

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Worship Aid for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:15 am

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*Love God, Love People, Make Disciples*

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*Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.*

*Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people.*

*We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.*

**You may reach the office at [Nativity@NativityMN.org](mailto:Nativity@NativityMN.org) or 952-435-8687**

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership  
 The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector  
 The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest  
 The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon  
 Chloe Hrbacek, Parish Office Coordinator  
 Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister  
 Charlotte McLendon, Organist  
 Jean Hines, Children and Youth Minister

Nate Gooden, Senior Warden  
 Theresa May, Junior Warden  
 Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306  
 nativitymn.org; 952-435-8687  
 Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

*Liturgical Ministers*

Lector: Marguerite Kirchhoff  
 Prayer Leader: London Feland  
 Eucharistic Ministers:  
 Ushers: Lisa Elliott & Elise Schoenrock  
 Tech:

Next Week: May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lector	
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Ministers	
Usher (x2)	
Tech	

**Flower Donations**

*Thanks to those who have donated to our flower fund to beautify the sanctuary for the Easter Season*

Donald & Alice Tracey <i>In thanksgiving for family</i>	Ray & Mary Ellingrud <i>In memory of Bonnie &amp; Chuck</i>	Doug & Sally Maust <i>In thanksgiving for family</i>
Diane & Steve Grier <i>In memory of Aunt Melba &amp; Sister Ginny</i>	Mary Feeney <i>In memory of Jessica Briggs</i>	Ruth Erickson <i>In memory of Robert L. Erickson</i>

Lisa & Tim Elliott  
*In memory of family & friends  
In thanksgiving for grandchildren  
Nicholas & Ellie  
Linda Lange  
In memory of Dan Lange  
Jennifer Strub  
In memory of William F. Strub Jr.  
Dennis & Christina Kopischke  
In thanksgiving for the Nativity  
Community  
Bruce & Christine Nelson  
In thanksgiving for their children,  
Daniel, Jillian, and soon to be  
daughter in law, Christina  
Tamera & James Loerzel  
In memory of Terrence & Diane  
Beauchane and Francis & Phyllis  
Loerzel*

Bob & Barbara Hurwitt  
*In memory of their parents &  
grandparents  
Animal Lovers  
In thanksgiving for our beloved pets  
that bring us joy  
Arlene Taterka  
In thanksgiving for faithful friends  
Avelenna Melsha  
In thanksgiving for family & friends  
Adrian Schottroff & Cathy Reichert  
In thanksgiving for family  
Brenda Steinkamp & Maverick and  
Brenner Noyes  
In thanksgiving for babies Charlotte  
& Cosette and the health of Dennis,  
Cynthia, and Ruth  
Rich & Dorinda Ringhofer  
In thanksgiving for family & friends  
during time of illness*

Anna Homuth  
*In thanksgiving for family & friends  
Gretchen Goodman  
In memory of Glen Goodman  
Carolyn Selser  
In memory of Harry A. Selser  
Michael, Dana & Nora Strande  
In memory of Amara Strande  
Susan McComber  
In memory of Scott McComber  
Francesca Carr  
In thanksgiving for Sandy B. &  
Carolyn S.  
Marilyn Schwartz  
In memory of Greg Schwartz  
Desmond & Linclis Lewis  
In memory of their parents –  
Sylvester & Elizabeth Lewis and  
Beorgoh & Rita Lewis*

## **THE GREAT 50 DAYS OF EASTER**

**Easter is the primary feast of the church year**, and such an important celebration that it doesn't just last one day – it continues for seven weeks, until the Feast of Pentecost (May 19 this year).

**White** is the liturgical color for the whole season, signifying purity, love, joy, and the Light of Christ.

**Alleluia!** We fasted from this expression of joy during Lent, and now Alleluia will fill our worship. **The Gloria** or other song of praise, near the beginning of our worship, also return after a Lenten hiatus.

