

# The Three Days 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort SC



**Maundy Thursday + Good Friday + the Great Vigil**

April 2, 7 pm + April 3, 7 pm + April 4, 8 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 a powerful metaphor for Life. The Three Days begins as the sun sets on Maundy Thursday and ends as our Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection draws to a close.*

*The 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 fears and struggles of this world with Christ.*

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

*On Good Friday we contemplate God, dying on a cross because of human sin...*

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

+ + +

### **The Services of the Three Days:**

Maundy Thursday Service + April 2, 7 pm + in person and livestreamed	Page 3
Good Friday Service + April 3, 7 pm + in person and livestreamed	Page 11
The Vigil of Easter + April 4, 8 pm + in person and livestreamed	Page 21

+ + +

### **The Festival of the Resurrection:**

Easter Sunday + April 5  
8:15 am + worship in person and livestreamed  
+ 10:30 am - worship in person

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

# Maundy Thursday

April 2 + 7 pm

*in-person and streamed*

*Maundy Thursday marks the close of the season of Lent and focuses our attention on 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, in wine poured out, and in loving service, through the washing of feet.*

*On Ash Wednesday, the Lenten journey began with confession of sins and a sign of our brokenness in the imposition of ashes. Tonight the Lenten journey closes with a call to confession. Those who so desire may come before the altar to receive an individual absolution of sin.*

*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.*

+ + +

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Friends in Christ, in the 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. But 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

*Softly and Tenderly*  
from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

ELW 608-WOV 734



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## 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. In the name of Jesus Christ, who was the servant of all.

**Amen.**

## GOSPEL

**John 13: 1-17, 31b-35**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now 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. <sup>2</sup> The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> Then 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus 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." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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

<sup>31b</sup> "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little 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.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By 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.**

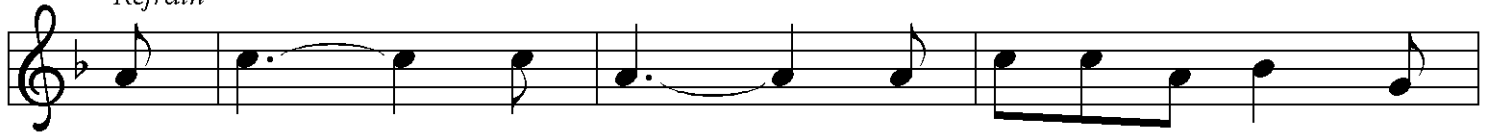
HYMN OF THE DAY

*Jesu, Jesu*  
from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

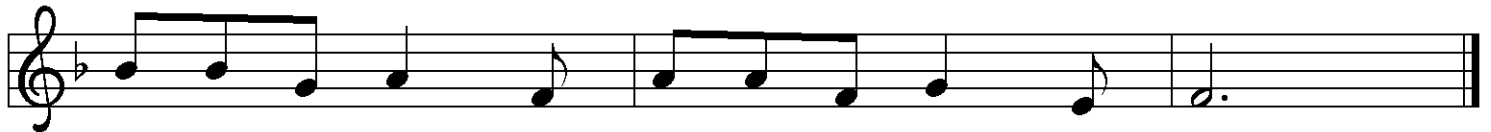
ELW 708-WOV 765

*We remain seated to sing as preparations for footwashing are made. Those who have been asked to represent the congregation come forward to have their feet washed.*

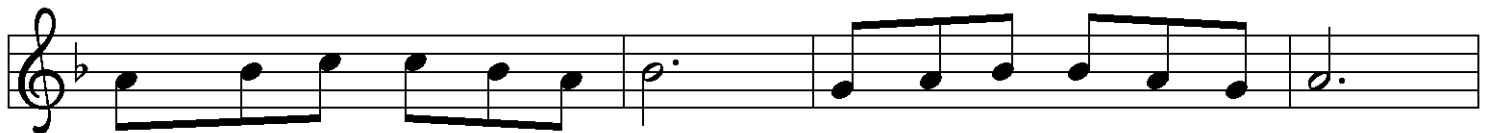
*Refrain*



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

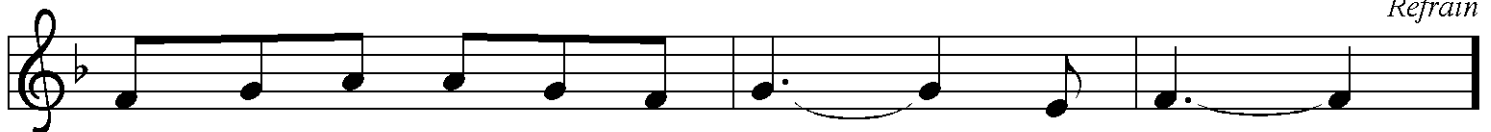


us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- |   |                                    |                                       |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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.

