

# The Vigil of Easter

*Holy Saturday*

*Community of Christ Lutheran Church + Whitehouse, Ohio*

## The Vigil of Easter



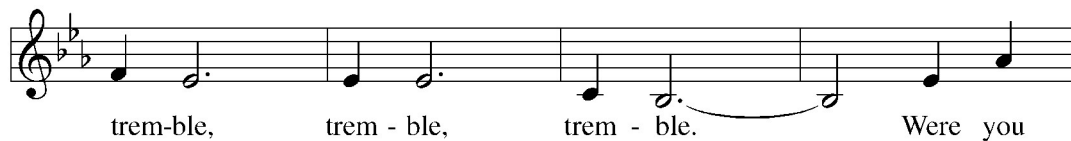
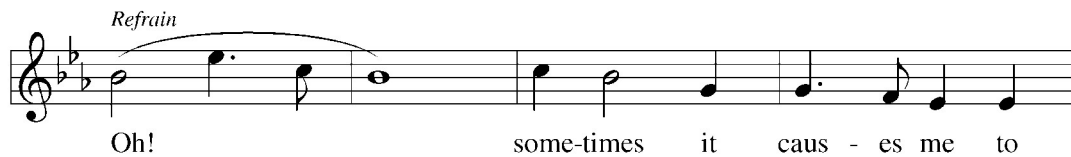
*The Vigil of Easter is the culmination of the church's worship that began on Maundy Thursday and continued through Good Friday. With Christ, we are drawn from death and darkness into life and light. With the whole Church, we rehearse the whole story of salvation from God's speaking light out of darkness in the beginning of creation, to God's great acts of deliverance for the people of Israel, to the start of the new creation and our deliverance from sin and death through Christ in the darkness of the first Easter morning.*

*Tonight, the congregation gathers outside the church around the fire in silence for the beginning of our worship—living between the darkness of the surrounding evening and the light of the flames.*

### Service of Light

+ At this sign, all who are able are invited to stand.

*As the Paschal Candle is lit from the fire, the congregation concludes the hymn,  
Were You There, begun on Good Friday, with the final verse:*



*The Assisting Minister lifts the candle and says:*

**A** The light of Christ.      **C** Thanks be to God.

*The congregation processes into the darkened nave of the church building, led by the Assisting Minister, who lifts candle at the door and says:*

**A** The light of Christ.      **C** Thanks be to God.

*All light their candles from the Paschal Candle, and then take places in pews.*

**A** The light of Christ.      **C** Thanks be to God.

**+ Easter Proclamation—"Exultet"**

*The Exultet is the church's ancient song of praise for God's great triumph over death, sin, and evil in the cross and resurrection of Jesus. We celebrate the dawning of God's new creation and the culmination of all God's acts to save and bless the world, even in the linger-*

**P** Rejoice, O choirs of an-gels, sing in one great song  
*The vict'ry of the God to whom, all the world belongs  
Exult, O earth, O sea, O sky, as darkness fades away  
O mother Church, join in and say: Alleluia.*

*While ev'ning shadows fall outside, and begins the night  
We praise the living God who gives new and endless light  
We praise the Father, and the Son, and Spirit, Three-in-One  
Who over death the war has won: **C** Alleluia!*

*To you, O Christ, we give our praise; now it begins.  
For you have freed humanity, long enslaved to sin.  
You paid our debt, redeem'd the world, making all things new.  
Our thanks and love we offer you: **C** Alleluia!*

*This is night, of ancient times, when the Paschal Lamb  
Was slain to guard the children of Father Abraham  
The blood on doorposts saved them from the power of the curse  
Is painted on the universe: **C** Alleluia!*

*This is the night in which you led Israel by the Sea  
And led them dry-shod on the way, into liberty.  
Now Christ has led us out of death and into life anew:  
We go, for you go with us, too: **C** Alleluia!*

*We sing the vict'ry over hell, and the chains of death  
For Christ arose and gives us his own life-giving breath  
Let voices rise in triumph as scatter fear and gloom  
From Friday's cross to empty tomb: **C** Alleluia!*

*This night all things are joined in you, Christ, the Risen Son!  
A new creation dawns this night: now it has begun!  
Where fear and hate divide us still, we pray you bind us up  
To share with you one bread, one cup: **C** Alleluia!*

*We pray that as this candle burns, shining in the night  
That you, Lord Christ, would make us here each reflect your  
light.*

*Your light of life, of truth, and love, in us be magnified  
In witness to the Crucified: **C** Alleluia!*

*Let all creation sing your praise now and ever more  
O Living Lord, O Deathless One, You whom we adore  
All praise and thanks for gifts of grace you lavish here, unpriced:  
Our vict'ry is in You, O Christ! **C** Alleluia!*

+ Hymn

*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*



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  
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from  
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting



vic - tor's tri - umph won! Now be the  
le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of  
glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry  
heav'n's high por - tals fell. Let hymns of  
free your ser - vants too, that we may



song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!



