REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving Absecon - Galloway Township
Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor
Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / 10:00 AM

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

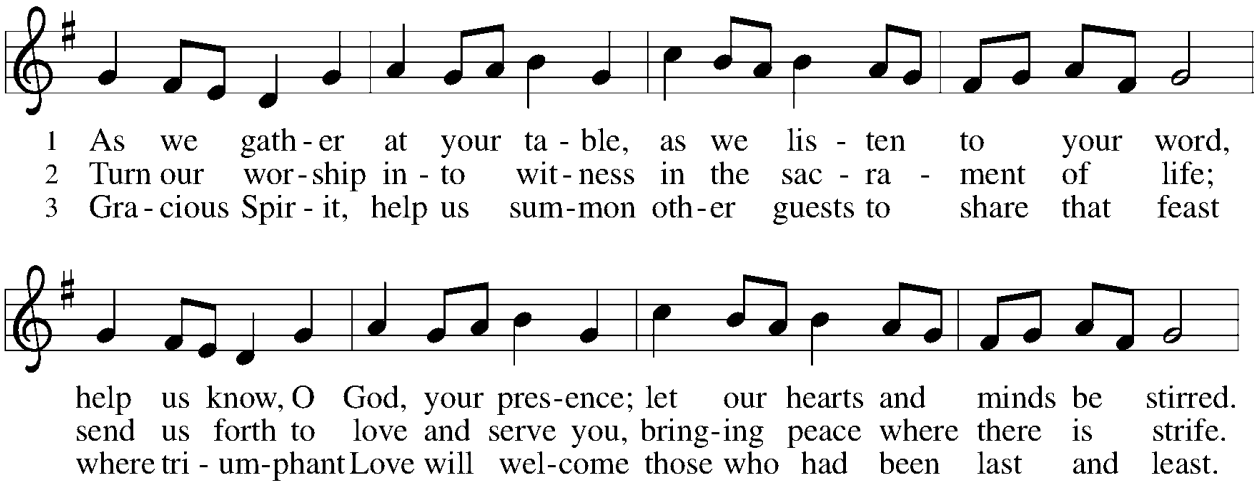
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

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

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.
Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.
Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

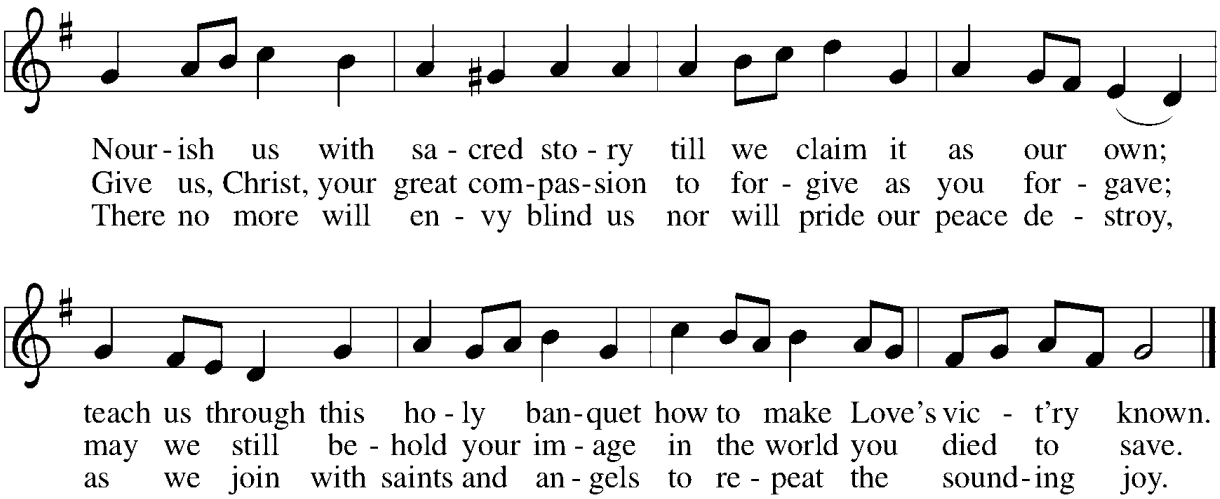
* OPENING SONG

As We Gather at Your Table



… song continues …

*** - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)**



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710
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*** GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

Let us pray: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 *(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

[1]I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
[2]**for the LORD has given ear to me**
whenever I called.
[3]The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
[4]**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
[12]How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
[13]**I will lift the cup of salvation**
and call on the name of the LORD.
[14]I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
[15]**Precious in your sight, O LORD,**
is the death of your servants.

