



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



Season of Easter

April 23, 2023

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin. If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

COVID Procedure Update

Masks are encouraged but optional during worship. Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Lord Jesus Christ, Turn Thou to Us

Walther

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.
In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #368 *With High Delight Let Us Unite*



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
 2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
 3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
 in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
 Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
 van-quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
 word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
 yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
 shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
 death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

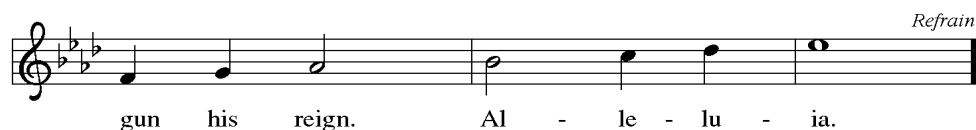
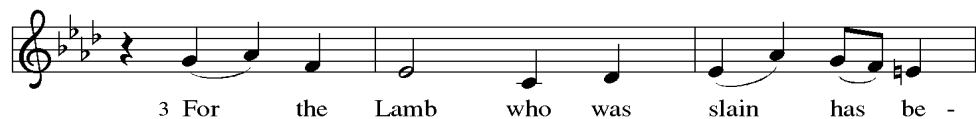
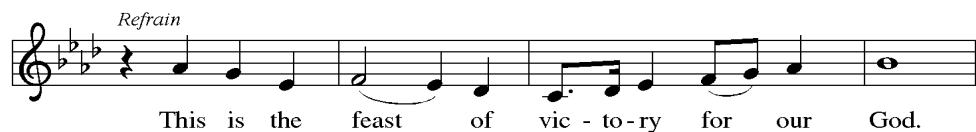
Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.
 Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord of the gathering feast,
you walk with us
on the shadowed road:
burn our hearts
with scripture's open flame;
unveil our darkened eyes
as bread is torn and shared
and from the broken fragments
bless a people for yourself;
through Jesus Christ, the host of the world.
Amen.

WORD

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

When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited forward for a time together.

READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

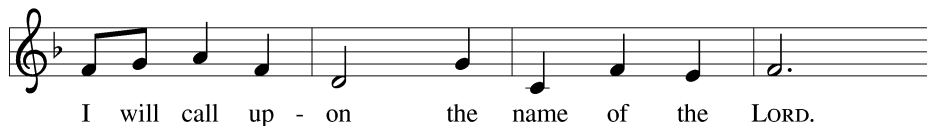
³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1–4, 12–19

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,

and listened to my | supplication,

²for the LORD has given | ear to me

whenev- | er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;

I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:

"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life." R

¹²How shall I re- | pay the LORD

for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup | of salvation

and call on the name | of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD

in the presence of | all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your | sight, O LORD,

is the death | of your servants.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I | am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving

and call upon the name | of the LORD. R

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD

in the presence of | all God's people,

¹⁹in the courts of | the LORD's house,

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! R

READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

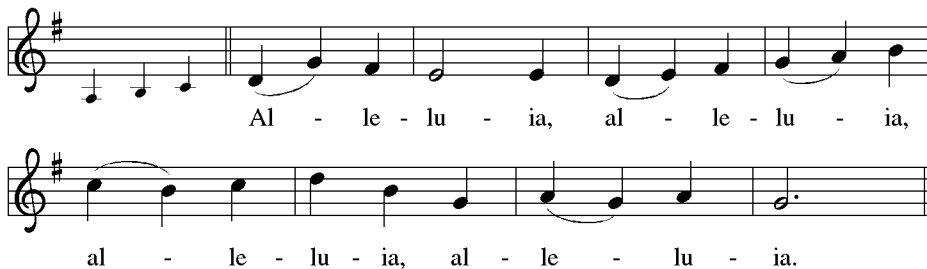
²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you

walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

world con - firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
word in - spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
ends their con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.
dence of trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives, like Toyohiko Kagawa, whom we commemorate today. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Guide the nations of the world, especially Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, into paths of reconciliation and respect for human rights. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints, especially Mark and Catherine of Sienna. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Housing Opportunities** www.hoi.help (2001 Calumet Ave., Valpo).*

If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use [our CLC app](http://ourCLCapp) (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

OFFERTORY (8:00 am)

Pastorale

Zipoli

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am)

Alleluia! Christ Has Destroyed Death

Hildebrandt

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ has destroyed death. Alleluia! And has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread

reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine

pour us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

This musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures, the second and third staves each have two measures, and the fourth staff has one measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The melody is simple and uses mostly quarter and eighth notes.