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

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909  
Music: VICTORY, Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1525–1594, adapt.

The Great Story of God    *We hear the central stories of creation, promise, and deliverance from the life of God's people, Israel, that point to God's victory in Christ. After each story is told, the congregation sings a verse, to the same melody as the Exultet.*

*The Creation of the World—Genesis 1:1-2:4a*

When all was dark - ness, Mer - cy spoke, "Now, let there be light."

Cre - a - ting all things by Your Word, mak-ing day and night.

And still you call us in - to life, with land and sea and skies.

And all the u - ni - verse re - plies: Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, singable style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

*The Flood and the Promise of the Rainbow—Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13*

When we kept turn - ing from Your ways—greed and shed-ding blood—

You let cre - a - tion start a - gain, e - ven through the Flood.

You hung your bow up in the clouds, a sign for all to see

That You still hold hu - man - i - ty— Al - le - lu - ia!

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*The Binding of Isaac—Genesis 22:1-18*

When I - saac and his fa - ther went, bear-ing torch and knife,  
Your an - gel stayed the tremb-ling hand, spar-ing I - saac's life.  
The sac - ri - fice there would not be the son of Ab - ra - ham.  
The liv - ing God pro - vides the Lamb! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'When I - saac and his fa - ther went, bear-ing torch and knife,'. The second staff continues the melody: 'Your an - gel stayed the tremb-ling hand, spar-ing I - saac's life.' The third staff: 'The sac - ri - fice there would not be the son of Ab - ra - ham.' The fourth staff concludes with: 'The liv - ing God pro - vides the Lamb! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*The Deliverance Through the Sea—Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*

The slaves in E - gypt called to You, cry - ing to be free  
And Your strong hand de - liv - ered them, there be - side the Sea.  
You heaped the wa - ters, left and right, and made a way be - tween  
A sign like none had e - ver seen: Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'The slaves in E - gypt called to You, cry - ing to be free'. The second staff continues the melody: 'And Your strong hand de - liv - ered them, there be - side the Sea.' The third staff: 'You heaped the wa - ters, left and right, and made a way be - tween'. The fourth staff concludes with: 'A sign like none had e - ver seen: Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Response to the Word— “All You Works of the Lord”—*read responsively*

**P** All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord; **C** praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**A** You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; you heavens, bless the Lord; all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord; **C** praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**P** You sun and moon, **C** bless the Lord;

**A** you stars of heaven, **C** bless the Lord;

**P** You showers and dew, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**A** You winds of God, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** You fire and heat, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You winter and summer, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**P** You dews and frost, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You frost and cold, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** You ice and snow, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**A** You nights and days, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** You light and darkness, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You lightnings and clouds, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**P** Let the earth **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You mountains and hills, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** All you green things that grow on the earth, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**A** You wells and springs, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** You rivers and seas, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You whales and all who move in the waters, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**P** All you birds of the air, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** All you beasts and cattle, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** All you children of mortals, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**A** You people of God, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** You priests of the Lord, **C** bless the Lord.

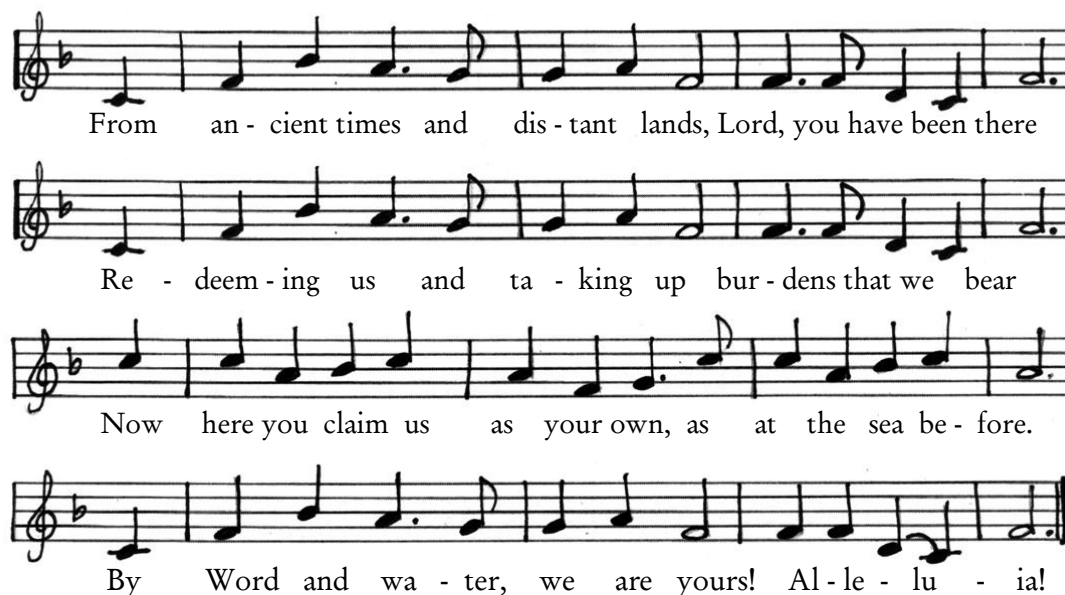
**A** You servants of the Lord, **C** bless the Lord. Praise and magnify the Lord forever.

