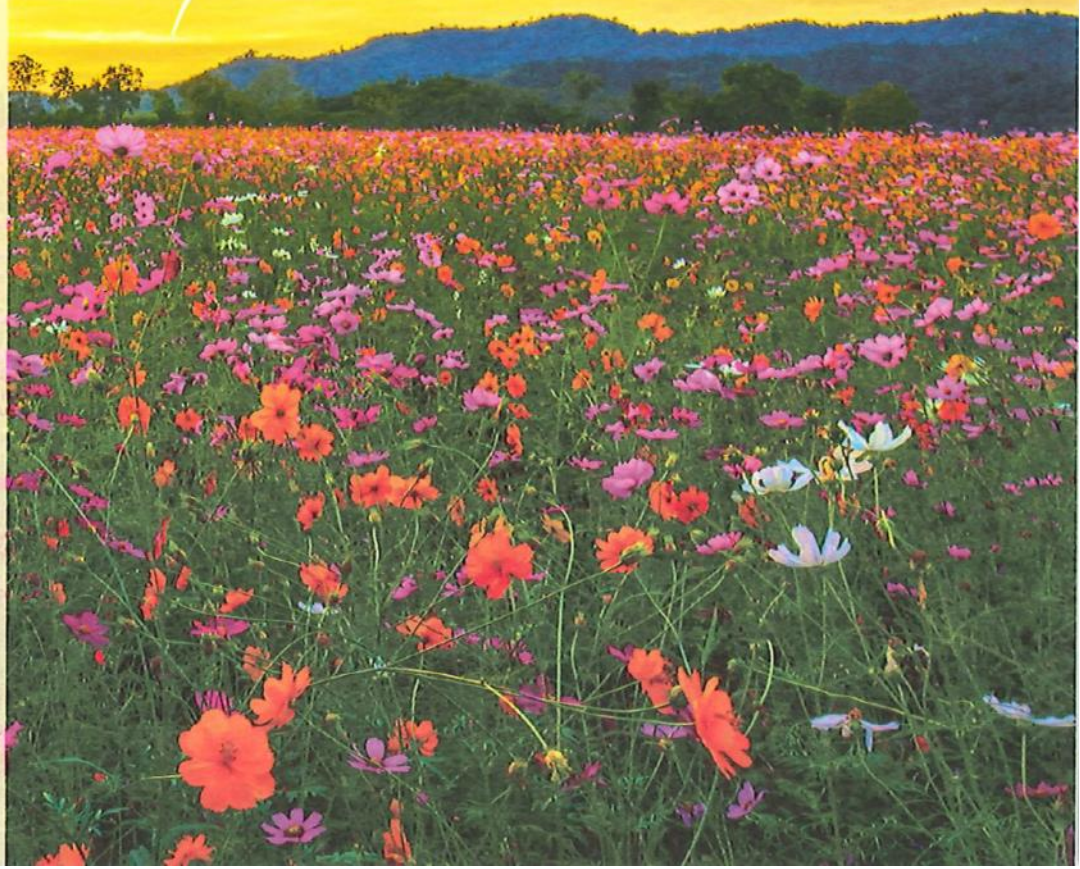


Christ  
is risen  
Halleluia



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family.*

*We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**The Resurrection of Our Lord**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Sunday, April 4, 2021**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 AM**

**PRELUDE**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

Benjamin Culli

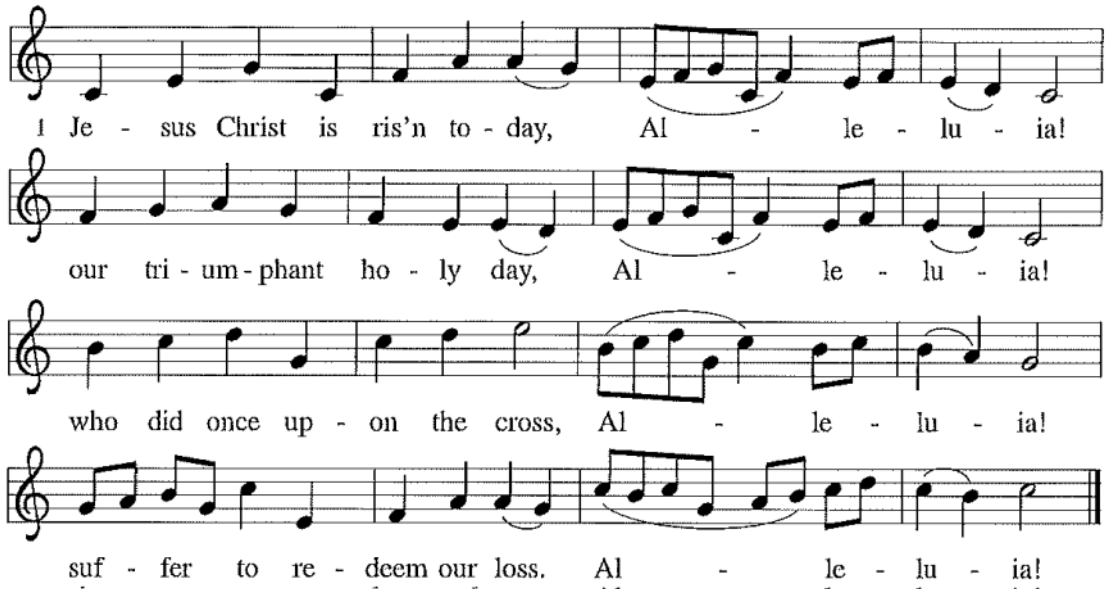
**Stand**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today (LBW 151) Stanza 1*



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'I Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia! our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia! who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia! suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!'. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The score ends with a double bar line.

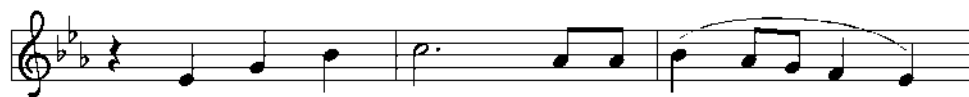
**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*Sung by the cantor* **People join at** C



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**C** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.      **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

**READING**

**Acts 10:34–43**

*(back cover)*

**PSALM**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14, 24**

*Sung by the choir*

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;\*  
his mercy en- | dures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let Israel | now proclaim,\*  
"His mercy en- | dures forever."
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength | and my song,\*  
and he has become | my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> There is a sound of exulta- | tion and victory\*  
in the tents | of the righteous:
- <sup>16</sup> "The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!\*"  
The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!"
- <sup>17</sup> I shall not | die, but live,\*  
and declare the works | of the LORD.
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD has pun- | ished me sorely,\*  
but he did not hand me o- | ver to death.
- <sup>19</sup> Open for me the | gates of righteousness;\*  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks | to the LORD.
- <sup>20</sup> "This is the gate | of the LORD;\*  
he who is right- | eous may enter."
- <sup>21</sup> I will give thanks to you, for you | answered me\*  
and have become | my salvation.
- <sup>22</sup> The same stone which the build- | ers rejected\*  
has become the chief | cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> This is | the LORD's doing,\*  
and it is marvelous | in our eyes.
- <sup>24</sup> On this day the | LORD has acted;\*  
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.

