

The Three Days - 2019

St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort SC



Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil

April 18, 7:00 pm - April 19, 7:00 pm - April 20, 8:00 pm

the Three Days - the Triduum

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter

The Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, together are the most powerful metaphor for Life in the worship of the Christian faith. The Three Days, using the ancient Jewish understanding that each new day begins at sundown, begins as the sun sets on Maundy Thursday and ends as our Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection draws to a close.

These services held on these three evenings form one great service, in which we experience the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection in our lives. We hear that as Christ emptied himself for the world, we too are called to give of our lives for others - and that as God celebrated Jesus' gift of himself by raising him from the dead, God also gifts us with new and eternal life as we pass through the darkness of this world with Christ.

On Maundy Thursday, Christ calls us to serve...

On Good Friday we contemplate God, dead on a cross because of our sin...

At the Great Vigil, we remember our passage with Christ through the watery grave of baptism into new life and new light...

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The Services of the Triduum:

Maundy Thursday Service – April 18 – 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service – April 19 – 7:00 pm

The Vigil of Easter – April 20 – 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday – April 21 – 8:15 & 10:30 am

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A nursery attendant will be provided Thursday and Friday nights. While children are always welcome at all services at St. John's, Saturday's service particularly lends itself to participation by children.

As part of our Easter celebration, breakfast will be served between the services on Easter Sunday.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John's members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18 - 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday marks the close of the season of Lent and focuses our attention on the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. We remember that on the night before he gave himself in death, he gave the gift of himself in bread broken and in wine poured out. We remember that he gave himself in loving service, in the washing of feet.

Our entry into Lent on Ash Wednesday began with confession of sins and a sign of our brokenness in the imposition of ashes. Our entry into the Three Days at the close of Lent is again marked with confession. Those who so desire may come to kneel before the altar and receive an individual absolution of their sins.

At the conclusion of the service is the stripping of the chancel. This emptying of our worship space marks the transition from our Eucharistic celebration to our contemplation of Christ's crucifixion and death. After all has been removed from the sanctuary the congregation leaves in silence.

+ + +

CHIMES/CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

God So Loved the World
Jordan Plair, organ

Keveren

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the powers of evil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to come forward for the laying on of hands and individual absolution of sins. Worshipers may kneel or stand at the altar rail. The pastors address each person:

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

You are Mine from Isaiah
from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I

I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
all will know my name. *To refrain*
up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine.”

To stanzas 3 and 4

4 “I

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

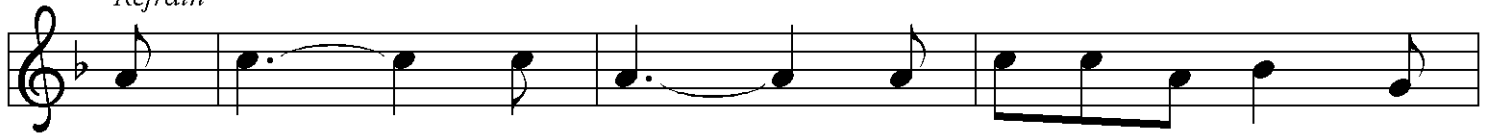
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

We remain seated to sing as preparations for footwashing are made.

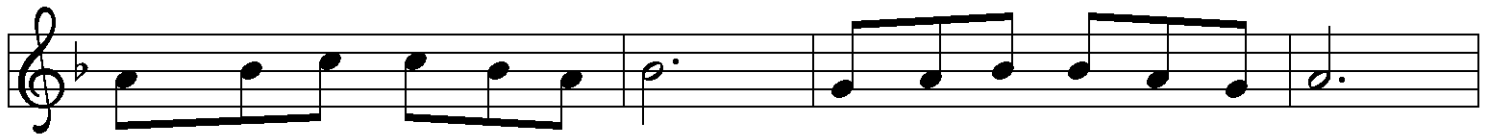
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kneels at the feet of his friends, | si - lent - ly wash - es their feet, |
| 2 | Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, | var - ied in col - or and race, |
| 3 | These are the ones we will serve, | these are the ones we will love; |
| 4 | Kneel at the feet of our friends, | si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet: |

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

FOOTWASHING

On this night our Lord gave a commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example and command of our Lord.

Those who have been asked to represent the congregation come forward to have their feet washed.
We observe in silence, reflecting upon the example of service that our Savior sets before us.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this holy night, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy.