**P** You spirits and souls of the righteous, **C** bless the Lord.

**A** You pure and humble of heart, **C** bless the Lord.

**P** Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C** Praise and magnify the Lord forever.



Service of Holy Baptism *We affirm our own baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection.*

+ **P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: we give you thanks.... To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen

**P** I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we were baptized.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all of his empty promises?

**C** I do. *The pastor sprinkles the congregation with water from the font during the Creed.*

**P** Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C** I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** 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. Amen



**P** Dear sisters and brothers, on the word of Christ himself, this is who you are:

You are beloved children, claimed to belong to the family of God forever.

You are a redeemed people, set free from bondage to sin, to death, to fear, and hatred.

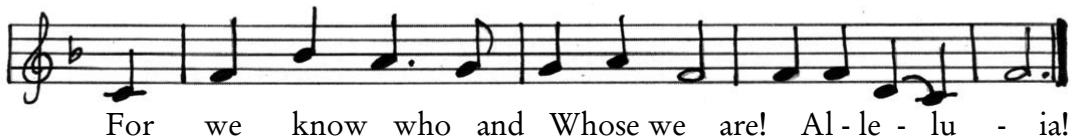
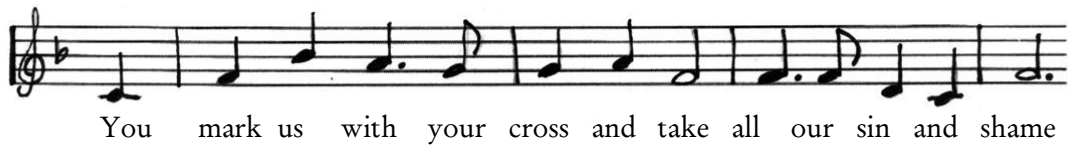
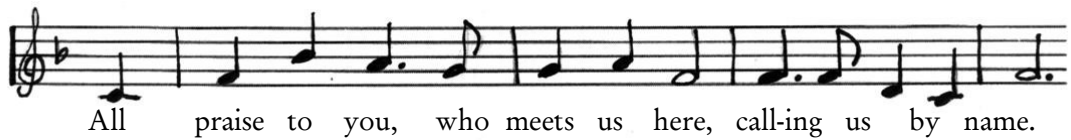
You are forgiven, reconciled to God through the cross, and justified by grace as a gift.

You are a new creation, dead to your old selves and no longer bound by the powers of the world, not Pharaoh in Egypt, not Caesar in Rome, nor anything else in all creation.

You are baptized disciples, water-washed and Spirit-born to follow in the way of Jesus, who is risen from the dead forever.

You are empowered witnesses, sent like Mary from the tomb to go and tell the Good News to all, and to live out the Gospel of God's Reign of Life in words and actions.

This is your identity in Christ! **C** We will remember who and Whose we are!



+ Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** 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 in sincerity and truth and may shine as a 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.

