

**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT
1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BAPTISM

EARTH DAY

APRIL 21, 2024

OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

Earth

Our rolling home spins
in an endless expanse
of wheels within wheels
with wheels of their own.

The birthplace of
our existence
a speck afloat
on seas unknown
a drop in an ocean
floating on oceans
where I have felt
stars at my feet
and echoes of you

in my own heartbeat. - Jim Gronvold

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont is a safe place for all people to
worship regardless of race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class, or ability.**

WELCOME

Lector *A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are gathering here at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont for the first time, or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Everything you need to follow along is found in your bulletin. Please refer to the printed announcements found in your bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship following the gathering.*

PREPARATION

Leader The Lord is with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

PRELUDE *Prelude on St. Columba – Healy Willan (1880-1968)*

*Assembly stands for the Gathering, Gathering hymn,
Sentence and Prayer of the Day.*

GATHERING

Pastor Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Pastor Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us. God is with us,
here we find new life.

Leader In this Easter season,
we celebrate that the powers of despair and destruction
do not have the final word;
that new life can still break out;
that love is stronger than death;
and that nothing can stop the life, hope,
and determination of Easter people.

Assembly **God of grace, we come today with Easter joy,
seeking to be a people of resurrection.**

**Gather us together now, form us into a community of your people,
and reveal to us the Holy One.**

Assembly **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

God Is Here!



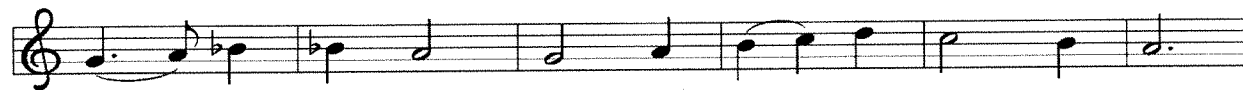
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,
for you are with me. - *Psalm 23:4*

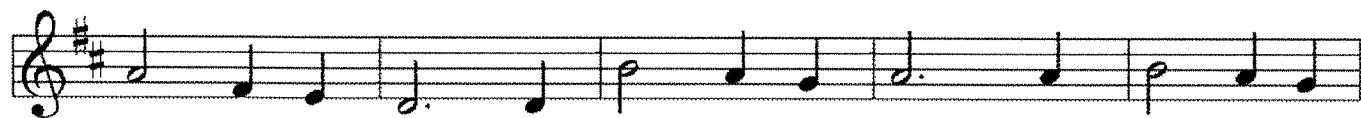
Pastor Loving God, we pray simply for peace on earth.
If in war we brought peace closer, strengthen our hope;
if we shared our bread with others, keep us generous;
if we dream of a better world, hear our prayer.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

HYMN OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



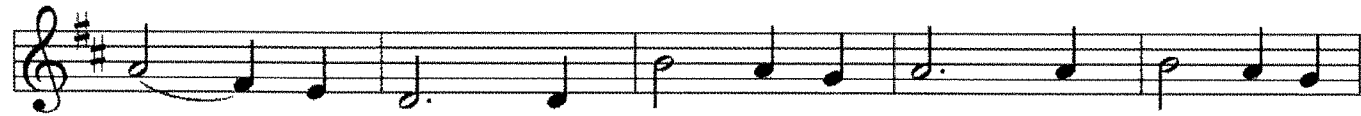
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



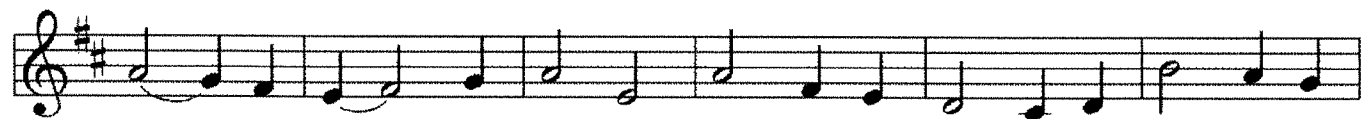
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



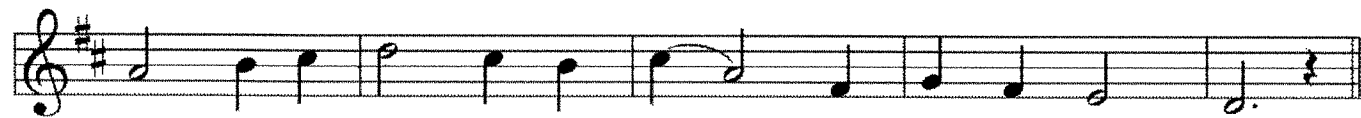
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