A brief silence.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of your church. Where there is division, grant healing. Where there is fracture, grant unity. Where there is indifference, grant passion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the creation. Put an end to destruction and renew our commitment to the fullness of life you intend for every living thing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the human family. Bring understanding and a spirit of cooperation to nations and communities in conflict. Dissolve distrust into understanding and transform disregard into profound care for one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Feed those who hunger, give shelter to those without a home, heal the sick, and grant rest to the dying. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of this community. Help us seek not so much to be served, but to serve; not to be loved, but to love; not to be forgiven, but to forgive, for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness within us. Cast out all fear of separation from you, and join us to the communion of saints who celebrate at your eternal banquet table. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into the arms of your tender embrace, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who, on the cross, opened his arms to all: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Is It I Lord?
Adult Choir

Kellner

OFFERTORY



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. A - - - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory,
receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to
your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom,
from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he + who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood. We commune by intinction at the head of the aisle. The pastor will place the bread into your hand, which you dip into the cup. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing the hands at the heart.

COMMUNION MUSIC

BLESSING

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

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR WITH THE SINGING OF PSALM 22

Psalm 22

The Psalm Project

Jordan Plair, solo - Gloria Bockelman, piano



We depart in silence. There is no benediction. Our worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 pm.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John's members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

Please return this bulletin to the ushers as you leave.



Good Friday

April 19 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday is bare, empty, and silent, as befits the presence of death passing over. We honor the cross, seeing in it our deepest sorrow and joy combined. This is a time of reflection and intercession, with many pauses for silent prayer. We adore the Christ, our sacrificial Lamb, through our meditation on his cross.

+ + +

We gather in silence for prayer and reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Silence for prayer and reflection.

ANTHEM

Were You There
Jeri Casper, soloist

traditional

HOMILY

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Reflection upon the journey of Jesus to the Cross of Salvation with prayer and meditation is a powerful and venerable tradition. This contemplation of Jesus on his sorrowful journey to Golgotha seeks to unite us with our Lord in his suffering. And yet, the Way of the Cross teaches us more about the Love of Christ than his pain.

There are fourteen scenes from the passion of Jesus, some Biblical and some traditional. Each meditation includes reflection, silence for meditation, prayer, and a sung verse of a hymn.



I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

*we sing: **Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?***

Jesus, help us to see how we condemn you. Help us to grasp that when we condemn another person, we condemn you. Even when our condemnation is justified, we condemn you still.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

II. JESUS TAKES UP THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

*we sing: **Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!***

Jesus, open our hearts to your cross. Help us to understand that your allowing us to deny you is what brings you into our midst. In your embrace of the cross we give to you, you join us in our brokenness.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

III. JESUS FALLS A FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creatures' sin.

Jesus, you allowed us to throw you out... to push you down. Help us to see your love in your fall.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

IV. JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears, dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.

Jesus, your mother loved you until the end, knowing not that it was the beginning. Help us to lift up the dying. Help us to see never-ending life in death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

V. THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give myself away: it's all that I can do.

Jesus, you were helped by a passerby, a stranger. Help us to see that whenever we help another, we are choosing not to destroy another. Help us to choose life, not death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

VI. A WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains, poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.

Jesus, help us to see your face in the face of every loved one... every stranger. May we look deeply into the eyes of others and see God.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

VII. JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.

Jesus, we see your love for us as you stumble under the cross. Turn our hearts toward you. May we desire you... only you.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

VIII. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Blest through endless ages be the precious stream which from endless torment did the world redeem.

Jesus, you weep for us. You call us to turn from the ways of death. You call us to repent, because you wish us to be free of fear. Help us to turn toward you... toward one another.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

IX. JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Jesus, you join us in the depths of our brokenness, pain, fallenness. You embrace the stranger... you embrace us. May we be filled with wonder at your love, to pour out your power, and take on this human life.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

X. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Jesus, we are naked. We are nothing. We are dust. And yet you become naked. You become nothing. You become dust... with us. What love.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Jesus, even this? Must you bear even this for us?

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered; for man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

Jesus... Jesus... God is dead.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XIII. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

SILENCE

we sing: For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation; thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Jesus. Your beloved receive your body in love. To care for it. Help us to love you, God who joins us in death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

SILENCE

we sing: Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee; think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

Jesus, in your burial, may we find hope. In your death, may we receive life. Open our hearts to embrace you, dying for us... Open our hearts, so that we too, like you, released from the fear of death, might share life - life, not death - with our brothers and sisters, with every child of God.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

Silence for reflection.