**C** Amen

New Testament Reading

*Romans 6:3-11*

+ Holy Gospel

Sermon

*Pastor Stephen C. Bond*

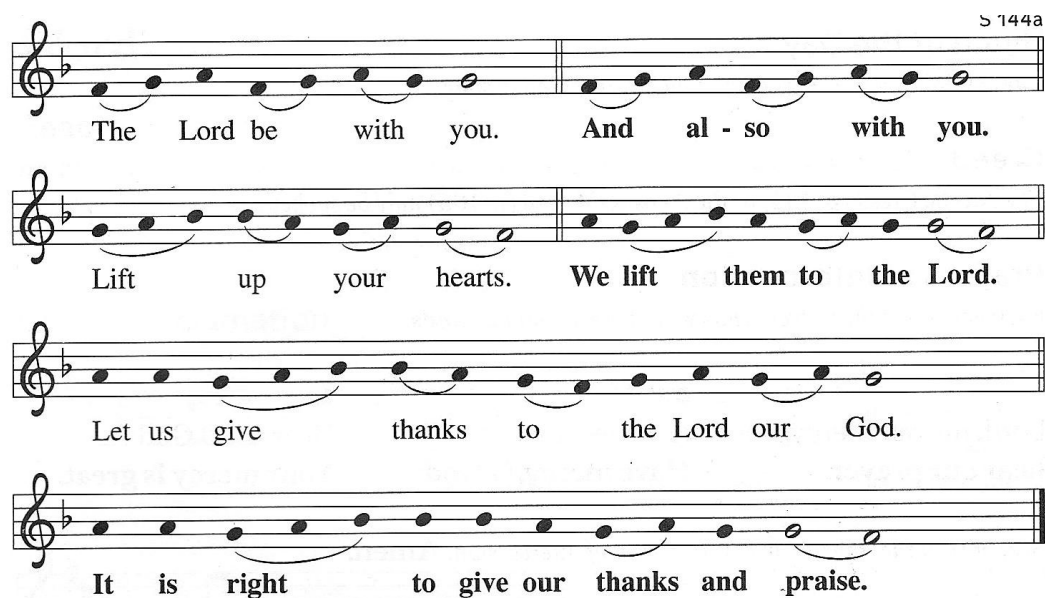
+ Offertory



Lord, all we have, which you first gave, gifts we did not earn:  
 our lives, our time, and trea - sures, Lord, to You, we re - turn:  
 We place it, Lord, who loved us first be - fore the world be - gan  
 In - to Your ris - en, nail - scarred hands: Al - le - lu - ia!

+ Offertory Prayer

+ Great Thanksgiving



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.

☐ It is indeed right our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+ Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

+ Eucharistic Prayer

+ The 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

Distribution of Communion

*As on Sundays, you are invited to come forward by the center aisle and then to find a place around the table to receive Communion, receiving the bread from the Presiding Minister and taking a cup from the tray of cups from the Assisting Minister. Any who do not commune are nevertheless invited to come forward to receive a blessing. All will then depart by the outside aisles to return to their places.*

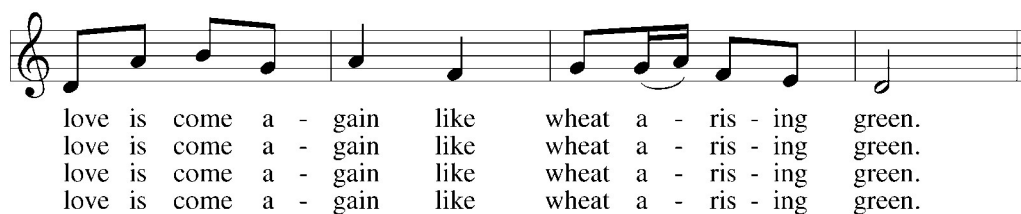
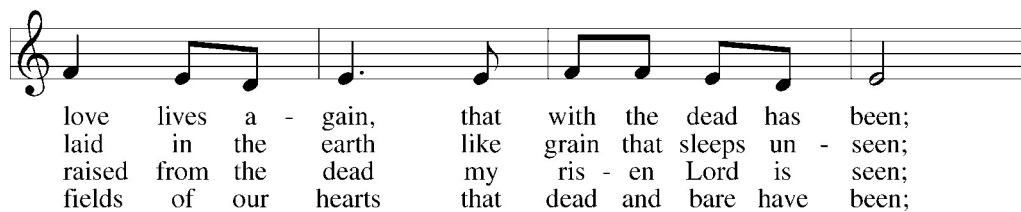
## Lamb of God

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.

