

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Lord of Life, submitting to death, you conquered the grave. By being lifted on a cross, you draw all peoples to you. By being raised from the dead, you restore to humanity all that we had lost through sin. Throughout these fifty days of Easter we proclaim the marvelous mystery of death and resurrection. For all praise is yours, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

arr. Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Property

Adopt a Plot

Pam Dennewitz

Pause for Poetry

Jacquie D'Angelo

Introit “Christ Has Arisen”

Tanzanian melody

Christ has arisen to set us free.

Alleluia, to him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing;

He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage. I have conquered the world!"

People: In Christ, sin and death are conquered, and God's eternal victory proclaimed.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the cosmic triumph of God in Christ that sets both us and the whole world free.

People: God rules and reigns in the heavens and on earth.

Leader: And in Jesus whom God has raised, we can find victorious life and peace.

People: Let us, with gladness in our hearts, worship our God of salvation.

***Hymn**

"Morning Has Broken"

#664

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

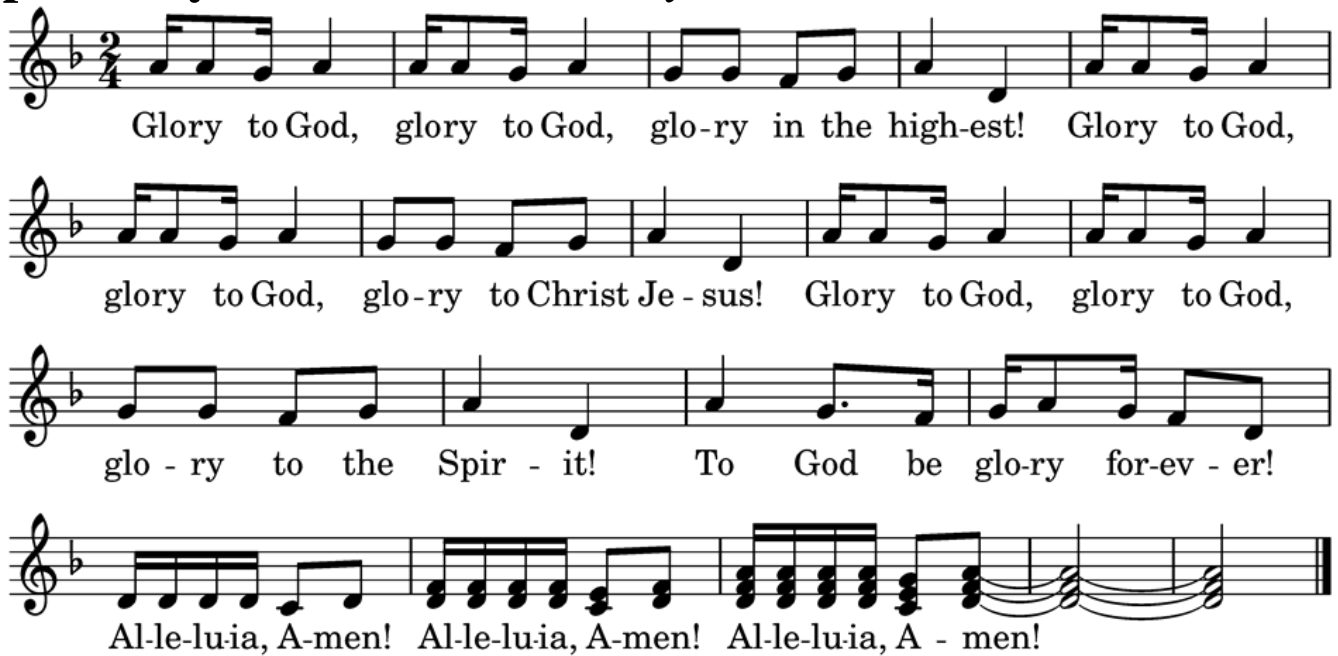
Victorious God, we have seen evidence of your redeeming purpose and power in the raising of Jesus from death. Yet in the midst of the strife, desperation, war, hunger, and injustice in the world, we often wonder where you are and when your victory will come. When we watch the evening news on television, we are tempted to despair of the ultimate triumph of good. Yet in our own lives we have seen your goodness, have experienced your victory on our behalf. In Christ you have come to defeat our fear and hold back the darkness. But the thanks we offer for your deliverance in answer to our prayer is often short-lived. Forgive us for doubting that you are in control and that you have spoken the final word in Jesus, the saving Word of Life and Truth. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

#585



Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!
Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 John 3:1-7

Choir Anthem “The Prayer”

arr. Tom Fettke, 2008

We pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go.

And teach us to be wise in times when we don't know.

Let this be our prayer when we lose our way.

Lead us to the place, guide us with your grace

To a place where we'll be safe

We pray we'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts.

As darkness falls each night, remind us where you are.

Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day.

Lead us to the place, guide us with your grace,

Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us, Lord, lead us in your righteousness;

Make your way plain for us to see.

We pray we'll find your light and hold it in our hearts

As darkness falls each night, remind us where you are.

Let this be our prayer, just like every child

Needs to find a place, guide us with your grace.

Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Lead us to the place, guide us with your grace,

To a place where we'll be safe. Lead us, Lord.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Identifying Marks”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Second Helvetic Confession (5.073)

CHRIST IS TRULY RISEN FROM THE DEAD. We believe and teach that the same Jesus Christ our Lord, in his true flesh in which he was crucified and died, rose again from the dead, and that not another flesh was raised other than the one buried, or that a spirit was taken up instead of the flesh, but that he retained his true body. Therefore, while his disciples thought they saw the spirit of the Lord, he showed them his hands and feet which were marked by the prints of the nails and wounds, and added: “See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see, for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

***Hymn**

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

#231

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response** “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (refrain)

#240

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God’s People

***Closing Hymn** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

#263

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** “We Are the Church”

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff has the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff has the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!". The music consists of simple, rhythmic patterns suitable for congregational singing.

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***Postlude** “The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done” arr. Victor C. Johnson

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Steven A. Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Stephanie Parrott

Stephanie and David have been married for 3 years. She graduated from Iowa State University with a PhD in chemistry. They moved to London in the summer of 2020. They love to garden, ride their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London, and love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year old Staffordshire Terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit).