

Saturday, April 13, 2024
Third 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:

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! #377

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

Holy and righteous God, You are the author of life, and You adopt us to be Your children. Fill us with Your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of Your Son, 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 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made Him walk?”¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified His servant Jesus, Whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, Whom

God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in His name, His name itself has made this man strong, Whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given Him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, that His Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 4 (Please read responsively by whole verse.)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; You set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

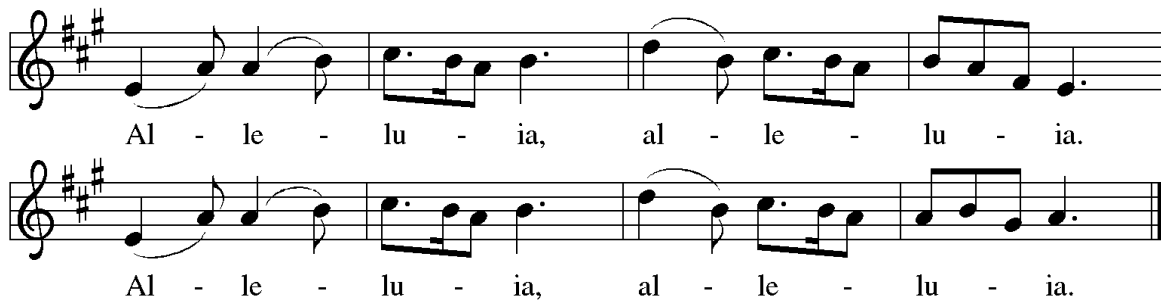
²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. ³And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that He was revealed to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 24th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus Himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and He took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then He said to them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

PASTOR SCOTT DENNIS

Please rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Around You, O Lord Jesus #468

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

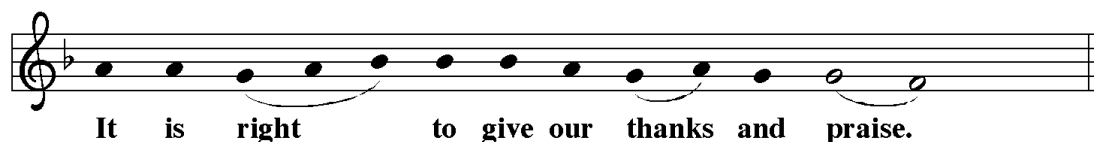
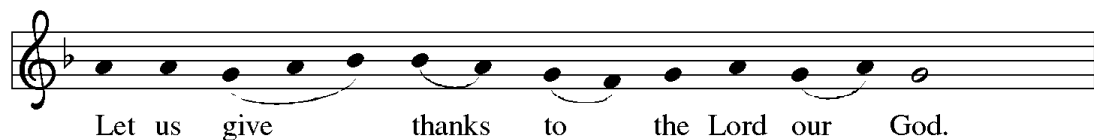
Let us pray together.

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.

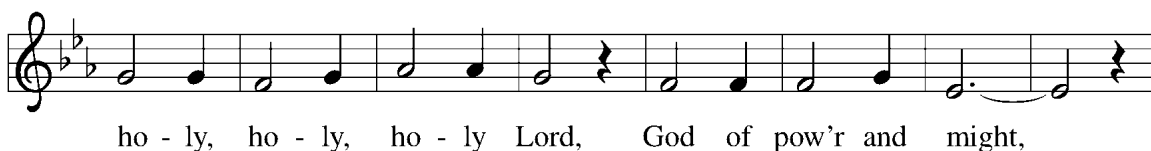
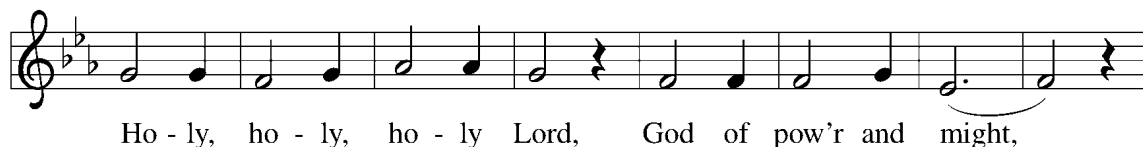
GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.

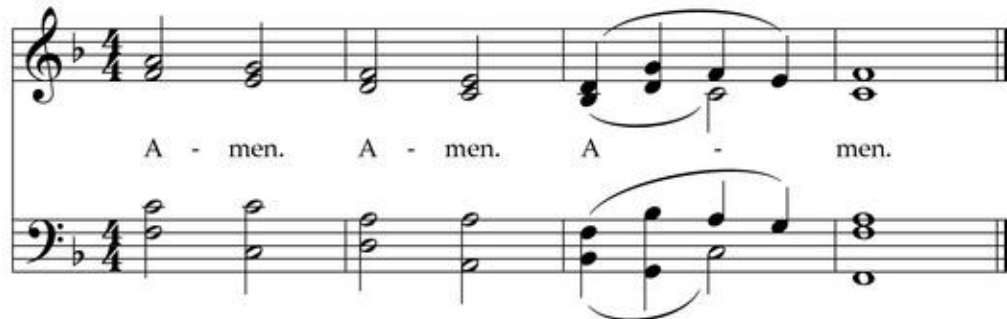
We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in Your mercy You would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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:

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing #531

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 – Sharon Saffer

Acolytes/Psalm Reader – Jody Arnold

AV Operator – Rita Seben

Greeters/Ushers – Liz Baker & Ruth Sloan

Lector – Jody Arnold

Organist – Nancy Sweetland

Spring Congregation Meeting-Today 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.

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 contact Pastor Dennis or Rita.

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, Kelli

Grieving Family and Friends of:

James V Arter II (father of Pastor Arter)

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

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