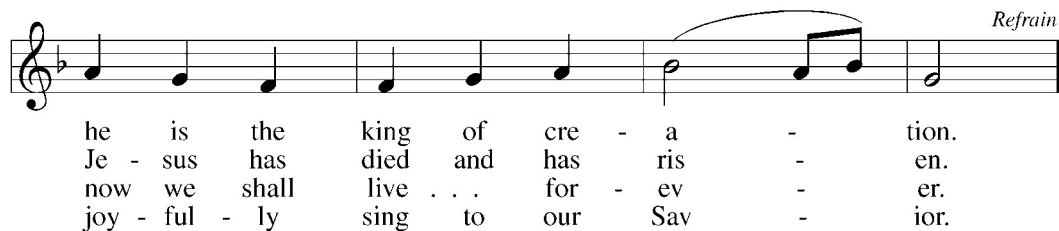
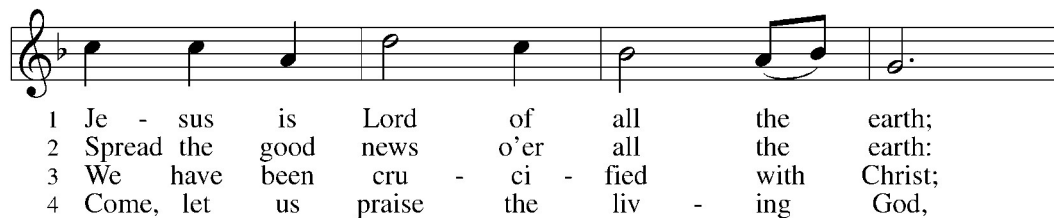
## Hymns During Communion

## *Now the Green Blade Rises*

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,



*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*



+ Post-Communion Blessing

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

☑ Amen

+ Post-Communion Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ Lord Jesus,

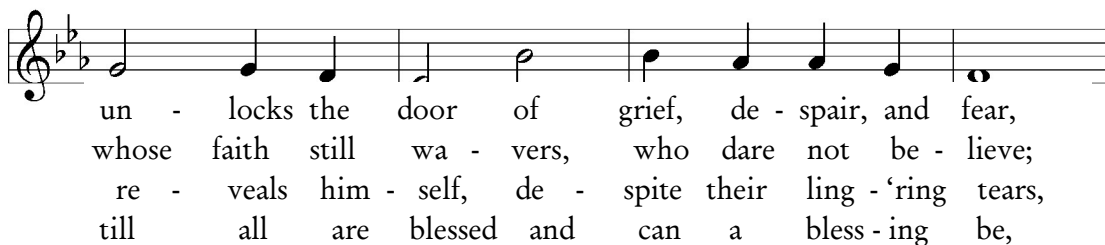
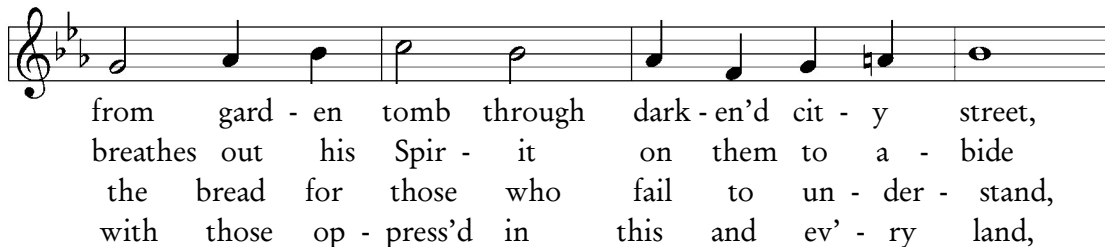
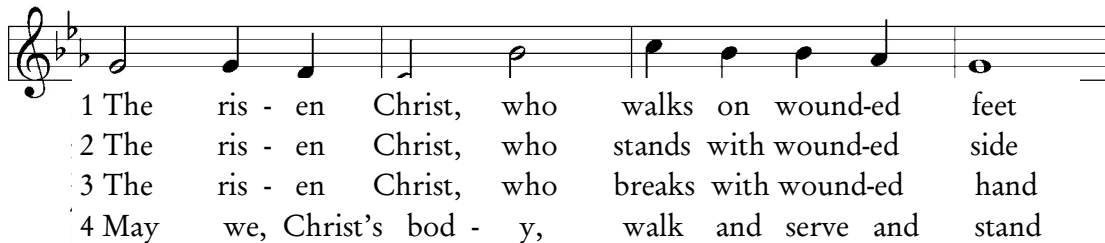
You have called us to follow on your way. You have marked us with your cross in love. You have fed us at your table, And you have breathed on us your Spirit. Now you send us—to live cross-shaped lives of grace toward all; to show your upside-down power in humble serving; to love beyond boundaries: neighbor, stranger, and enemy; to let your Reign of justice and mercy reorient our hearts and renew our minds; to embody your presence in this broken, beloved world of yours. to this you have called us. With you, we go.

+ Blessing

☐ Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. ☑ Amen

+ Sending Hymn

*The Risen Christ*





and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
en - flames their hearts, then quick-ly dis - ap - pears.  
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

*Text: Nigel Weaver*

+ Dismissal

**A** Alleluia! Christ is risen!                      **C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
**A** Go in peace to serve the risen Lord! **C** Thanks be to God!