BIDDING PRAYER

We remain seated. This ancient prayer is marked by a time for silent prayer after each of the invitations to pray (the bids).

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ.

By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Herman; for all servants of the church; and for all the people of God. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for God's creation. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for those in need. *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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.

We stand and turn to face the entrance to the sanctuary.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. As the cross is brought forward, we continue to turn to face it, saying:

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

HYMN

Wait for the Lord
from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Taizé Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Silence is kept for meditation on the mystery of the crucified Savior, the mystery of redemption.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

+ + +

We may remain as long as we like for silent prayer and meditation.

It is an ancient tradition for worshippers to offer a physical sign of adoration to Christ revealed on the cross. Those who so desire may offer such a sign before leaving. This may take the form of kneeling in prayer near the cross, touching the cross, or even kissing the cross.



We depart in silence. There is no benediction.

Our worship continues with the Great Vigil of Easter tomorrow, at 8:00 pm.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John's members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

Please return this bulletin to the ushers as you leave.



the Great Vigil of Easter

20 April, the year of Grace 2019 + 8:00 pm

We gather in darkness this night to ponder the very center of our faith as we hear proclaimed anew the history of our salvation: God's mighty acts and signs on our behalf and the fulfillment of that work in the Incarnation, glorious Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Around the new fire of Easter we are joined this night with all of Christ's Holy Church as we celebrate his victory over death and the grave. How great the cost of our salvation! Greater still our joy in the life we share in God's own Son, Jesus Christ!

+ + +

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

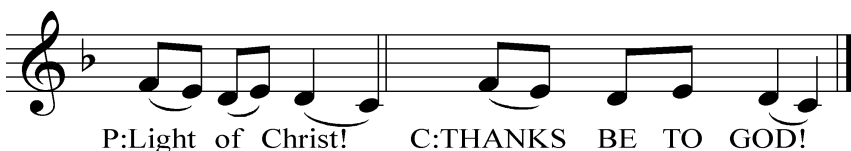
The first candle is lit from the new fire of Easter.

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Thanks be to God!

The light is passed until all candles are lit - a flame divided, yet undimmed.

We carry the new light into the sanctuary. The proclamation of Light is sung three times in procession.

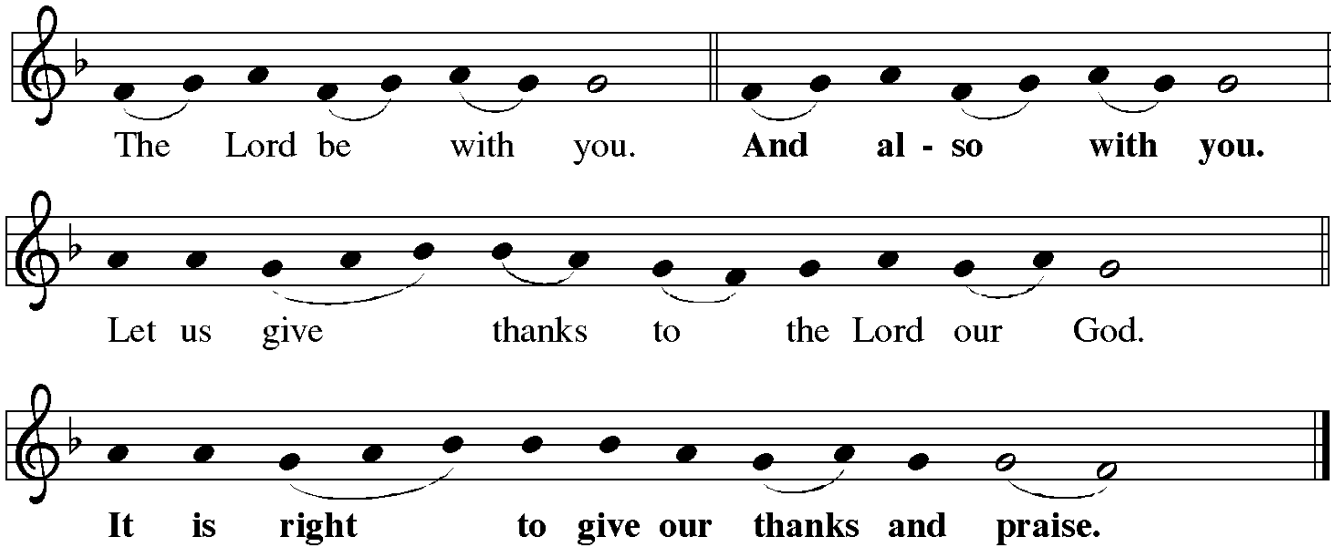


THE EXSULTET

We gather around the font to light the Paschal Candle and to hear proclaimed the Exsultet, the ancient hymn of God's great victory in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! SING, choirs of angels! EXULT, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! REJOICE, O Earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!