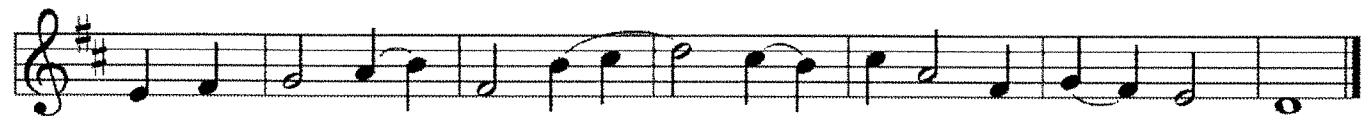
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



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.

The Assembly may be seated.

CELEBRATING EARTH

Lector We light this candle for the land, sea and sky.

A Candle is lit.

Pastor We remember the richness of Planet Earth:
**Assembly mountains unfolding to desert and plain,
seas swaying to the rhythm of tides,
skies reflecting the colors of light.**

Lector We light this candle for the creatures of Earth.

A second Candle is lit.

Pastor We remember creatures of land, air, and sea:
**Assembly horses running for the joy of living,
parrots chatting on roofs and branches,
dolphins leaping from sea to sky.**

Lector We light this candle for the fruits of Earth.

A third Candle is lit.

Pastor We remember fruits of the land:
**Assembly grasses bursting with nourishing grain,
flowers exuding color and fragrance,
trees renewing the sweetness of air.**

Lector We light this candle for humanity.

A fourth Candle is lit.

Pastor We remember all sages and prophets:
**Assembly through them recalling the power of love;
through them reclaiming a spirit of compassion;
through them embracing Earth and each other.**

A READING FROM THE BIBLE Acts 4:5-12

Lector A reading from the Book of Acts.

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” *continued >*

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
 “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

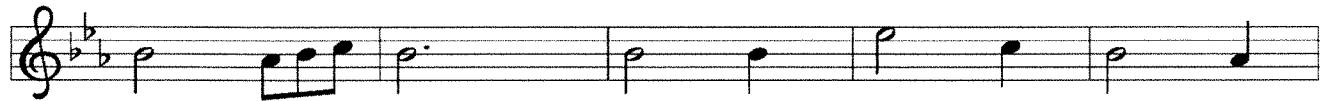
Assembly Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 23

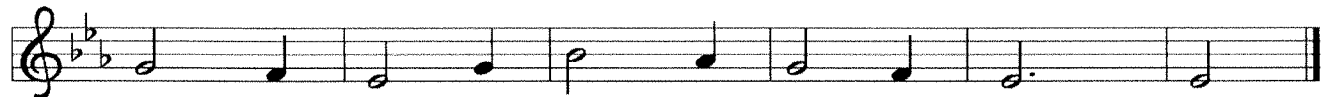
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
 Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Worship Assistant *May Every Creature Abound* - The Buddha. from *Life Prayers*

May every creature abound in well-being and peace.
May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small
The short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great
May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off,
Those nearby, those already born, those waiting to be born
May all attain inward peace.
Let no one deceive another
Let no one despise another in any situation
Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all.
Just as a mother, with her own life,
protects her only son from hurt
So within yourself foster a limitless concern
for every living creature.
Display a heart of boundless love for all the world
In all its height and depth and broad extent
Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity
Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie,
until overcome by drowsiness
Devote your mind entirely to this,
it is known as living here life divine.

SECOND READING 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Lector Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Pastor Reading from the Holy Gospel as written to us by Luke.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Pastor The Good News according to John.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated for the sermon

THE SERMON

The assembly stands for the hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
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BAPTISM *See insert.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lector Let us pray for those far and near, people and places, powerful and powerless, all for whom we are concerned.

You may be seated, or you may kneel for prayer.

OFFERING *The Offering plates are at the front and back entrances.*

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Jesus, Good Shepherd* (Ps 23) - Bradley Ellingboe

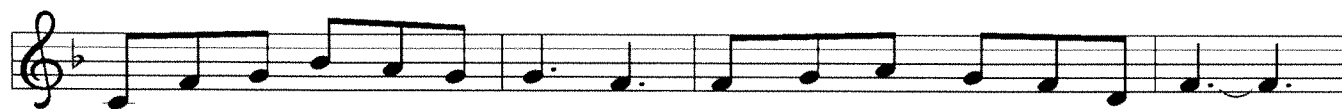
The assembly stands for the Hymn.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
 blessing us with gifts to share.

Assembly **Blessed be God forever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor God's hope is in us. Lift up your hearts.

Assembly We lift them up to God.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Pastor It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God our Creator and Lover.

You make all things and call them good.

You love us into being, you form us in your image and breathe into us the breath of life.

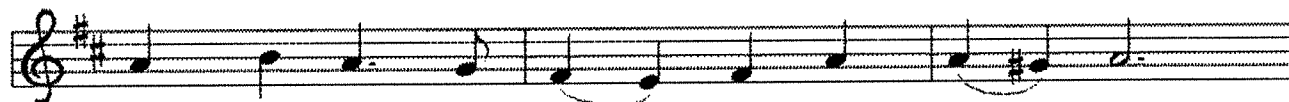
When we turn away, and our love fails, your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from captivity and bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey. You set before us the way of life.

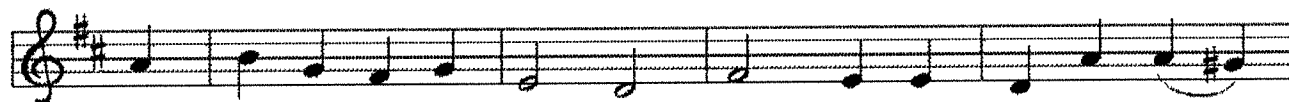
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

Pastor Holy God, we honor you in whom our lives are founded, and in whom our futures lie.

We remember and honor also the human searching over the centuries that has perceived your presence in life, and your meaning for all of life.

Above all we honor Jesus, our Christ, whose life, and death, as his resurrection reveal to us, the full nature of your being and the potential nature of ours.

We remember that, on the night before his death,
Jesus, as he'd always done, gathered his friends for a common meal.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread
and gave some to each one, saying:

“Take, eat: This is my body given for you and for everyone.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took a 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 which is shed for you and for
everyone. Drink this in remembrance of me.”

Pastor In light of this, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Assembly Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ's spirit renews our lives.

Pastor Holy God, may our hearts and minds be alive to what is sacred
in these symbols of bread and wine. May they open us to your guidance
and to your love for us, for all humankind, and for all life on this earth.
This is our hope, our common will, and the expression of our love and
trust in Jesus, our Christ.

**Assembly Blessing and honor and glory be yours,
here and everywhere now and forever. Amen.**

THE OUR FATHER

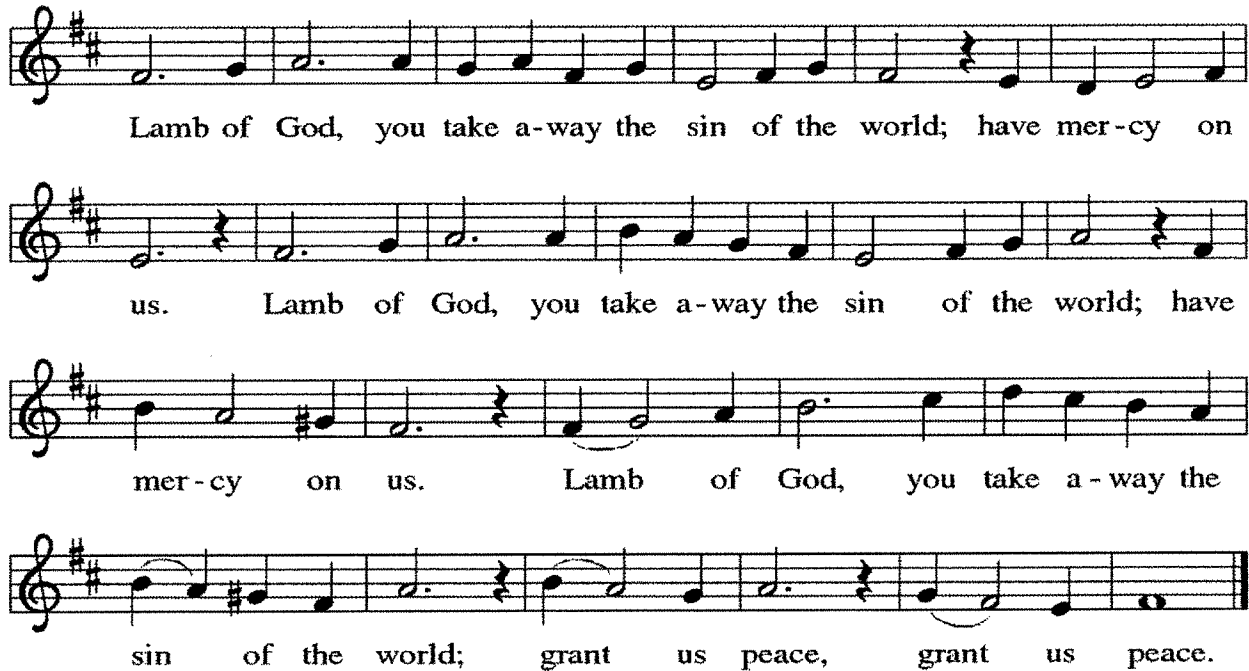
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

Assembly **God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

Assembly is seated.



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.

THE INVITATION

Pastor Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE BREAD AND WINE

The assembly is invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. The pastor will place the bread in your hand and the worship leader will offer you a chalice of wine or grape juice.

*Simply touch the bread to the wine
and return to your seat using the side aisle.*

If you do not wish to receive communion you may come forward for a blessing.

*If you have difficulty coming forward,
please inform the Pastor before the service, sit in the front pews
or raise your hand during communion.*

and the bread and wine will be brought to you.

Children who have not received communion may come forward for a blessing.

Hymns during Communion

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart – #484

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us – #789

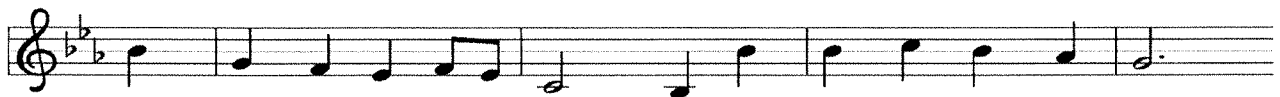
The assembly stands as they are able.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

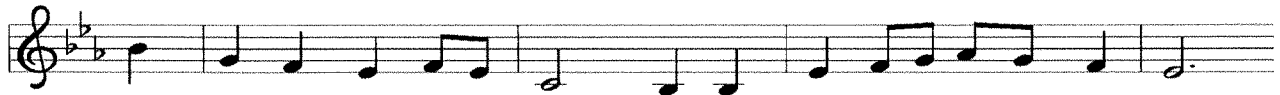
Pastor May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
 we who drink his cup bring life to others;
 we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so, we and all your children shall be free,
 and the whole earth to praise your name.

Assembly Amen.

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



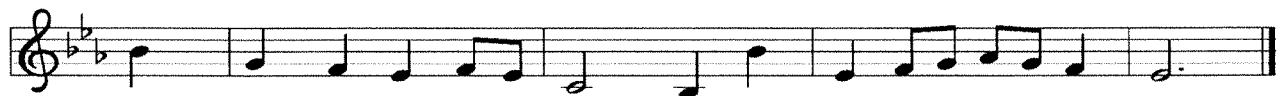
1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes and touched with our
 hands; the word of life in whom our joy is complete: send us out to
 declare your truth, your unshakeable faith in the world you love.

Assembly Amen.

SENDING HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor Now may the blessings of life
 be upon us, and upon this Gathering.
 May the memories we gather here give us hope for the future.
 May the love that we share
 bring strength and joy to our hearts,
 and the peace of this community be with us
 until we meet again.

 The blessings of God, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 be with you and remain with you always.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

DISMISSAL

Leader Alleluia. Alleluia.
 Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Assembly Amen. We go in the power of love. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in G* – John Stanley (1712-1786)

Fellowship

*Coffee and tea are now served in Laros Hall (upstairs).
You are invited to share in this time of fellowship.*

Simply Cherish the Earth

Regardless of our differences, there are a host of affirmations that we embrace as the basis for our faith. Whatever we think the holy may be, Creation itself is holy. We make no distinctions between the natural and the supernatural, the secular and the sacred. We simply cherish the earth and all its creatures, the stars in all their glory. Life's gifts are available to everyone, not just the chosen or the saved. Only human artifice or blind ill fortune can separate us from the source of our blessings. That which is Divine, Precious, or Profound is made evident not in the miraculous or otherworldly, but in the simple and the everyday. We look not to the heavens or an afterlife for our meaning, but to the exuberance of this life's unfolding. Human beings themselves are responsible for the planet and its future. Social and environmental justice is a religious obligation. The future is never fated. - *William F Schulz*