*Stand*

**VERSE**

*Sung by the cantor*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 20:1-18**

The Holy Gospel according to **St. John**.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep



## **Stand**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Praise to you, O God, for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with the power of your love. Send us to tell the good news. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, O God, for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, O God, for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, O God, for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, O God, for the joy of your resurrection! Fill us with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, O God, for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

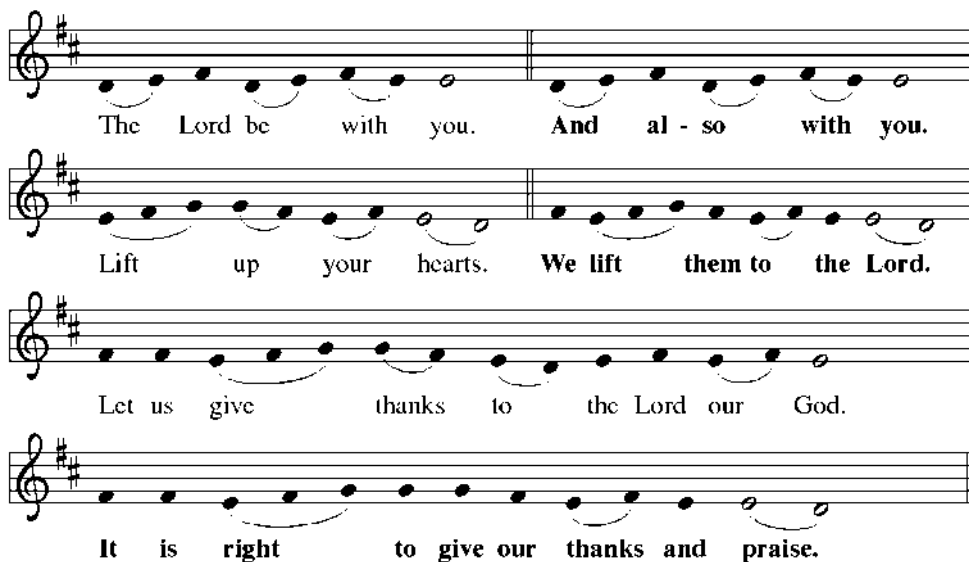
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## DIALOGUE

*Sung by Pastor and congregation*



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

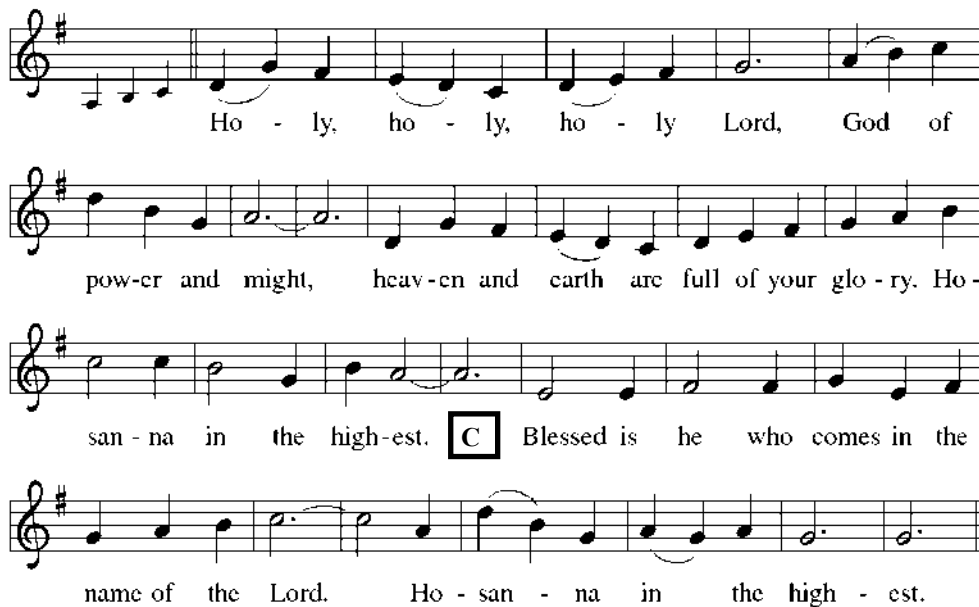
## PREFACE

*The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

## SANCTUS

*Sung by the cantor. Congregation joins at*

**C**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. **C** Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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 for the 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.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty  
and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor  
and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### 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**