It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ...

...Christ, that Morning Star, who is ris'n from the dead, and sheds his peaceful light on all your people, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.



C:A men.

Let us pray. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you and serve you, shining with your light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please extinguish your candles and take a seat.

THE OFFICE OF OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Let us hear now the record of God's saving deeds and mighty acts on our behalf, and how, with a mighty arm and outstretched hand, God saved the people of old in ages past.


THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION

First Reading: Genesis 1:26-2:4a


RESPONSE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

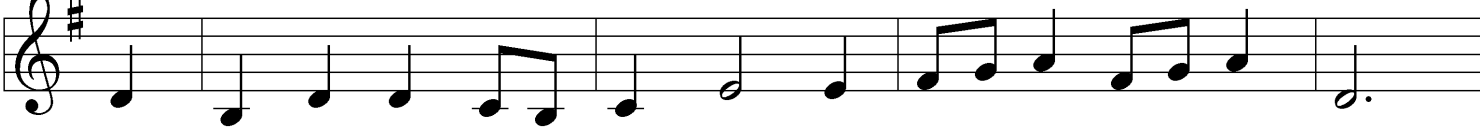
Refrain




All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



Refrain

God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

+ + +

ISRAEL IS DELIVERED AT THE RED SEA

Second Reading: Exodus 14:10 - 15:1

The reading is paraphrased in a hymn. The cantor tells the story, singing each phrase.
We respond "...let my people go" and with the Refrain.

HYMN

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land (Go Down Moses)



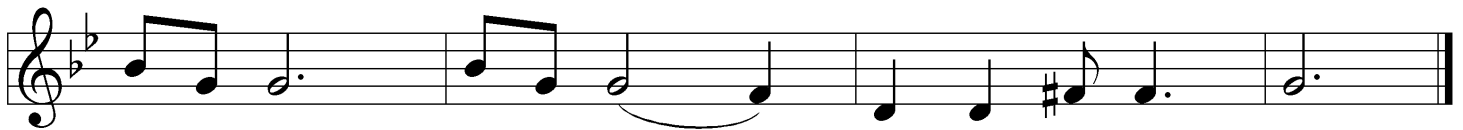
- 1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



- op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.
a fire by night, a shade by day,
at God's com - mand it did di - vide,



- Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



- tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

- 5 When they had reached the other shore,
let my people go;
they sang the song of triumph o'er,
let my people go. *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. *Refrain*

PRAYER

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: by the power of your mighty arm you delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ + +

RESPONSE

The Lord is my Song

The song will be repeated several times. Please join as it becomes familiar.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ + +

VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

Fourth Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The reading is paraphrased in a song.

The prophet Ezekiel, proclaims the Word of the Lord!

Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, them bones, them bones, them dry bones, them

bones, them bones, them dry bones. Now hear the Word of the Lord!

The musical score is written for a single staff in treble clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and common time (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

PRAYER

Almighty God, by the Passover of Jesus you reveal the fulfillment of your promise to act with power for those who are lost and dying. Fill those who cry out to you with the breath of new life. Grant to those who are renewed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+ + +

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

Fifth Reading: Daniel 3:1–29

The reading is paraphrased in a song.

ANTHEM

The Fourth Man in the Fire

Arthur Smith

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE RITE OF BAPTISM AND THE AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM

We gather around the font both to celebrate the rite of holy baptism and to remember and affirm our own baptisms. We rejoice that God has chosen us to be holy children of God, baptized into Christ's death and resurrection!

THE BAPTISMAL ANTHEM

O Healing River

We repeat each line that the leader sings.

1 O healing river, **O healing river**,
send down your waters, **send down your waters**,
Send down your waters, **etc.**
upon this land.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
And wash the blood
from off the sand.

2 This land is parching,
this land is burning,
No seed is growing
in the barren ground.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
O healing river,
send your waters down.

