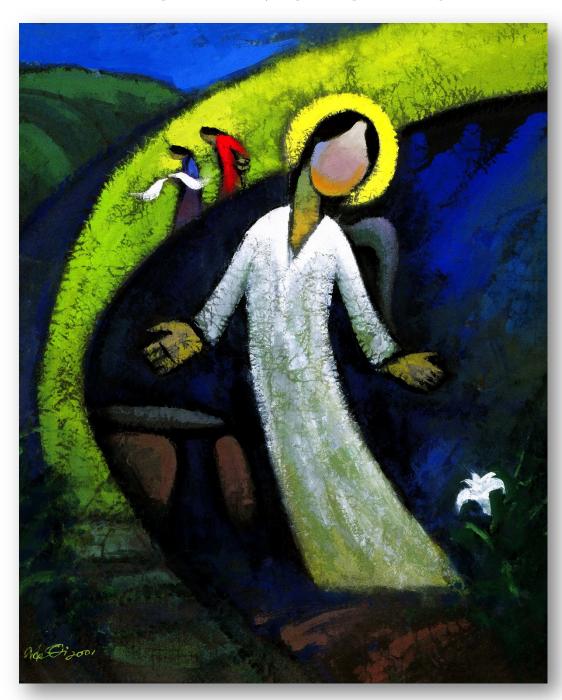
THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER



SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023 • 7:30 PM





Concerning Tonight's Liturgy

Welcome to St. John's! We are delighted that you are here to with us today! We would particularly like to welcome members of St. Christopher's Community Church, Steamboat Island, for joining us tonight.

The observance of Holy Week consists of a single liturgy enacted over three days, each continuing the story of Christ's arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection.

Tonight is The Great Vigil of Easter, the heart of the liturgical year. The celebration of Holy Baptism (or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows) and the First Eucharist of Easter are at once the beginning and the summation of Christian prayer and worship.

The Triduum: The Three Great Days

The observance of the Three Great Days is one dramatic liturgy which occurs over three successive days, starting with Maundy Thursday, continuing to Good Friday, and concluding with the Great Vigil of Easter. There is no dismissal from Maundy Thursday or Good Friday because the liturgy continues on. It is only after the whole divine drama is complete, and the People are dismissed in joy, shouting "Alleluia, alleluia!" in celebration of the Resurrection.

The Liturgy of The Great Vigil of Easter

During Eastertide (the season that starts on Easter Sunday and runs through Pentecost, 50 days later) we suppress (i.e. skip) the Confession of Sin in the liturgy. We do this for a theological reason: Christ's triumph over death, which we celebrate in Eastertide, is total. There is no sin that is stronger than Christ's triumph over death, so we omit the Confession as a sign of that triumph. The Confession will return to the liturgy the First Sunday after Pentecost, which is known as Trinity Sunday, and will be June 16 this year.

In this order of service, the congregation is invited to speak the parts in **boldface print.**

We invite you please silence any electronic devices at this time.

The artwork on the cover of this bulletin, *He Is Not Here*, comes from the Chinese artist He Qi. Currently a California resident, He Qi Studied at Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing Art Institute in China and Hamburg Art Institute in Germany. Now He is currently an Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Art Institute of RUC (Renmin University of China, Beijing).

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WORSHIP LEADERS • The Rev. Robert C. Laird, *Presider* • The Rev. James Thibodeaux & The Rev. Daren Chidester, *Assisting priests* • Susan Bloomfield-Spangler, *Director of Music* • Tim Tayne *Audio/Video Tech*

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Presider may address the people in these or similar words

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon (the Presider if there is no deacon) bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

Individual candles that have been distributed to the congregation are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

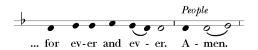
Then the person appointed, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet

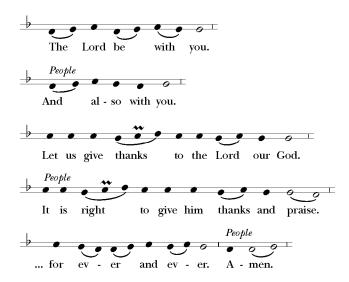
Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,





It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

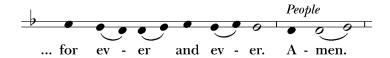
This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**.



It is customary that the Paschal Candle burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.

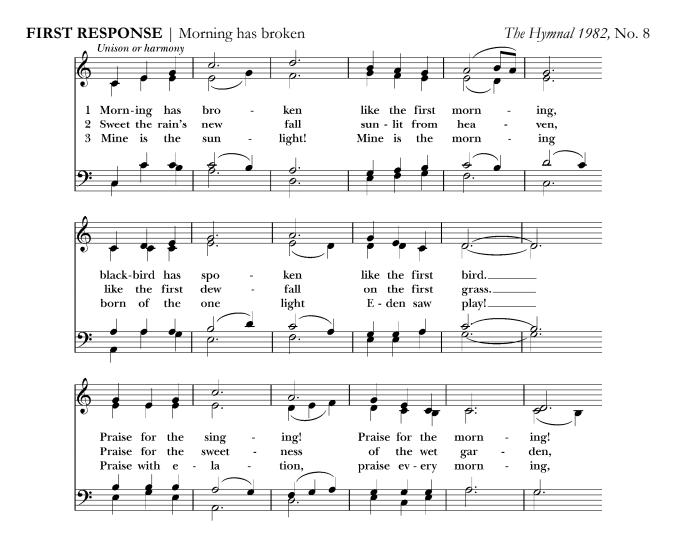
The Liturgy of the Word

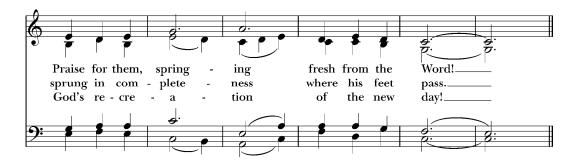
The Presider may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

FIRST READING The story of Creation | Genesis 1:1—2:4a

God shapes the formless void, creates the heavens and the earth, and sanctifies a day of rest once the divine work of creation is complete.





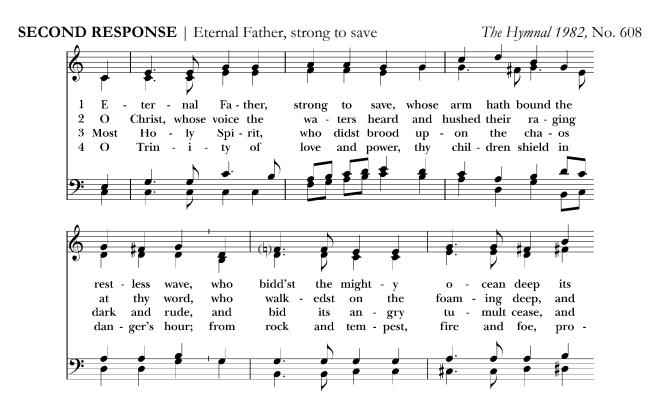
FIRST COLLECT

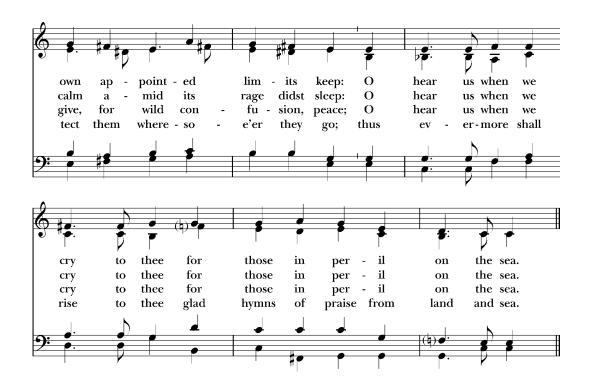
Let us pray. (Silence)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

SECOND READING The Flood | Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

God asks Noah to build an ark, and to fill the ark with pairs of every living animal, so that following the great flood, Noah and his family can help rebuild the world.





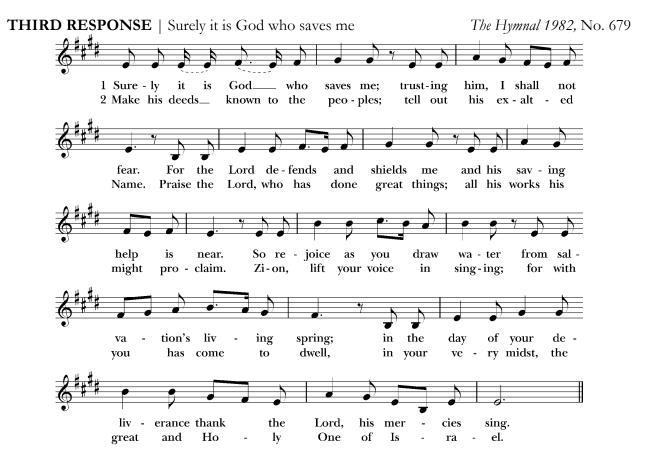
SECOND COLLECT

Let us pray. (Silence)

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

THIRD READING Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac | Genesis 22:1-18

God tests Abraham by asking to make a sacrifice of his only son, Isaac, and Abraham prepares to do so. God stops Abraham from killing the child, and rewards Abraham's obedience bhy making him the father of nations.