### FRACTION RITE

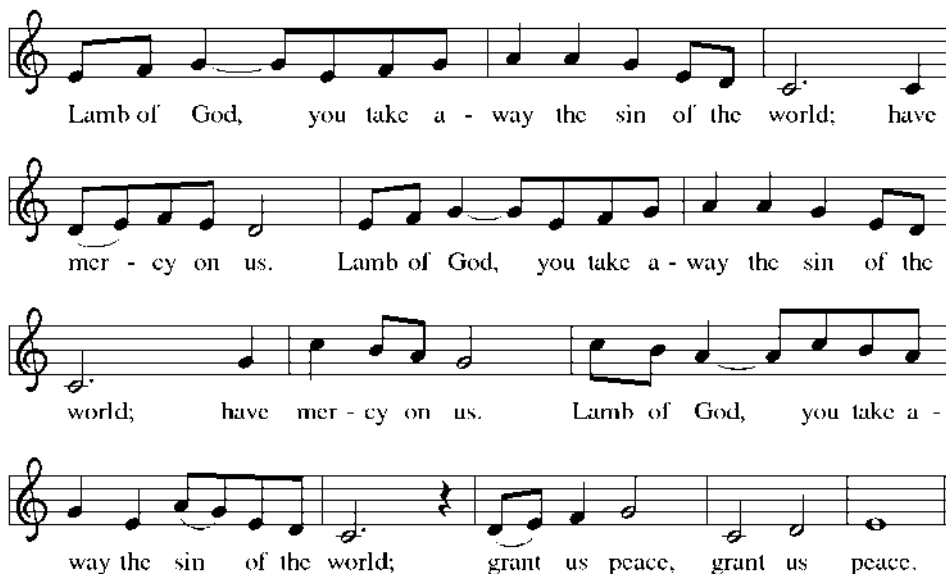
When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed  
yourself to your disciples.**

### AGNUS DEI

*Sung by the cantor*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

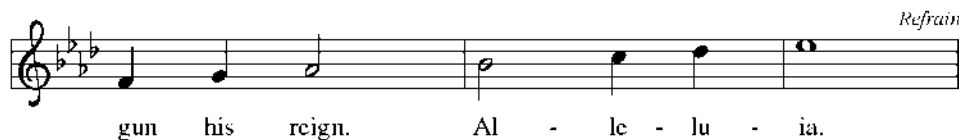
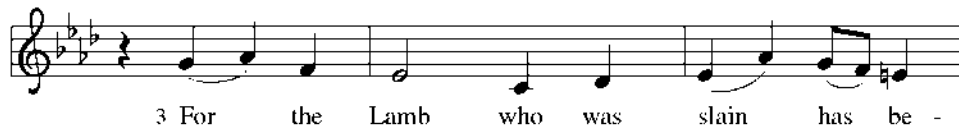
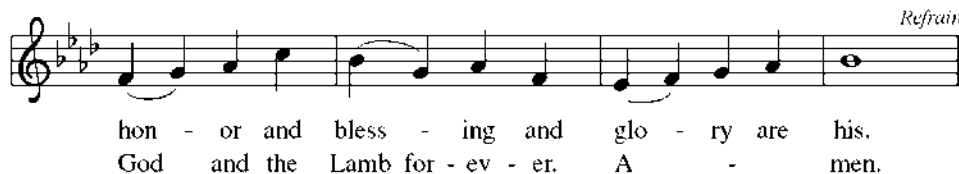
***Sit***     *The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

### COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

# COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Congregation sings refrain Cantor sings stanzas*



*Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. All powerful and ever-living God, in the Eucharist we celebrate the Mystery of Faith. By this Easter Sacrament, renew in us the gift of faith in the New Life it promises. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## HYMN *This Joyful Eastertide (LBW 149)*

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
sprung to life this mor - row. Had Christ, who once was  
slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in  
vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -  
ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Easter Victory*

Charles Callahan

*If you have sponsored Easter flowers you may take them home after the service.  
Thank you for helping to beautify our worship space.*