*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. Bring an end to war. 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

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, **maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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**

It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You gather your people around the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **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

*We commune at the head of the aisle. 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, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.*

*Because all are not able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households unable to gather in person may prepare bread and wine, taking them together as a community gathered, even while distanced. Any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice may be used.*

*Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms at your heart.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system's lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system's lyrics are: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. A - - - - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

## BLESSING

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

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Psalm 22*

**The Psalm Project**

Mary Manges, soloist - Gloria Bockelman, piano

+ + +

*We depart in silence. There is no benediction.*

*Our worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 pm.*

*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 close spaces for visitors. Those who are willing and able are asked to park in our adjacent grass lot near the picnic shelter.*





## Good Friday

April 3 + 7 pm

*in-person and streamed*

*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 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.*

### SOLO

#### *Were You There*

Renée Park, soloist - Gloria Bockelman, piano

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, 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. We pray in his holy name, for it is he who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*Silence for prayer and reflection.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERMON

**Deacon Katie Justice**

# 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.*

*Traditionally, the Way of the Cross includes fourteen scenes from the passion of Jesus, some Biblical and some traditional. Each meditation includes reflection, silence for meditation, prayer, and concludes with a 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 sinned, 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 for the church throughout the world.

*Silent prayer:*

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all people 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 God's Love in Jesus to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray for our bishops Yehiel and Virginia, for our pastor Shannon, for our deacon Katie, 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 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 of other faiths.

*Silent prayer:*

God of Grace and Love, gather into your embrace all people of faith. Bring an end to inter-religious strife. 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 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 the people of this divided world.

*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. Bring an end to war and conflict, hatred and violence. 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 oppression, 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.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord taught us to 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.*

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

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.*

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 devotion 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 whatever sign the heart moves worshippers to make.*

+ + +

*We depart quietly. There is no benediction.*

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

*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 close spaces for visitors. Those who are willing and able are asked to park in our adjacent grass lot near the picnic shelter.*



# The Great Vigil of Easter

4 April, the year of Grace 2026 + 8:00 pm  
*in-person and streamed*

*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.**

Friends 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 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.**

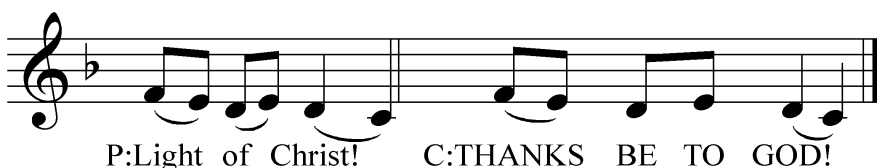
*The first candle is lit from the new fire of Easter.*

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 to light the Paschal Candle to proclaim 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!

**Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!**

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right that we should praise you, Almighty God.

**For this is the Passover of the true Lamb of God.**

This is the night when of old you saved our ancestors,

**delivering the people of Israel from their slavery, and leading them dry-shod through the sea.**

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell

**and rose triumphant from the grave.**

This is the night when all who trust in him

**are freed from sin and restored to grace and holiness.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night,

**accept our praise, your Church's offering!**

Grant that this Easter Vigil make our hearts grow glad;

**for Christ has risen and is alive and reigns for ever and ever. Amen!**

*Please extinguish your candles and take a seat.*

# 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 CREATION

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4

A reading from the Spark Story Bible

## RESPONSE


### All Things Bright and Beautiful

WOV 767


*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.**

+ + +

# THE DELIVERY OF ISRAEL AT THE RED SEA

Second Reading: Exodus 14:10-15:1

The reading is paraphrased in a hymn. A cantor sings the verses. The congregation joins the response and refrain.