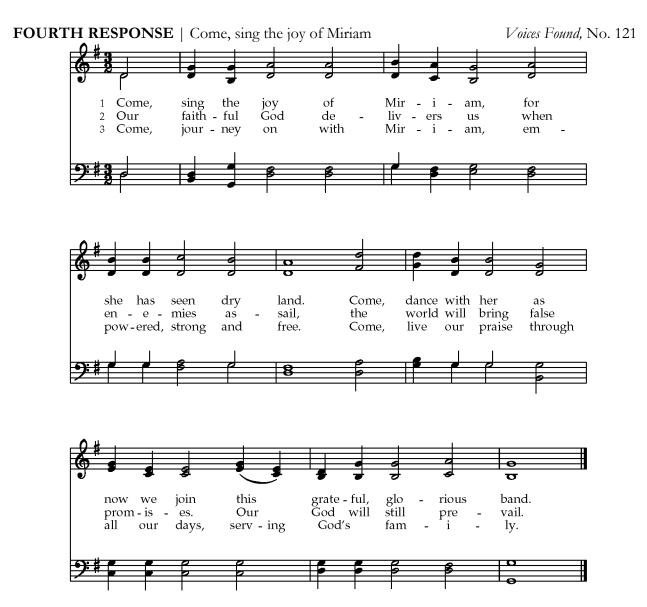


THIRD COLLECT

Let us pray. (Silence)

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

FOURTH READING Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea | Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 God delivers Israel from bondage. Moses leads them through the Red Sea, which is miraculously parted for them to walk through on dry land. Pharoah's army perishes when the sea engulfs them.



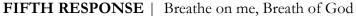
FOURTH COLLECT

Let us pray. (Silence)

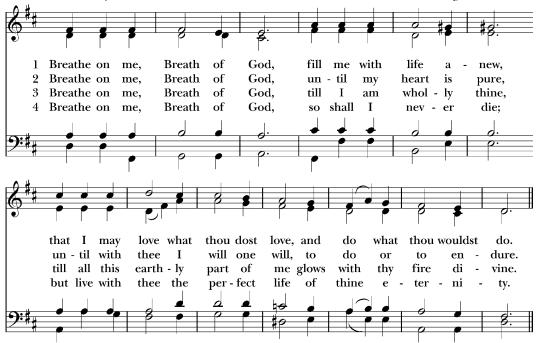
O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

FIFTH READING A new heart and a new spirit | Ezekiel 36:24-28

God promises to gather the nations, and to give them a new heart, and a new spirit.



The Hymnal 1982, No. 508



BAPTISMAL RENEWAL INVITATION

The Presider first addresses the people, all standing

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS (BCP p. 292)

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

At the Eucharist

EASTER ACCLAMATION

The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle.

The Presider then says to the people

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

ACCLAMATION HYMN | The strife is o'er, the battle done

The Hymnal 1982, No. 208





COLLECT FOR THE EASTER VIGIL

The Presider then says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

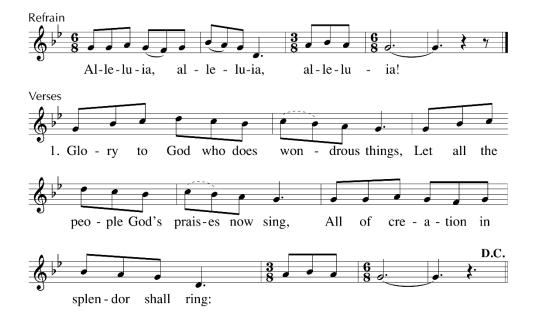
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Easter Alleluia

adapt. Marty Haugen

All stand.



THE HOLY GOSPEL | Matthew 28:1-10

All stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Daren Chidester

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All stand.

Washed in the waters of Christ's death and resurrection, that we might enter the community of faith, let us praise our Lord by offering our prayers and thanksgivings as we respond, "Hear us, O risen Christ."

Risen Lord, mold us into your new creation, that we may seek the radiance of your light as found in the lives of the saints, and as revealed through the generosity of our sisters and brothers; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Eternal Christ, help us journey through this life with compassion and vision, entering into the sufferings of the world, that we might know the depth of your truth and the dwelling place of your love; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Saving Lord, stretch out the strong arms of your grace and lift up those who are hungry and downtrodden, lonely and forgotten, so that all of humanity may be reconciled to you and to one another; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Christ our Passover, may the nations of the world seek after peace and thirst anew for the freedom of men and women everywhere; may we pass from domination to mutual trust, from economic intimidation to a responsible use of the world's resources, from thoughts of destruction to a respect for all life; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Jesus, Bread of Heaven, nourish us in this Holy Sacrament of your unending Presence, that we may become for one another your bread of hope and your cup of joy; let us pray.

Hear us, O risen Christ.

Jesus, Savior, Risen Lord, we thank you for all the blessings of this life: for family and friends who reveal your love, for those who have died in the faith, for those who have entered our communities through baptism, for all things which enliven our spirits, and especially for the Paschal Flame that outshines every darkness; let us pray. **Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Rejoicing in the garments of new life, let us continue our prayers. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray this week for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray this week for Emmanuel Church, Eastsound; and for Christ Church, Blaine. We pray for all those on the parish prayer lists of both St. Christopher's and St. John's, and for all those we name now, either silently or aloud.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

During Eastertide, the Confession of Sin is suppressed (omitted) as a sign of the redemption won for us by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

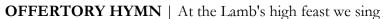
The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:15, 16

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | With a Voice of Singing

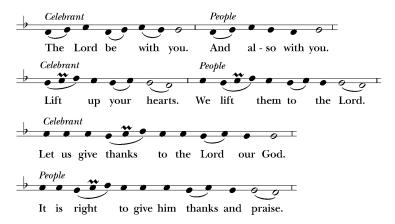
arr. Alice Carpenter



The Hymnal 1982, No. 174



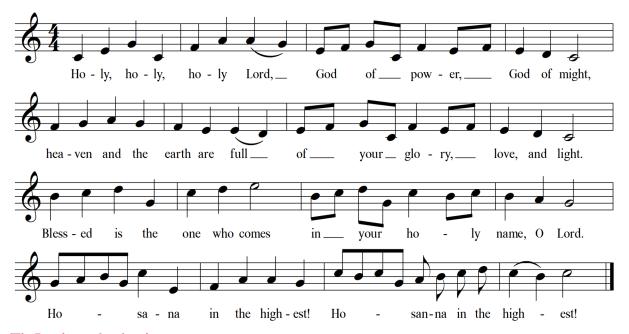
The Great Thanksgiving



It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,



The People stand or kneel.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so

that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Melissa, our Bishop Provisional, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with John, the patron of this house and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM | Jesus is Lord of all the earth

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

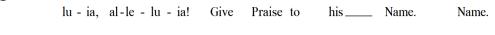
For thine is the kingdom,

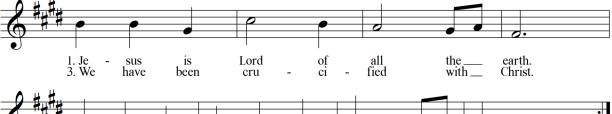
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread









The Presider then says

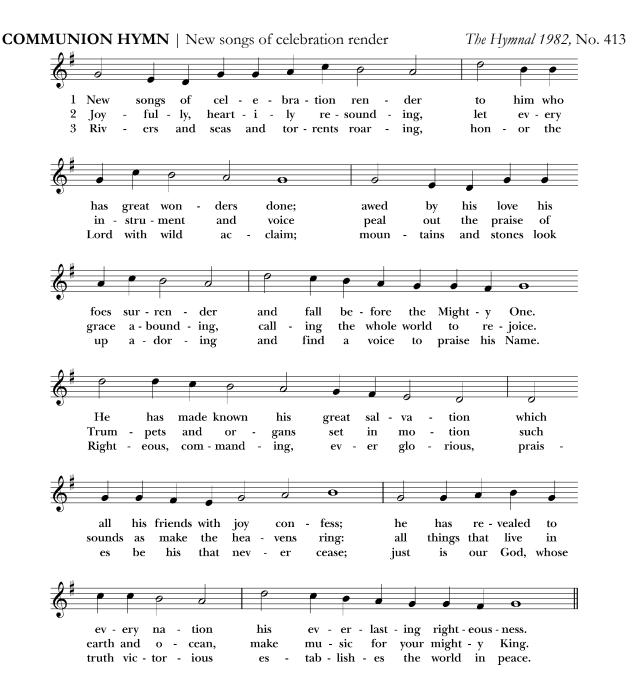
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Holy Things for Holy People.

COMMUNION SOLO | Christ lay in death's dark bonds but now he is arisen

J.S. Bach

The Hymnal 1982, No. 178



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANKSGIVINGS

THE EASTER BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen**.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen**.

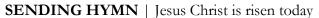
May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen**.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**.

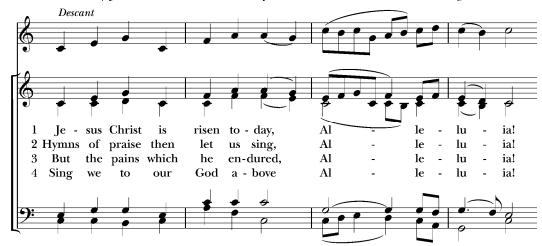
DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



The Hymnal 1982, No. 207





POSTLUDE | Praeludium in C

Dieterich Buxtehude

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