3 Let the seed of freedom,
awake and flourish,
let the deep roots nourish,
let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
O healing river,
from out of the skies.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Tonight we are privileged to share in a joyful celebration with the Smith family. Marta and Ryan will affirm their baptism as they become members of St. John's, as will their son Garrett. Their son Sergio will be affirming his baptism and celebrating God's gift of family through the changing of his name. Their children Leansy, David, and Carlos will be baptized and will also celebrate God's gift of family as they are baptized with new names.

Marta & Ryan: We present Leansy Marie Lorenzo Smith, Carlos Zaine Smith, and David Emmanuel Smith for baptism.

Leansy, Carlos, and David, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you want to be baptized into Christ?

Leansy/Carlos/David: I do.

Sergio, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to affirm your baptism into Christ under the new name which you have chosen for yourself, Sergio Octavious Smith?

Sergio: I do.

Marta, Ryan, and Garrett, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to affirm your baptism and become members of the St. John's congregation?

Marta/Ryan/Garrett: I do.

Marta and Ryan, you have heard your children proclaim their intention to be baptized or to affirm their baptisms. As you bring them to receive the gift of baptism or to affirm their baptisms, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help them grow in the Christian faith and life?

Marta/Ryan: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support this family and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Having declared our intentions, let us all together now profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are baptized and those who affirm their baptism. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Leansy Marie Lorenzo Smith/Carlos Zaine Smith/David Emmanuel Smith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate today that in baptism God claimed you as a holy child in the family of Jesus and that, as a gift of love and grace, God has also blessed you by joining you to the Smith family.

Amen.

Leansy/Carlos/David, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and RENAMING

Sergio, we affirm today that in your baptism God claimed you as a holy child in the family of Jesus. As we celebrate that as a gift of love and grace, God has also blessed you by joining you to the Smith family, I rename you, Sergio Octavious Smith, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sergio, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM and RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

Marta, Ryan, and Garrett, you have made public profession of your faith. As members of the St. John's congregation, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain this whole family with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ and welcome them.

We welcome you into the body of Christ. We welcome you into the St. John's congregation. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

THE PEACE

Give your whole Church, O God, peace in this time of rejoicing.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share with one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Members of the community will dress the sanctuary for Easter. You may be asked to help!

THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Alleluia

announces the first Eucharist of EASTER
as the table of the Lord is set for this festal banquet.

The solemnities of Holy Week are completed now
and we enter into the joy of the Great Fifty Days.

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 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.

Refrain



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



2 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.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with glory: Stir up in your Church the Spirit of the Lord's resurrection: that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may love you by serving all: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Strife is O'er, Alleluia, then verse 1



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on Easter morning, John tells us, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found the stone which sealed it had been removed. She immediately went to tell the disciples. Two of them came, saw the tomb empty and returned to where they were staying. Our reading begins just after they left her..

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”
¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.


The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The Strife is O’er, verse 2, followed by Alleluia* [previous page](#)