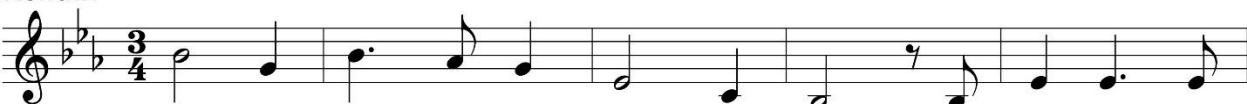
**Reading from Acts.** During the Easter season, one of our scripture readings each Sunday is always from the Acts of the Apostles, drawing our attention to the establishment and growth of the church in the early days after Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension.

**No General Confession.** We spent the season of Lent in self-examination and repentance. Easter is an assurance that we are forgiven and made right with God, not through our own goodness but by the death and resurrection of Christ. You are encouraged to continue personal confession as part of your daily prayers. But as a community we will emphasize that we are "Easter People" by omitting the general confession.

## OPENING HYMN

*Like a Shepherd*

Refrain



Like a shep - herd he feeds his flock and gath - ers the



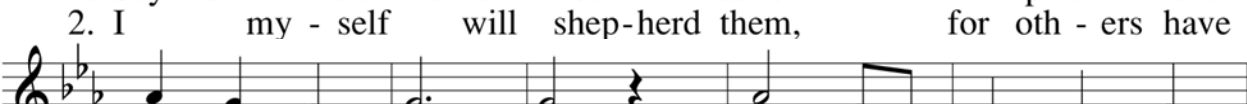
lambs in his arms, hold - ing them care - ful - ly



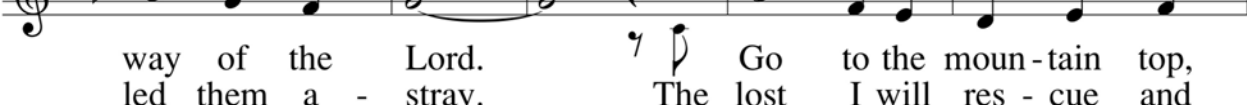
close to his heart, lead - ing them home.



1. Say to the cit - ies of Ju - dah: Pre - pare the



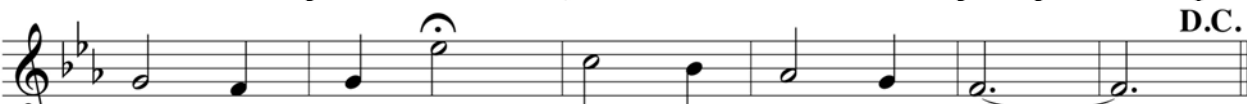
2. I my - self will shep - herd them, for oth - ers have

way of the Lord. Go to the moun - tain top,  
led them a - stray. The lost I will res - cue andlift your voice; Je - ru - sa - lem, here is your God.  
heal their wounds and pas - ture them, giv - ing them rest.

3. Come un - to me if you are



heav - i - ly bur - dened, and take my yoke up -



on your shoul - ders, I will give you rest.

Text: Isaiah 40:9ff, Ezekiel 34:11, Matthew 11:28ff; Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943  
 Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ, b.1943; acc. by Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992, alt.  
 © 1976, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP Publications

# OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Presider:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

# GLORIA

(Hymnal S280)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

# COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

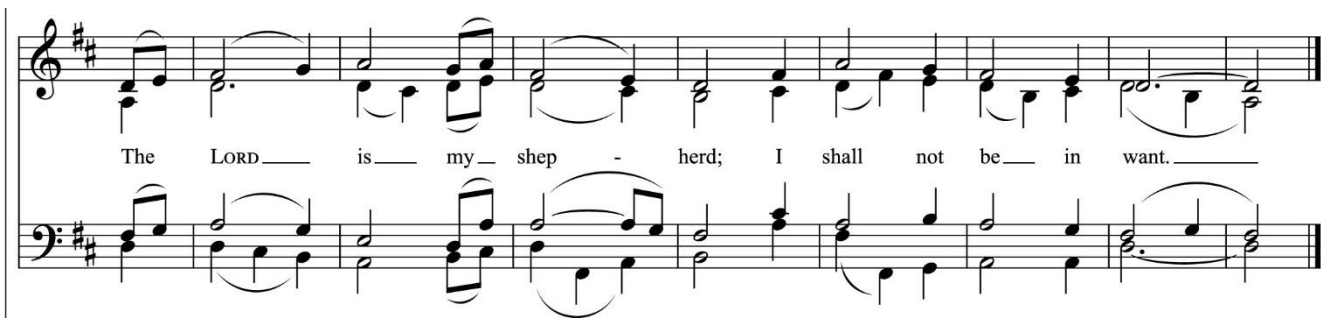
## THE FIRST READING

*Acts 2:42-47*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters. *Antiphon*
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Antiphon*
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. *Antiphon*

# THE SECOND READING

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

**Lector:** The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise*



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the  
ho - ly an - them rise, And the choirs of heav-en  
chant it In the tem - ple of the skies; Let the  
moun - tains skip with glad - ness And the  
joy - ful val - leys ring With ho - san - nas in the  
high - est To our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

Tune: HOLY ANTHEM, 8 7 8 7 D; traditional melody; harm. by Jerry R. Brubaker, b.1946

## THE GOSPEL

*John 10:1-10*

**Deacon:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*The Gospel is read.*

**Deacon:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S RESPONSE TIME

*All children and youth are invited to go with a Children & Youth ministry volunteer during the sermon and prayers.*

## SERMON

Rev. Dana Fath Strande

# NICENE CREED

*Presider:* Let us declare our faith in God.

*Presider and All:*

**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 THE PEOPLE

*Deacon:* Blessed Lord Jesus, in this the season of your Resurrection, let us be made new in your grace. Fill our hearts with your love and show us how to trust in you and to do your work every day. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Be known to us.**

*Leader:* We ask for blessings on your whole church. In the Anglican Communion we pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Church of Nigeria. In the Episcopal Church we pray for Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, for Craig Loya, our bishop, for St George's Parish in St Louis Park, for St Mark's parishes in Annandale, Lake City and Minneapolis. In our Nativity Community, we pray for all leaders and people, for Building Our Future and for our many ministries. We pray for continued faith, and to be held in God's love. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Bless us all.**

*Leader:* Renew true humility in the leaders of the nations. Make those in power mindful of all who depend upon their wisdom and judgment. Direct those leaders in the way of your love that they will resolve to strive for justice and peace. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Guide them.**

*Leader:* You, Lord, who love all that you have made, grant us the grace to protect the earth that you have given us for our home. Renew our will to preserve its goodness and to keep it beautiful and fruitful for those who come after us. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Teach us.**

*Leader:* Lord of all mercy, comfort those of us who doubt your saving grace, your holy presence in our lives, and your loving care for even the least of us. Cherish us as we long for your presence; fill us with your truth as we seek and search for you always. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Be known to us.**

*Leader:* Open our hearts to those who suffer from any illness of the body, mind, or spirit. Hear our prayers for those in need and for those who care for them. We pray especially today for...are there others?

*The people may bring their own petitions.*

*Leader:* Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **Care for them.**

*Leader:* We offer you our thanks for your many blessings, especially those given to all that we now name silently or aloud...

*The people may bring their own thanksgivings.*

*Leader:* We offer prayers for a holy and peaceful death for all nearing the end of life, especially...are there others?

*The people may bring their own petitions.*

*Leader:* We offer prayers for those who have died, especially for...are there others?

*The people may bring their own petitions.*

*Leader:* Bless and comfort all those who hold them near. Risen Lord Jesus,

*All:* **May all those departed rest in peace and rise in glory.**

*Deacon:* Lord Christ, accept our humble prayers that we offer to you in this season of glory. Fill our hearts with the faith and truth that you have made known to us in your Resurrection. Make us true Easter people, for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God always. We pray in your most holy name.

*All:* **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERTORY

*The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words*

*Presider:* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Presider:* But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Hymnal S125)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Presider:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

*Presider:* He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the 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 of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

*Presider:* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

*All:* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Presider:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*All:* **AMEN**

*Presider:* And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

*Presider and All:*

**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.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**



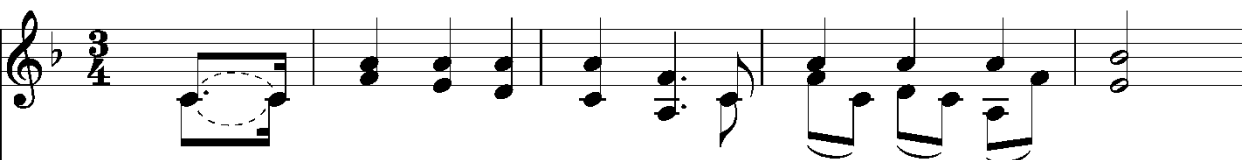
Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat, gath-ered and grown,  
 bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the Liv-ing Bread of God.  
 Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is  
 shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

Text: *Didache* 9, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Mark 4:3-6; Dan Feiten, b.1953  
 Tune: Dan Feiten, b.1953; keyboard arr. by Eric Gunnison, R.J. Miller  
 © 1987, Ekklesia Music, Inc.

## INVITATION

*Presider:* So come to this table,  
 you who have much faith  
 and you who would like to have more;  
 you who have been here often  
 and you who have not been for a long time;  
 you who have tried to follow Jesus,  
 and you who have failed;  
 Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Lord is my Shep-herd, no want shall I know;
2. Through the val - ley and shad - ow my death though I stray,
3. In the midst of af - flic - tion my ta - ble is spread;
4. Let \_\_\_\_\_ good - ness and mer - cy, my boun - ti - ful God,



1. I feed in green pas - tures, safe - fold - ed I rest; \_\_\_\_\_
2. Since thou art my guard - ian, no e - vil I fear; \_\_\_\_\_
3. With bless - ings un - meas - ured my cup run - neth o'er; \_\_\_\_\_
4. Still fol - low my steps till I meet Thee a - bove; \_\_\_\_\_



1. He lead - eth my soul where the still wa - ters flow, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Thy rod shall de - fend me, thy staff be my stay; \_\_\_\_\_
3. With per - fume and oil thou a - noint - est my head; \_\_\_\_\_
4. I seek by the path which my an - ces - tors trod, \_\_\_\_\_



1. Re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed;
2. No \_\_\_\_\_ harm can be - fall, with my com - fort - er near;
3. O \_\_\_\_\_ what shall I ask of thy prov - i - dence more?
4. Through the land of their so - journ, thy king - dom of love;



1. Re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed.
2. No \_\_\_\_\_ harm can be - fall, with my com - fort - er near.
3. O \_\_\_\_\_ what shall I ask of thy prov - i - dence more?
4. Through the land of their so - journ, thy king - dom of love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Music: Thomas Koschat (1845-1914).

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*Presider and All:*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

# BLESSING

*Presider:* Almighty God, who through the resurrection of Christ has given us victory, give you joy and peace and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

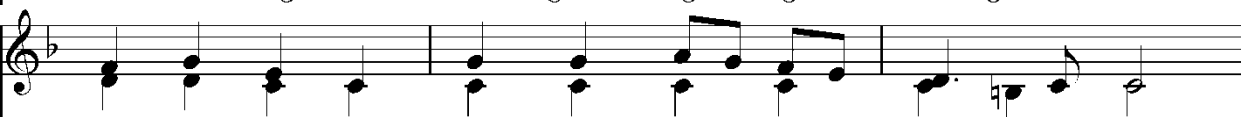
*All:* **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN

*Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing (Hymnal 334)*



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spi - rit, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this Eu - cha -  
by your Blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your Bo - dy,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm bc - liev - ing, we arc yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - ery na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - lowers be.

Words: Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902-1983), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*, melody att. Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758), alt.; harm. Johann Löhner (1645-1705), after chorale ver. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

# DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**TODAY AT NATIVITY**

Pack to-go food bags for United Way

After Service – Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

**WEEKLY AT NATIVITY**

Youth Faith Formation

11:15am – Sundays

Children’s Worship & Response

During Service – Sundays

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

Handbell & Choir Rehearsal

5 & 6:15pm – Tuesdays

**UPCOMING**

Graduation Sunday

During & After Service – Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Parish Potluck

After Service – Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Perennial Plant Sale

9am-1pm – Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