## READING

## Go Down Moses

WOV 670

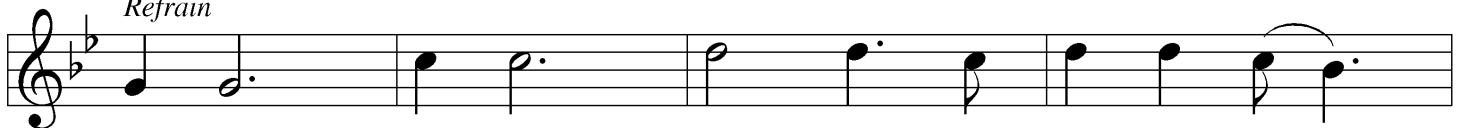


1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,  
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;  
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,  
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



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,

### Refrain



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 once 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.**

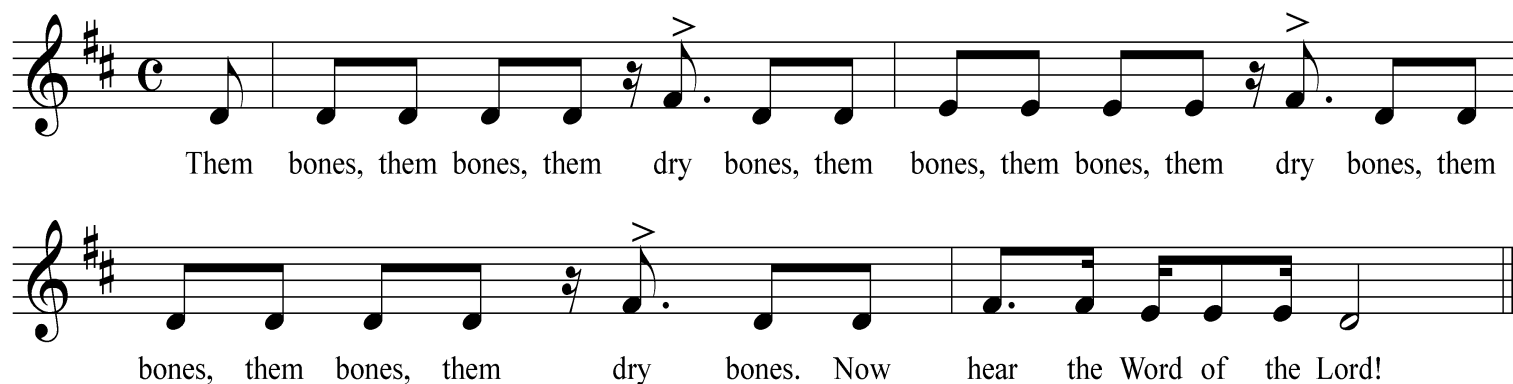
+ + +

## VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

Third Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*The reading is paraphrased in a song. The congregation joins the refrain.*

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!

### PRAYER

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

+ + +

## THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR IS PROCLAIMED

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11

*A reading from the New Revised Standard Version.*

### RESPONSE

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

*on next page - ELW 710*

### 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. Cloth those who cry out to you in the garments of your salvation. 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.**



Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;

Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.

your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,

Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.

our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;

In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.

your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

## THE BAPTISMAL ANTHEM

*O Healing River*

Let us gather at the font, to affirm the promises that God has made to us in baptism.

*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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

In the waters of baptism, we have passed with Jesus Christ from death to life,  
**and we are a new creation.**

For this saving mystery and for this water,  
**let us bless God.**

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne:  
**through your people, through the earth, through every living thing.**

In these waters you have flooded us with mercy,  
**and our sin is drowned forever.**

You open the gate of righteousness  
**and we pass safely through.**

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.  
**You nourish us and enclose us in safety.**

You call us forth and send us out.  
**In lush and in barren places, you are with us.**

Now breathe upon this water  
**and awaken your people once more.**

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

**Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.**

People of God, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism, gathering to hear the Good News of God's Love; welcoming and valuing all people; serving your neighbors and those in need; loving and caring for one another; and living with bold generosity?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us!**

Do you promise to pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us!**

God of Grace and Love, stir up in your people again the gift of your Holy Spirit. As your holy children, we are sent into the world to proclaim your Good News. Give us the strength to do that which you have called us to do. May we continue to share your grace and serve through love!

**Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

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!

*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. 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.