HOMILY

OFFERING AND PREPARATION OF THE TABLE


OFFERTORY HYMN



A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the

Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

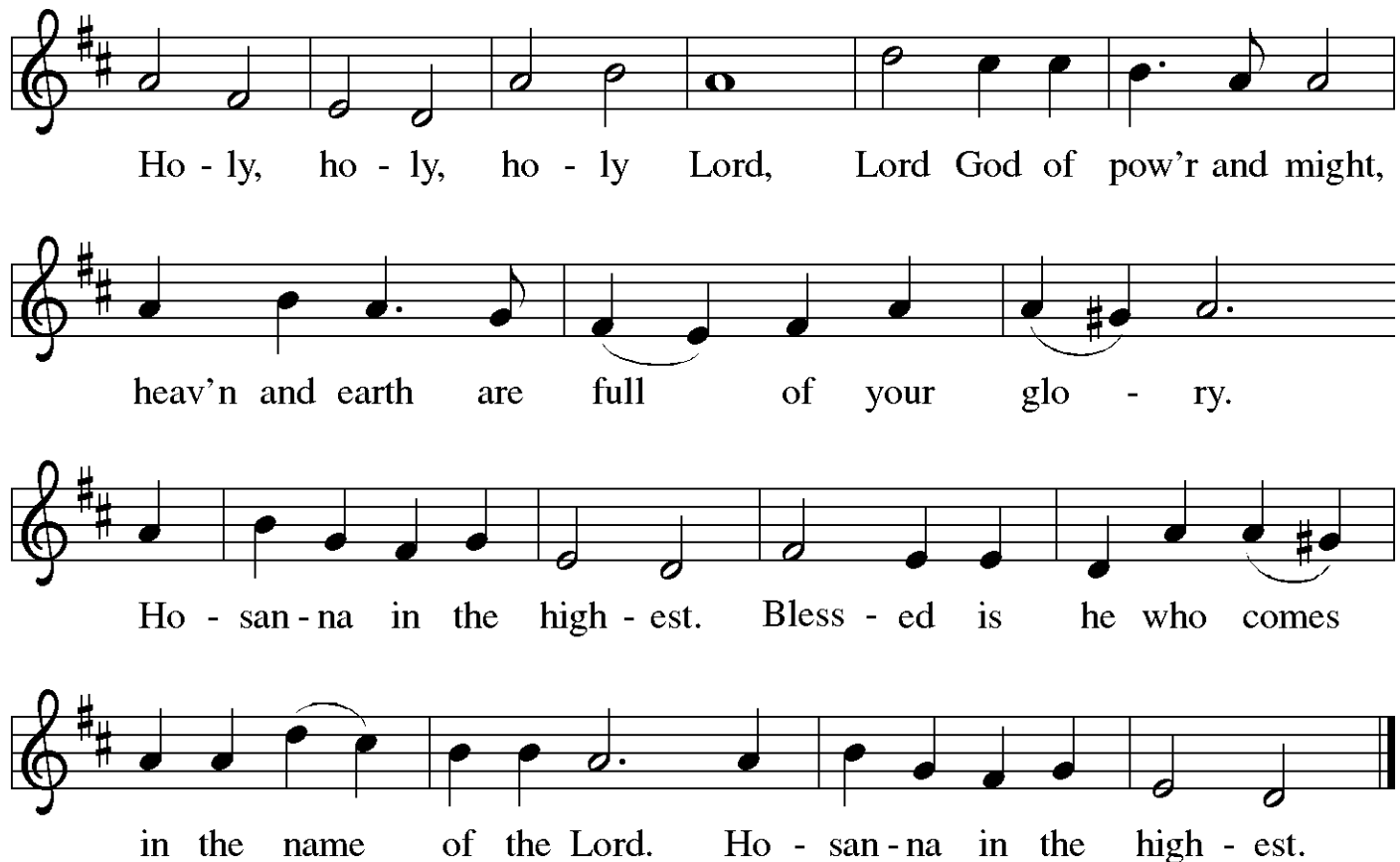
All who seek the Lord Jesus are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood. You may take the wine from an individual glass or the common cup. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing the hands at the heart. If needed, gluten free bread is available from the pastor and grape juice is available from the individual glasses.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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

COMMUNION SONG



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.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

May God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you with newness of life.

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

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

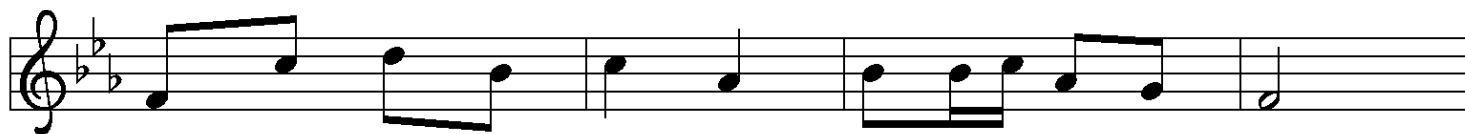
Now the Green Blade Rises

next page

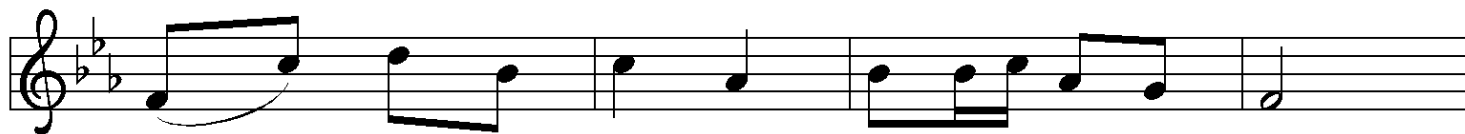
SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Our Easter celebration continues tomorrow with Festival of Resurrection Easter Sunday worship services at 8:15 am and 10:30 am.

As part of our Easter celebration, breakfast will be served between the services on Easter Sunday.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John's members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

+ + +

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