

The Order of Service

As We Gather • Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the Lord comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

The Greeting

P This is the day that the Lord has made.

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P We are transformed in Christ

C to share the hope of eternal life.

Welcome and the Sharing of the Peace

Opening Hymn • 475..... “**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**”

The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences *Ps. 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8*

P This is the day that the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C He has put all things under His feet.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C Amen.

The Introit

Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b

P In Your presence, there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C I will extol You, O Lord, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

P O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

C O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

P Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

C For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P In Your presence, there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

The Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Hymn of Praise • 813 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"

△ *Please stand on the final verse.*

The Salutation

2 Timothy 4:27

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Living Lord, You have commanded us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. To fulfill this command, we ask You to clothe us with the power from on high, Your Holy Spirit, that we may carry the amazing message of Your resurrection to the ends of the earth; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The First Reading

Acts 3:11-21

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

¹¹ While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety, we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had

decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent, therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 John 3:1-7

(We are God's children now.)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him, there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C He has put all things under His feet.

The Object Lesson

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:36-49

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn • 483..... “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.



And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Offering

The Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

The Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory, that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed

their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:2

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for, like as a Father, You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Sanctus ∞ Holy, Holy, Holy

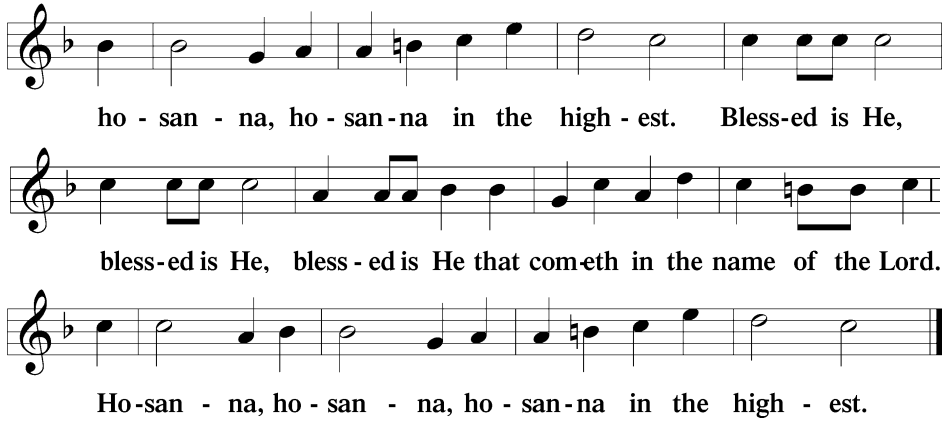
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini ✠ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

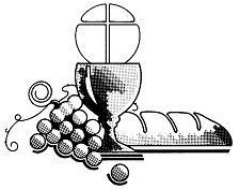
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

The Agnus Dei ∞ *The Lamb of God*

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
 world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.



The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Bible teaches that Jesus gives us His very body and blood along with bread and wine. We believe the Lord's Supper is a means of grace in that it provides forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. The Bible also teaches us to examine ourselves prior to receiving the meal.

Participants are encouraged to ask these questions: Do I believe that I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior and that it is His true body and blood given to me along with the bread and wine? Do I intend with the help of God to repent of sin as I seek to follow Him?

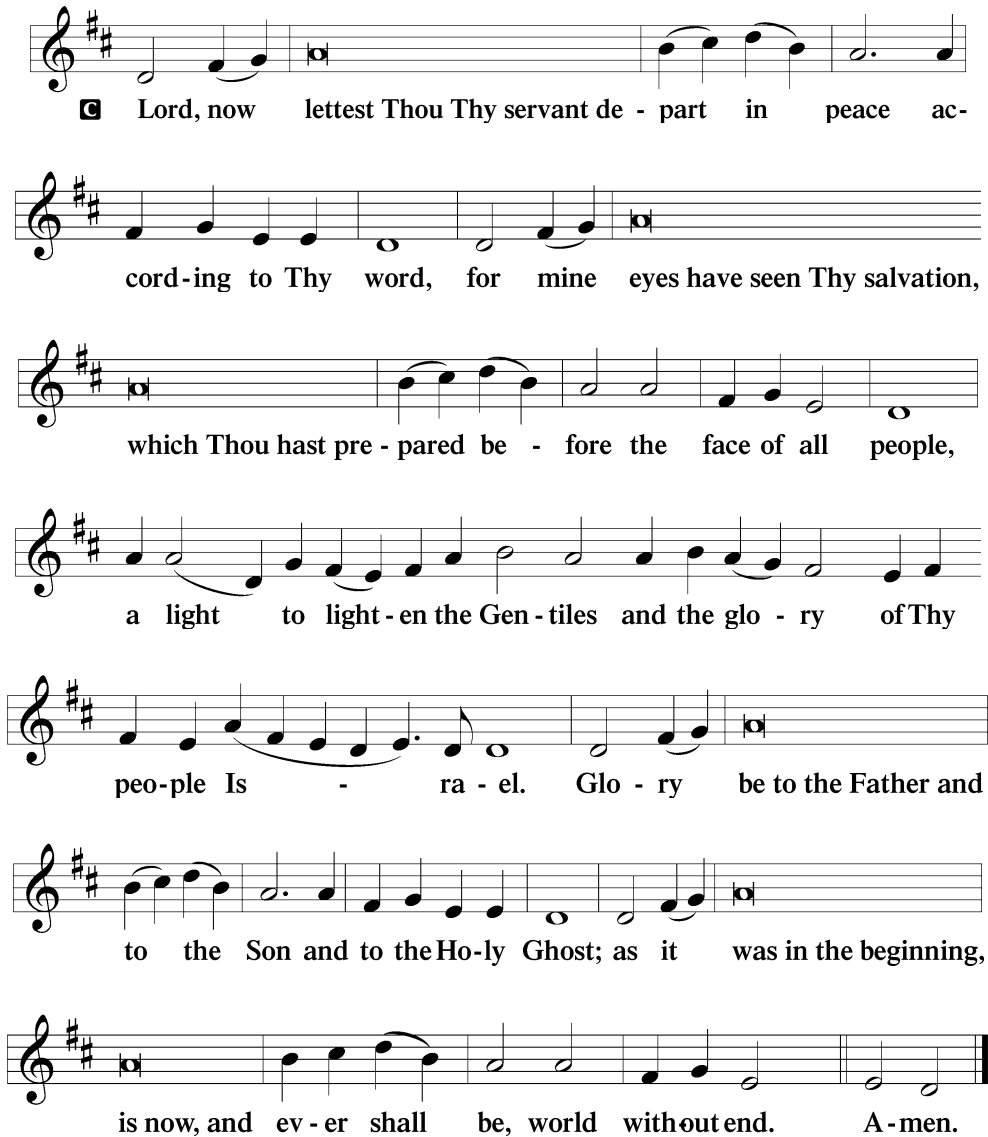
If you have not been instructed in this teaching on Holy Communion, are in doubt, or hold to a different confession of faith, please come forward and cross your arms to indicate that you would like a blessing.

Communion Hymn • 744 "Amazing Grace"

Communion Hymn • 627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

The Nunc Dimittis ∞ The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32



G Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Strengthen us so that we may continue to proclaim Your love to all the world and keep us to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn • 837 **“Lift High the Cross”**

Guest Pastor Jim Kirk

Organist: Michael Fitzsimmons

Ushers: Wayne Schremp, Rick Hutson

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