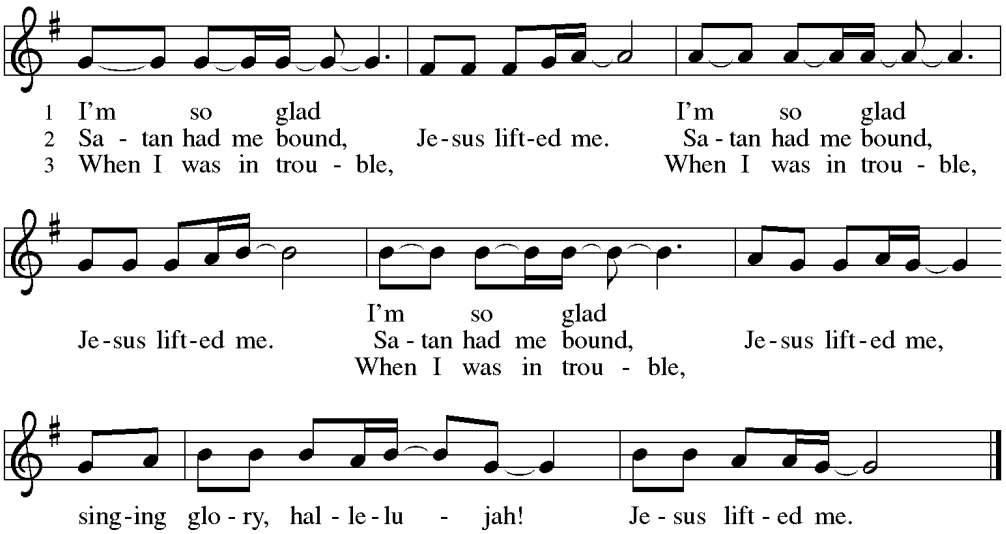
(psalm continues…)

[16]O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
[17]**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving**
and call upon the name of the LORD.
[18]I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
[19]**in the courts of the LORD's house,**
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23 *(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



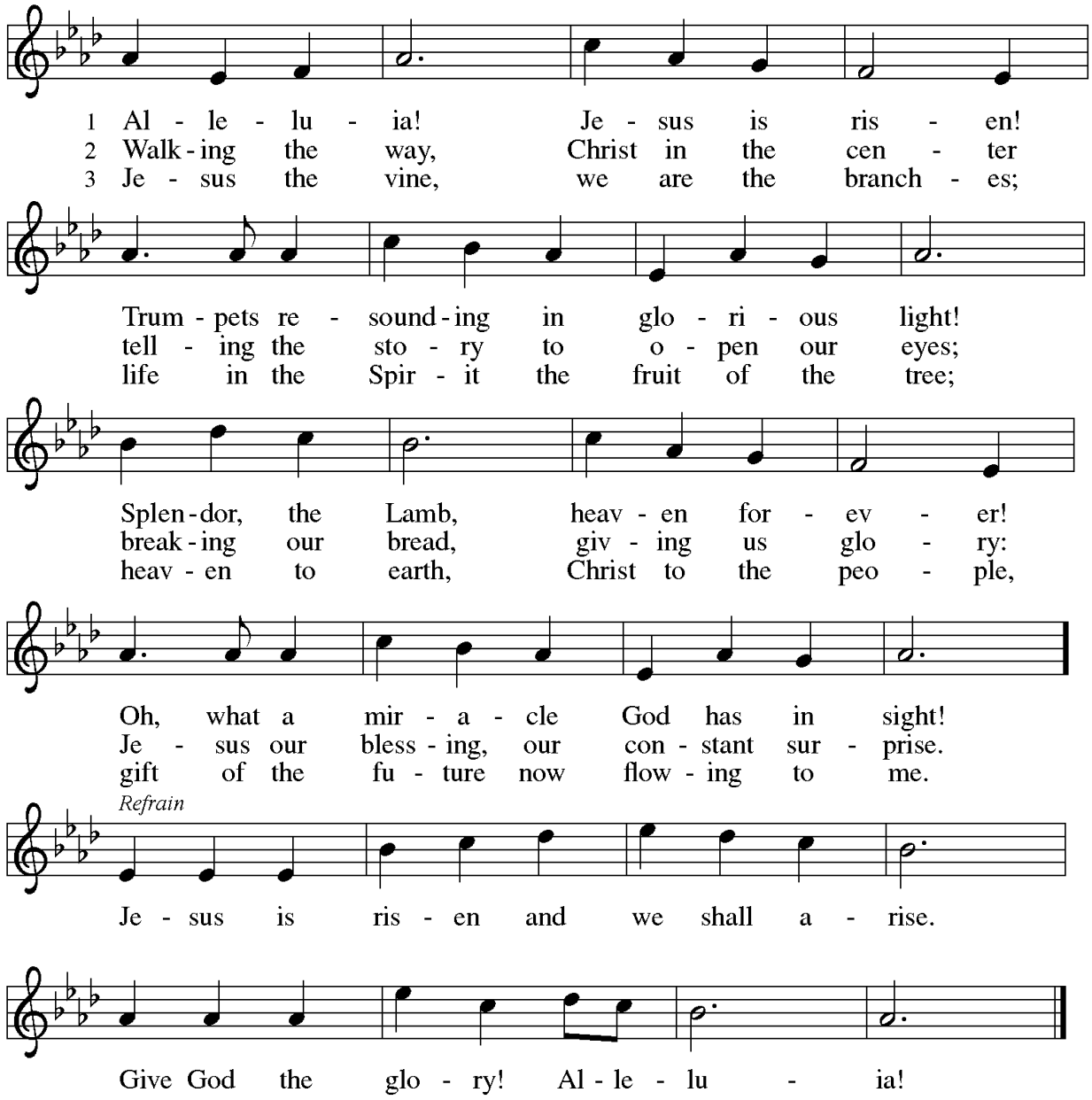
Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

*** THE WORD OF GOD: Luke 24:13-35**
A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke:
(*for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*
Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*** NICENE CREED**

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.
Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives (*like Toyohiko Kagawa, whom we commemorate today*). Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who horde resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

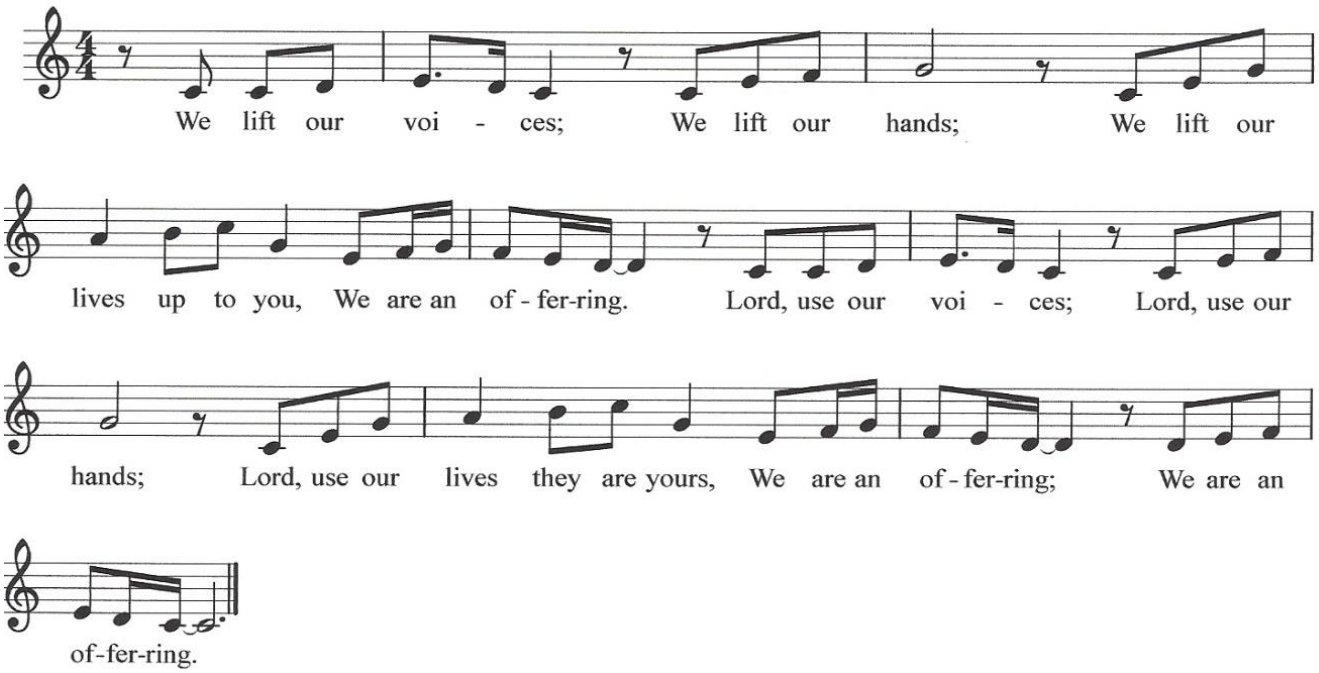
We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints (*especially*). As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**
The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

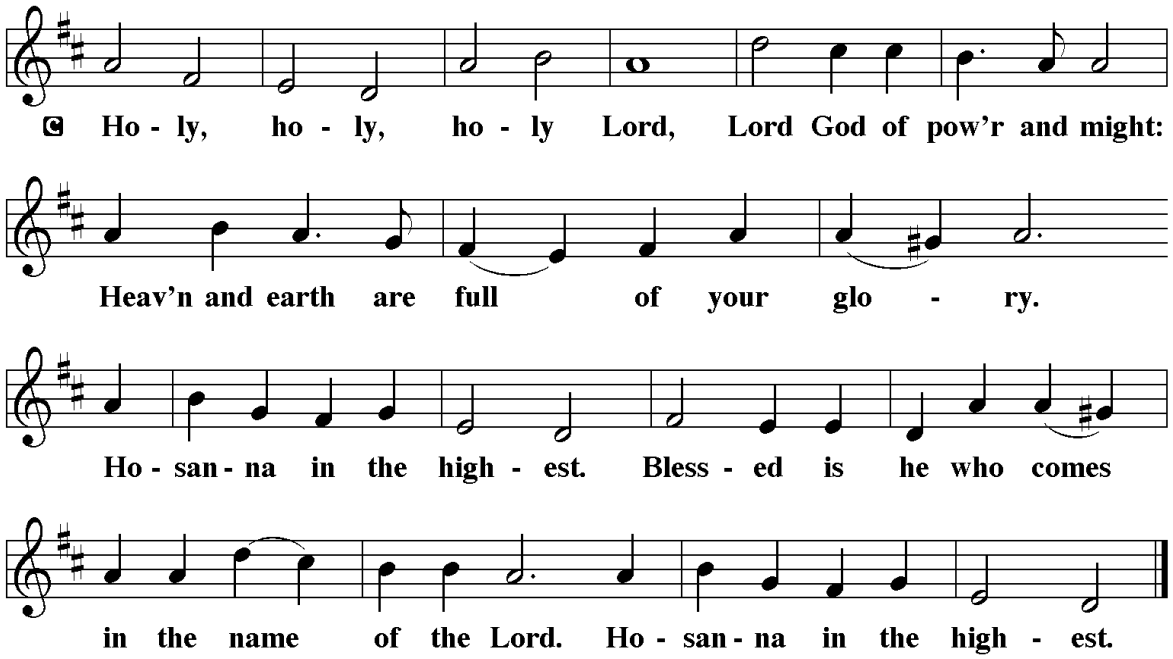
OFFERING/SPECIAL MUSIC

*** OFFERING SONG**



*** OFFERING PRAYER**
Let us pray: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**
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 him thanks and praise.
It is indeed right and salutary…*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the* ***day or season, concluding:)*** we praise your name and join their unending hymn**:**



*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

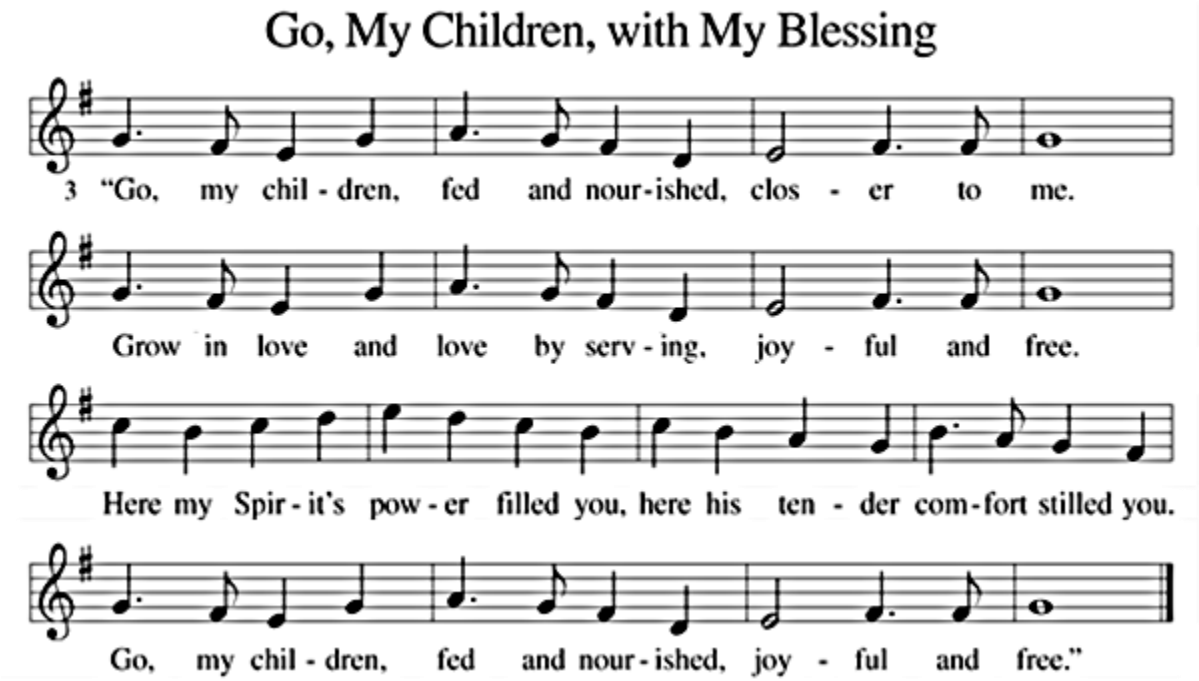
(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive the elements. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

*** POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen

*** POST COMMUNION HYMN**



*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

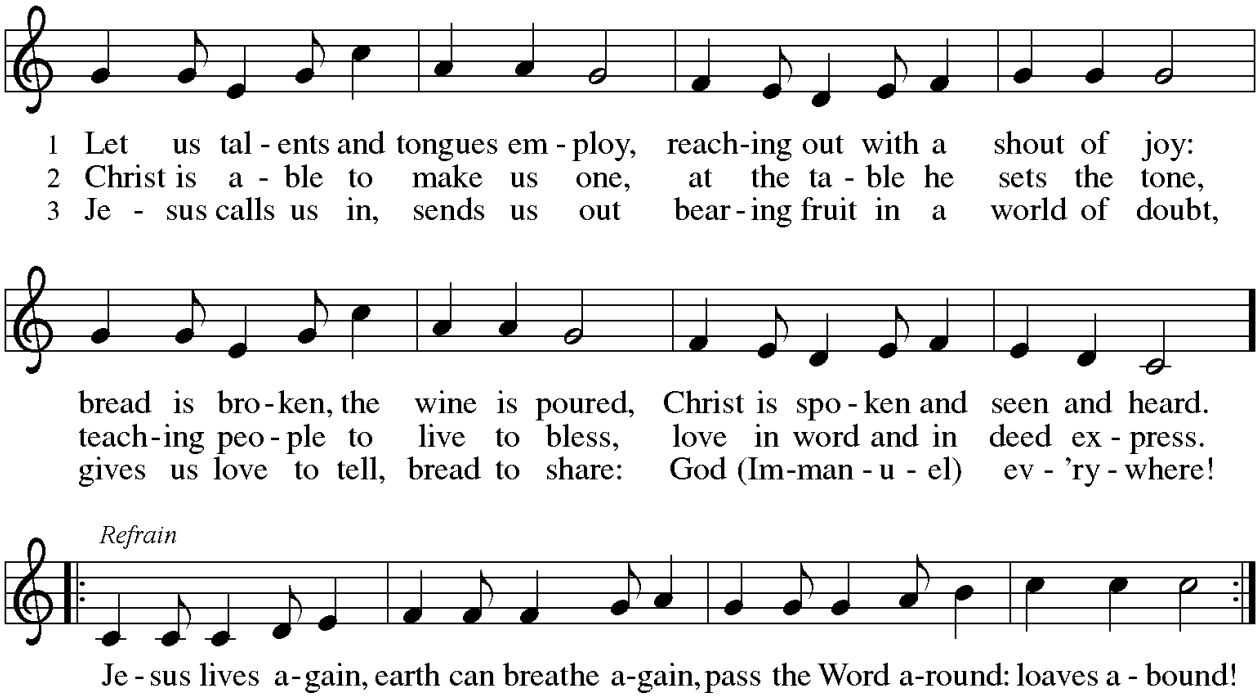
*** BLESSING**

And now a blessing: The God of all, who raised ✢ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS!!!

*** CLOSING SONG**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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*** SENDING**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

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