Full Service Bulletin



HOLY COMMUNION APRIL 7, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Prepare us to receive His body and blood, that abiding in Him, and He in us, we may be filled with the power of His endless life. Amen.

CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

INTRODUCTION

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. Like Thomas we have doubts, but Jesus shows Himself to us and renews our faith. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION



4 Our restless spirits yearn for thee, Where'er our changeful lot is cast; Glad, when thy gracious smile we see, Blest, when our faith can hold thee fast. Sh

O Jesus, ever with us stay; Make all our moments calm and bright; Chase the dark night of sin away,

Shed o'er the world thy holy light. Amen.

Ascribed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153 Tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–87

INVOCATION (= All may make the sign of the cross.)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, God, Who calls us beloved children, Who gathers us into one flock, Who guides us into all truth.
C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: If we claim to be to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sins, for God is faithful and just and will forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

- P: Faithful and just God, C: we confess our sin. We are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways of darkness that lead to death. We confess our failure to live fully the good news of the resurrection. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved one another as You have loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let Your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new; that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, and know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. AMEN.
- P: This is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.
 C: AMEN.

GREETING (*Please rise.*)

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)

HYMN OF PRAISE "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (SBH # 106 1st tune)



- 3 All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying
 From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.
 Neither might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark portal,
 Nor the watchers, nor the seal, Hold thee as a mortal;
- 4 But today amidst the Twelve Thou didst stand, bestowing That thy peace, which evermore Passeth human knowing.
 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness;
 God hath brought his Israel Into joy from sadness.

St. John of Damascus, VIII cent. Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together: C: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the festival of our Lord's resurrection. May we, who have not seen, have faith in you despite our doubts. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 133

(congregation reads indented)

How good and pleasant it is

when brothers live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head,

running down on the beard,

running down on Aaron's beard,

down upon the collar of his robes.

It is as if the dew of Hermon

were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the LORD bestows His blessing,

even life forevermore.

(Please sit.)

PRAISE SONG "Getting Used to the Family of God" (Maj # 345 - Gloria & William J. Gaither)



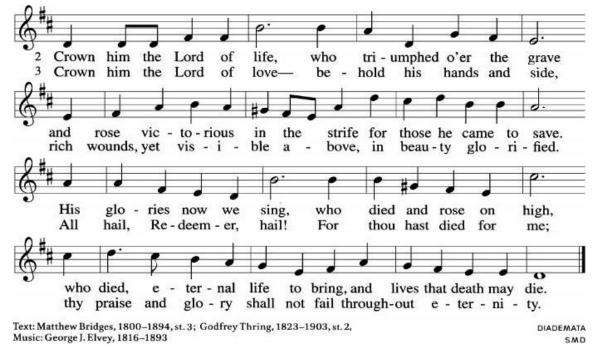
WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING....Acts 4:32-35......p. 1697 P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING....1 John 1:1-2:2......p. 1898 P: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please rise.)

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" verse 2 (SBH # 431 - favorite)



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th Chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.
GOSPEL....John 20:19-31......Pg. 1686
P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION verse 3 (Young children go to Children's Church)

SERMON (*Please sit. See notes box in Announcements insert.*) "Powerful Evidence for Faith"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY (*Please rise.*) "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" (ELW # 382 - Text: John S. Monsell; Tune: Frederick C. Maker)



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father 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; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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, Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Please kneel.*)

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Please rise.)

- P: The LORD be with you. C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the LORD.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for He is the true Passover Lamb Who gave Himself to take away our sin, Who by His death has destroyed death, and by His 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: *"Alleluia" (Michael W. Smith)*



PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all those who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, and into these gifts of bread and wine, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: AMEN. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Holy Spirit.

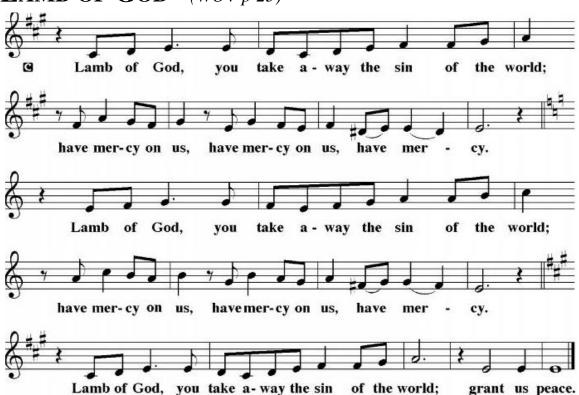
P: Remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

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. AMEN.

COMMUNION (*Please be seated*)

All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.



LAMB OF GOD (WOV p 25)

COMMUNION HYMNS (sung while others are receiving.) 1. "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" (ELW # 377)



 "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen" (RW # 191 - Text: Susan Palo Cherwien; Tune: John Goss)



(10:45 - Communion visitors comes forward during last verse.)

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

SENDING OF COMMUNION (*Please rise.*) (10:45)

L: Let us pray together: C: Eternal God, Whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord: Bless those who go forth to share Your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In Your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of Your Son, that we may all feast upon Your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING (Please rise.)

P: The God of all grace, Who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit now and forever. **C: AMEN.**

SENDING HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (ELW # 815 - favorite - Kathleen Thomerson)

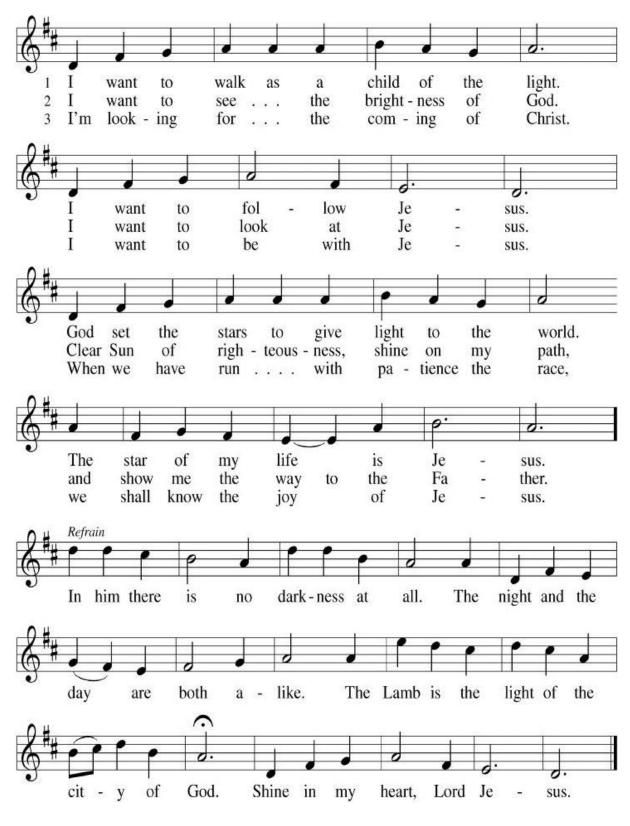
PASSING THE PEACE

- L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.





Holy Cross to the glory of God

APRIL 7, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Sally Stein / 10:45-Irene Graham LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer SONG LEADER: 8:30-Bella Zyskowski LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker LECTOR: 8:30-Ruthann Kistler / 10:45-Lyn Stryker CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Irene Graham COMMUNION SERVER: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker COMMUNION VISITORS: Pastor David, Sharon Branigan ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker, VOLUNTEER COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker GRASS CUTTERS: Sam Glassmire, Rich Stein **HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry PHONETREE:** Jonathan Mosebach PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski PRAYER CARE: call Sharon Branigan (610) 691-8809

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 Office (610) 867-6231 † Holycrossoffice@rcn.com Preschool (610) 867-9735 † Holycrosspastor@rcn.com www.holycrossbethlehem.com or www.holycrossbethlehem.life

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, Pastor†Ruthann Kistler, Christian Ed. Dir.Nancy Cook, Music Director†Jonathan Mosebach, Office SecretaryVolunteers Needed, Sexton†Karen Steiner, Pre-schoolLisa Wechsler, Treasurer†Glade Schroeter, Webmaster

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM (Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

Hymns used by permission of OneLicense.net #A-714282.

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Liturgy adapted from With One Voice Copyright 1995 by Augsburg Fortress, and Sundays and Seasons Copyright 2009 by Augsburg Fortress.