**Amen.**

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 28:1-10**

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

### HOMILY

**Pastor Shannon Mullen**

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

*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, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life. Those who are unable to gather in person may prepare at home for the celebration. Any kind of bread or cracker and wine or juice may be used.*

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

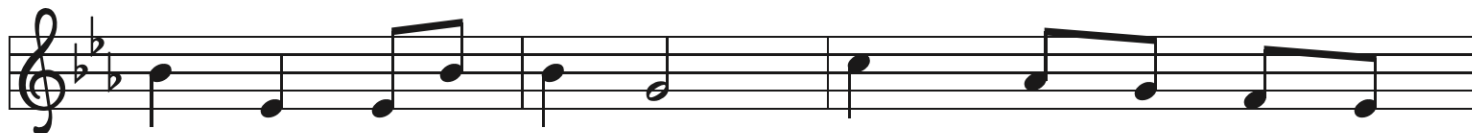
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the power of his resurrection, you transform fear and sin and death into new and abundant life! And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on their journey, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you sent Jesus to proclaim your love and transform all people, saving humanity from the powers of fear, sin, and death.

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.

Glory and praise to you, O God of Life, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#### 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.**



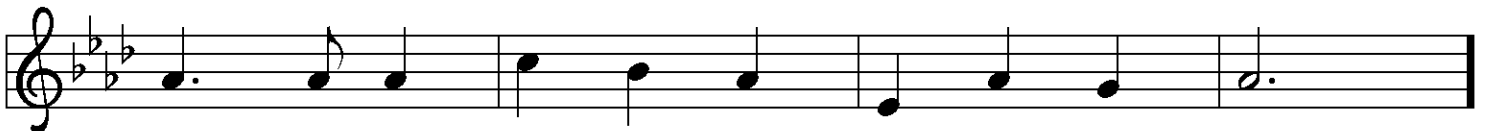
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



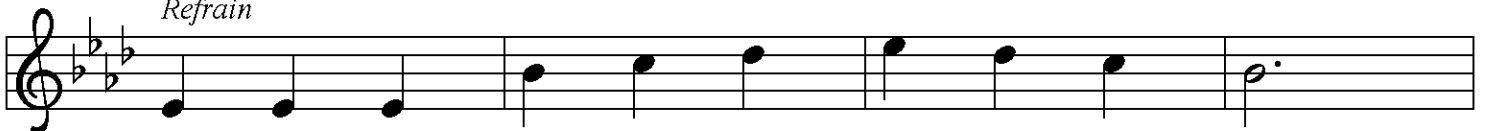
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## SENDING

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

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

+ + +

*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.*

*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 close spaces for visitors. Those who are willing and able are asked to park in our adjacent grass lot near the picnic shelter.*

The liturgy is from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SASoo6619.

All scripture, unless otherwise noted, is from the NRSVue (updated edition). *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 2021, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Softly and Tenderly, Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed, Glory Be to Jesus, Ah, Holy Jesus, All Things Bright and Beautiful, When Israel Was In Egypt's Land, Them Bones* are in the Public Domain.

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*: Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*: Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.

*Wait for the Lord*: Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.

*Let Streams of Living Justice*: Text © 1989 William Whitla. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.

*O Healing River*; Arr by Michael Joncas © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc., www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.

*Alleluia! Jesus is Risen*: Text © 1965 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted/podcast/streamed under OneLicense.net #A-711955.



# St. John's Lutheran Church

157 Lady's Island Drive  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29907

phone: 843 524 3461  
info@StJohnsBeaufort.org

Pastor P. Shannon Mullen  
Deacon Katie Justice  
Rolanda Gilliard, Seminarian - Field Worker  
Gloria Bockelman, Worship Accompanist

+ + +

**Welcome!**

*Out of a broken and divided world, all are welcomed into the whole body of Jesus Christ at St. John's. We trust in a God who loves all people, no matter their economic status, age, marital status, ethnicity, race, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, diversity of ability, or religious background. Together we join in sharing God's grace and serving through love, experiencing the transforming love of our Savior.*

*Personal Listening Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available.*

## **Mission Statement:**

*Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love*

## **Core Values:**

*We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.*

*All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions.*

*We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.*

*We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.*

*We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and resources.*

+ + +

**[www.StJohnsBeaufort.org](http://www.StJohnsBeaufort.org)**