

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE:**

**WELCOME:**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:**

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



Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✝ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN: ELW 413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty**

**1** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**2** Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

**3** Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

**4** Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name  
in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

## 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.**

## KYRIE: ELW p.193



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



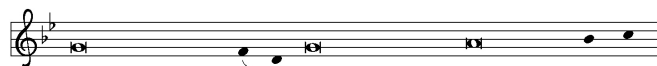
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



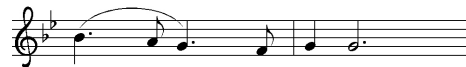
Lord, have mer - cy.



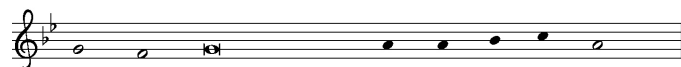
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ELW p.196

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

<sup>1</sup> Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

<sup>2</sup> Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of

all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, 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, al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Eternal and all-merciful God,

**with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might.**

**By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us**

**and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

#### WORD

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

### FIRST LESSON: Acts 9:1-20

<sup>1</sup> Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and

approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Christ Is Risen**

### **Refrain**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen, praise His name!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

His great love we now proclaim!

### **Verse**

See, the stone is rolled away,  
the silent tomb could not contain,  
Jesus Christ is risen indeed,

He lives and reigns, forevermore!

### **Refrain**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen, praise His name!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

His great love we now proclaim!

And in this Love we will remain

Text and music: Joni Van Rossum, ©2025

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: John 21:1-19**

<sup>1</sup> After he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem, Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON:** "Easter Eyes" – Rev. Andrea Cain

## SERMON HYMN: ELW 729 The Church of Christ in Every Age

**1** The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

**2** Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

**3** Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

**4** For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

**5** We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
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### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

#### PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We share a word of peace with our neighbors.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and ponds so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of local, national, and global leaders that their leadership guides the way forward to peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

<p><b>MEAL</b></p>
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<p><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p>
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**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.



*The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for the Water Drive for Grace Lutheran's summer heat respite program.*

*You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at [www.desertcross.org](http://www.desertcross.org) with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC:**

### **OFFERING RESPONSE: ELW 860 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (vs. 1 & 3)**

**1** I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

**3** When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.  
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Text: African American spiritual

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.  
**Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION:**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW p.129**

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, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW p.200**

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, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.*

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

### **LORD'S PRAYER: ELW p. 134**

**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:**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
All are welcome.

## LAMB OF GOD: ELW p. 201



## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

*Come forward to receive the bread/GF and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. Children may commune or receive a blessing. All are welcome.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: ELW 661 I Love to Tell the Story

**1** I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

### **Refrain**

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

**2** I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat

what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

**3** I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

## ELW 798 Will You Come and Follow Me

**1** "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?"

**2** "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?"

**3** "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,

and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"

**4** "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"

**5** Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

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

**Amen.**

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor +

And give you peace.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN: ELW 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vs. 1-4)

**1** Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation  
has redeemed us by his blood."

**2** Alleluia! Not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us;  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise:  
"I am with you evermore"?

**3** Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

**4** Alleluia! King eternal,  
Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.  
As within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest,  
here on earth both priest and victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

### DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE:

**Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission.**

**Here are the ways you can donate today:**

**ONLINE GIVING:**



Get your smart phone  
and scan the QR-code  
with your phone camera

**SECURE TEXT GIVING:**

Text "GIVE" to  
833-636-1502

**USPS:**

8600 S. McClintock Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85284

**Flower Donation:**

*The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by Buck & Suzanne Seeley in memory of their parents, Brooks & Reva Seeley and Curtis & Esther Spangler.*