may be attended in person or via Zoom and will be held at Penn West University, formerly California University. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please leave a message with the office, and you will be contacted with details.

Upcoming Events (see newsletter for more details)

July 21-11:00 AM Combined Worship Service & Picnic at Gilpin/Leechburg Park.

June 7 & June 8, 2025- A weekend celebrating Bethesda's 175th anniversary.

Prayer List

Special Prayers:

Victims of Worldwide Conflicts & Natural Disasters

Members:

Alice Puhlman, Dana Lehman, Eleanor Kakuk, Joyce Lyons, Jan Matthews, Camille Hyland, Cheryl Ferrier, Nancy Randolph, Jeff Durand, Gary Bauer, Pam Lehman, Shirley Ross, Mary Vassar, Mae Calhoun, Rita Seben

Friends of Bethesda:

Nancy, Glenn, Santino, Cody, Linda, Harry, Dave, Janet, Melanie, John, Bill, Ed, Erica, Andrew, Heidi, Mason, Kali, Tom, Jennifer, Joe, Virginia, Wayne, Andrea, Theresa, JoAnne, Joyce, Ben, Geri, Barbara, Pat

Grieving Family and Friends of:

Idella Steen

James V Arter II (father of Pastor Arter)

<https://www.bethesdaelc3084.org/home> From sundaysandseasons.com.

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