The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This musical score is for a hymn in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has two measures, the second and third staves each have two measures, and the fourth staff has one measure. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. The melody is simple and uses mostly quarter and eighth notes.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.
Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored, and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The COMMON CUP is available for anyone who wishes. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

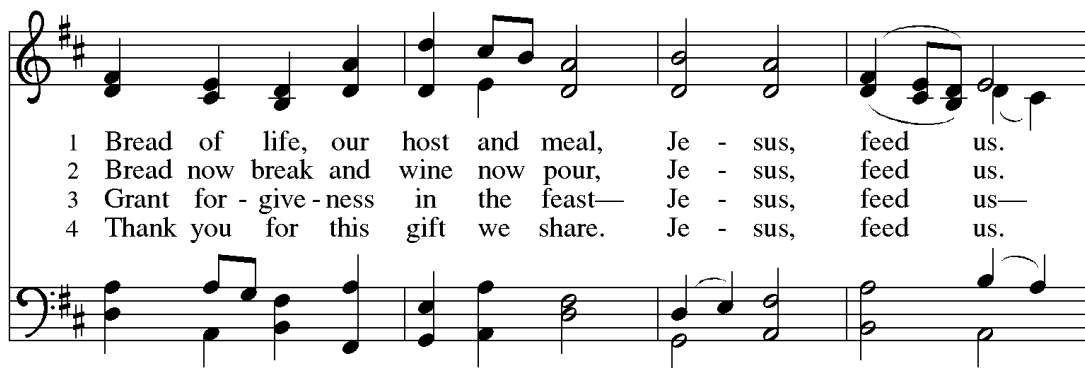
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW #464

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
 Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
 for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
 Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

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ACS #939 *Touch That Soothes and Heals*



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
 2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
 3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
 4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
 ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
 peo - ple, first and last. Know with - in each act of
 wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
 shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
 kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
 tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



“See my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. “Be my hands and feet,” said Je - sus, “live as



ones I died to save.”

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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Music © 2008 Re:Create Music, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.
 The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #548 *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;

from this meal of love and grace;
af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
God has called us to re - ceive;
cour - age be our dai - ly breath;

may we through such love en - vi - sion
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
to re - lease and to con - sole.
Spir - it - ed then let us live.
from this day and un - to death.



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



God, the won - der of our days.
Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Christ lag in Todesbanden

J.S. Bach

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited
to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Olivia Hernandez	Noah De Jesus
Lector	Kathy Sutherland	Erin Crill
Prayer Assistant	Heather Olson	Tim Malchow
Communion Assistants	Barbara Clements Andrew Teeple	Amy Knauff Holly Knauff
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Don MacMillan	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	-----	Ben Crill
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir Adam Gibson-Even, cantor	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	

April Altar Gifts

Communion Wine	Andrew Teeple ~ In thankfulness for family Linda Mapes ~ In thankfulness for our 56th Wedding Anniversary
Altar Candles	Lois & Michael Felten ~ In memory of Arnold & Rick Felten
Eternal Lamp	Ellen Swayne ~ In memory of Gladys Swayne Diana Ahlbrand ~ In memory of Wendell Ahlbrand

Stewardship Snippet

Luke 24:35 - Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sometimes even the most faithful disciples have a tough time seeing Jesus at work in the world. But if we look beyond our own needs and problems we begin to see the Christ all around. May this very real presence inspire us to pay attention and to work for the good of all creation.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the long history of Christianity in these lands
- Christians and Muslims who have witnessed to their faith during long years of repression and persecution
- positive developments these countries have undergone since the end of the Soviet era
- those who pursue peace and reconciliation in the face of old suspicions and animosities.

We **pray** for:

- greater respect for the human rights of all the peoples living in these countries
- just changes for those living in situations of poverty and discrimination
- the healing of past wrongs and distorted memories of what has occurred
- a prophetic witness of the churches in relation to new challenges
- the Georgian Orthodox Church, that it may rediscover a rich relationship with the family of churches worldwide.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of April 23, 2023

April 23

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

April 25

Mark, Evangelist

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

April 29

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title “Doctor [teacher] of the Church.” Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Accompaniment along the Way

Today's gospel is a story of accompaniment. The two disciples are walking along, grief-stricken, trying to make sense of "the things that have taken place . . . in these days" (Luke 24:18), and Jesus simply joins them. He walks alongside them in their grief, he inquires about their questions, he meets them where they are.

That might be the most profound piece of this whole narrative—that Jesus doesn't try to explain to them what has happened, doesn't try to set the record straight, doesn't try to change their hearts or minds. He simply accompanies them on the journey and shoulders their questions and grief together with them.

Isn't this the very work of the church, week in and week out, as we gather for worship? We come alongside each other, meeting one another where we're at, whether that's in deep grief or celebration or apathy or any other emotion under the sun. We show up to see one other. We show up to be seen, to be accompanied along the way.

And when we gather at the table for the breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us in ways we cannot explain, as he did for those two disciples in that village of Emmaus. He meets us where we're at and then accompanies us on our way, strengthening us to do the same for those we meet out in the world, for those we meet along the way of our own journeys.

What a gift this is in this time and place, when being right is valued above all else, when so many people are in the business of setting the record straight at all costs. What a gift this is to us. What a gift we're invited to be, in this same way, to others.

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Portions from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare.