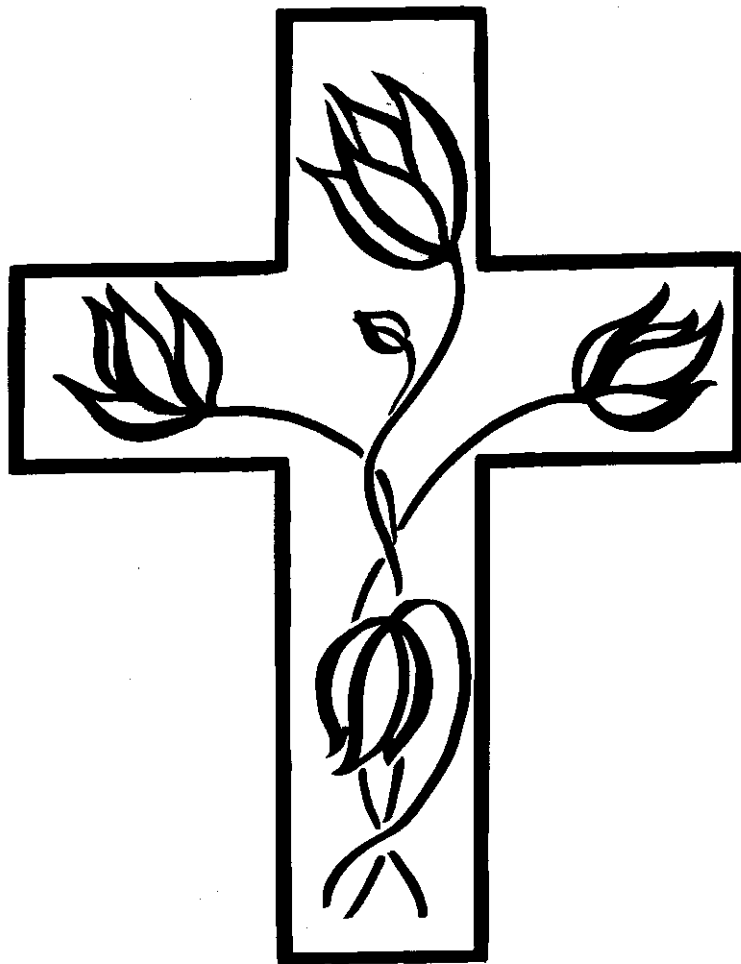


Zion Lutheran Church

Oldwick, New Jersey



Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

WELCOME!

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the seasonal worship booklet. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel, and hymn numbers, and the hymns can be found in the red (ELW) and purple (ACS) hymnals. Children's activity bags are available in the narthex. Please let an usher know if you would like one. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active, and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless and feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world.
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... giving 11% of our budget to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

WORSHIPING IN THE SEASON OF EASTER

Easter is the crown of the liturgical year and lasts seven weeks. Easter is one extended feast. The Ascension and the following Sundays are a continuation of the Easter celebration. The 40-day period of preparation for Easter is succeeded by the 50 days of rejoicing.

- + **The color for Easter** is white which symbolizes victory and purity and is the color of the resurrection. White traditionally suggests gladness, light, and joy.
- + **The tone of the liturgy** and hymns are joyful. The use of the word "alleluia" (which means "praise God") and the Hymn of Praise return on Easter Sunday. We confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- + **During Easter, the Paschal Candle burns next to the baptismal font.** The candle is a sign of the presence of the risen Christ and remains burning through the Day of Pentecost.
- + **The Thanksgiving for Baptism** replaces the confession during this celebratory season.

CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT ZION

TO THE PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. We claim the noise and activity of children as a sign of a healthy church. Children will always be welcome here!
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the part of the service and the actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

- The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.
- Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please stand, as you are able.

ENTRANCE HYMN *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"* ELW 365

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

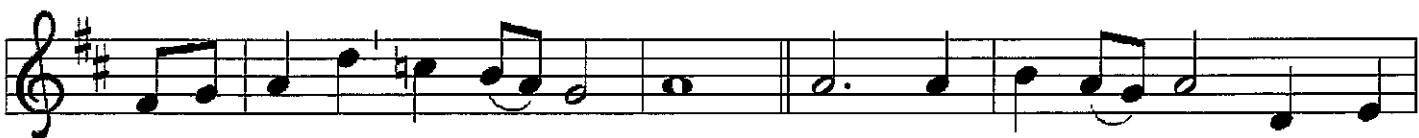


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

(continued on next page)

Refrain



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



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 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.

Refrain



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



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



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



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

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDRENS' TIME

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Now the Green Blade Rises"* ELW 379

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green. *(see next page)*

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may
say, "Peace be with you."*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:30 a.m.

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Brian Pepe and Doug Vail, trumpet

11:00 a.m.

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

K. Lee Scott

O sons and daughters of the King whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on high, sing forth this holy Easter
day: Christ Jesus lives again! Alleluia!

On that first morning of the week the Marys went their Lord to seek
before the day began to break.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high, sing forth this holy Easter
day: Christ Jesus lives again! Alleluia!

An angel bade their sorrow flee, for thus he spoke unto the three:

"Your Lord is gone to Galilee."

Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high. Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is
ris'n, the Lord is ris'n indeed!

On this most holy day of days to God your hearts and voices raise in
laud and jubilee and praise.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on high, sing forth this holy Easter
day: Christ Jesus lives again! Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Please stand, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we
offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses
in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

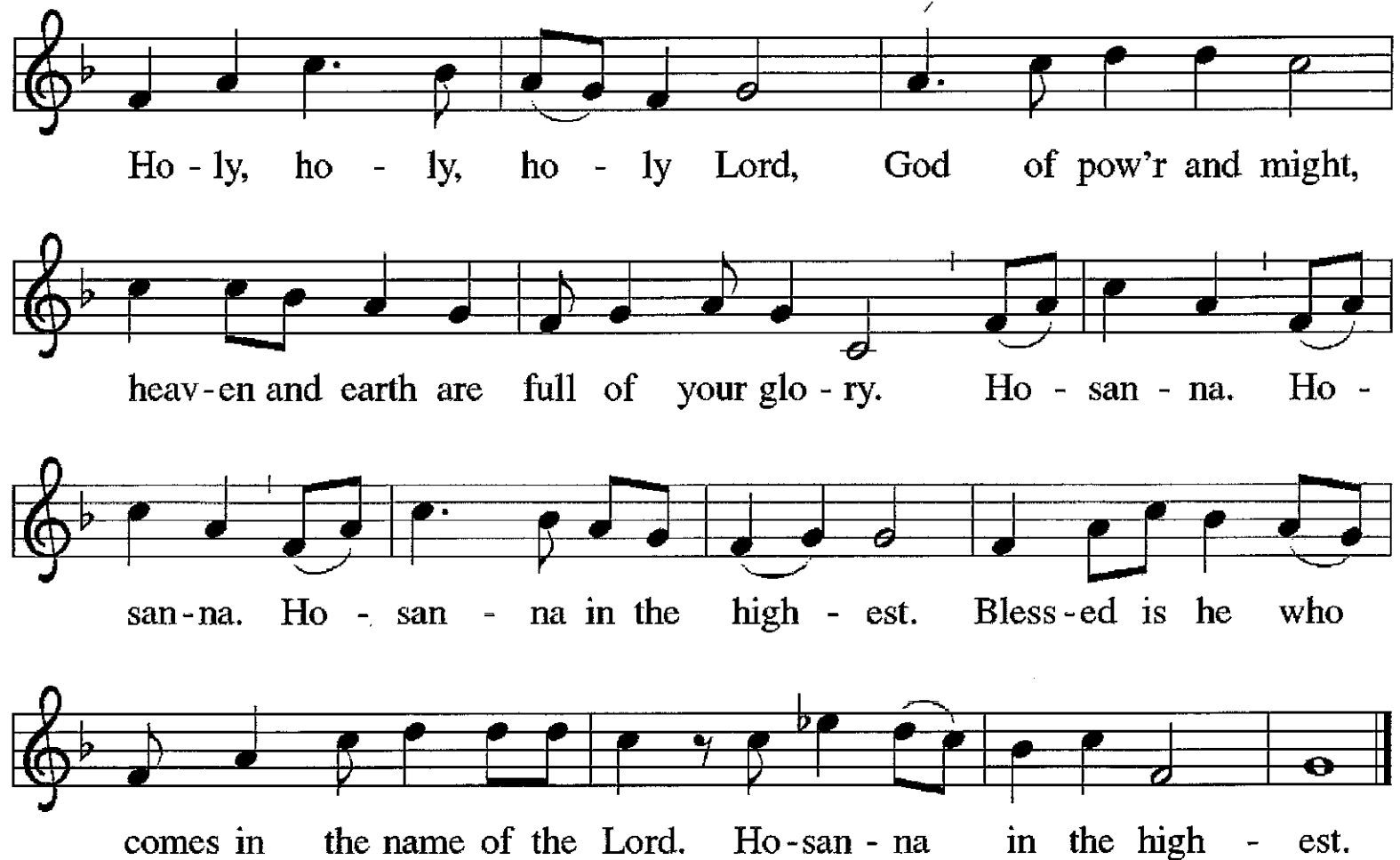
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward for communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand and may take an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

8:30 a.m.

"Easter Proclamation"

Bell Choir

11:00 a.m. *"In Christ Alone"* Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought
and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled,
when strivings cease.

My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe!

The gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for
ev'ry sin on him was laid.

Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand.

'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand!

Please stand, as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Thine is the Glory"

ELW 376

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!**

- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! **Refrain**
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Easter flowers have been given by:

Nova Ahrens & Lou DiCriscio

David & Elizabeth Blackwood
*in memory of Vera Vorwick and
Ruth Blackwood*

William & Christine Clark
in memory of loved ones

Eleanor & Bill Kover
*in honor of our family, friends, and
neighbors*

Terry Langone
*in memory of Mildred & Max Kilty
and Jean & Peter Langone*

John & Jann McAleer
in memory of loved ones

Rebecca Melick & Josh Bryan

John & Wendy Minerowicz
In celebration of family

Marjorie Mitchell

Gordon & Bonnie Nicholas
to the glory of God

Darlene & Ron Schiffel
in memory of our loved ones

Joanne Rupp
in memory of Ron Rupp

Michele & Todd Stevens
in memory of Judy Oakley