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.*

**A special thank-you** is extended to all cantors who served during  
Holy Week and Easter Services.

*In our prayers we remember...*

*Janet Fitch, Morgan Lanzalotti, Nancy Darr, Ray Manus, Sandy Dickensheets, Teresa Rohrbaugh, Isaiah King, Delores Sergent, Sandra Farcht, Wayne Wagner, Jannette Guetersloh, Oonagh Newman, Jenny Zimmerman, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, and Porter Stacey*



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
in memory of Josephine M. Cushner,  
John Cushner, M.D. and Mary R. Maxwell  
by Joanne Cushner Debes and Family  
And in loving memory of William S. & Hazel  
Eisenhart by son Christopher Eisenhart*

**Altar Flowers** will once again be gracing our worship space now that Lent has passed. The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

## ***Dedicated to the Glory of God . . .***

Pastor George and Janet Fitch  
Norma Spencer  
The Rosenmiller Family



## ***In Honor of . . .***

My Children and Grandchildren by Ann Anstadt  
Our Children and Grandchildren by Mike and Becky Bingham  
My grandchildren, Alexis & Tom Heistand and Daniel, Ryan & Brynn Butler by June Heistand  
My parents, CR & Judy Lloyd by Carla Lloyd-Rupert  
Carla Lloyd-Rupert by Rick & Judy Lloyd  
Our Children and Grandchildren by Tom & Judy McKee  
Our Children, Amelia A, and Allen J. Reep by Stan & Emily Reep  
Our Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren by Harold & Donita Sargeant

## ***In Loving Memory Of . . .***

Henry Anstadt by Ann Anstadt  
Our Fathers, Dave Boyer and Ronald Becker by Deb & Larry Becker  
Our Parents by Mike and Becky Bingham  
Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, MD, and Mary R. Maxwell by Jo Anne Cushner Debes and Family  
My Parents by Victor Fields  
Donald Heistand by Mark Heistand  
My Grandparents, Harry & Ruth Wildasin, and Clarence & Leona Lloyd by Carla Lloyd-Rupert  
Harry & Ruth Wildasin, Sr. by Rick & Judy Lloyd  
Richard T. & Margie Martin, Michael T. Martin, Dale Shellenberger, Wilfert & Viola Wildasin; James & Julia Martin by Tom Martin  
Our Parents, Paul & Elsie Kennedy and Harry & Pearl McKee by Tom & Judy McKee  
Richard Brown by Debbie, Meredith, Reagan and McKinley  
Martha A. Wysocki, Allen W. Reep, the Reverend Dr. Edgar & Marge Brown by Stan & Emily Reep  
Our Parents, Walter H. and Helen M. Riese, and Edward W. and Savinah Brenneman by Doris and Richard Riese  
Our Parents by Norma & Ronald Riese  
My Mother, Thelma Nace, by Pat Rudacille  
Our Parents, Harold & Grace Sargeant, and Donald & Bertha Spencer by Harold and Donita Sargeant  
Gene R. & Neil Shue by Norma Shue  
Olga & Lawrence Hyde and Mary & Dale Smith by Betsy & Dale Smith  
My Husband, Don G. Spencer; and Son, Alan Ely Spencer; Parents, C. S. & Laura Ely, and Lloyd G. & Helen Spencer; Dr. Kathleen McDowell, R. R. McDowell and Evelyn Ely Loyd by Norma Ely Spencer



**Harvest Wine Dinner and Auction**  
**Saturday, October 16, 2021 5:30 PM**  
**Tickets on Sale in May**

This event is the second of its kind at St. Paul's. The meal is being prepared by Brandon Hufnagel, chef of the Glen Rock Mill Inn. The menu features locally sourced ingredients from his family farm and from other farms in the Glen Rock area. Each course features a carefully selected wine to enhance the flavor of the food. This is a five course meal designed to take us through the evening.

Upon arrival at 5:30 PM in the Good Shepherd Room, there will be a harvest table of delicious appetizers. While conversing with friends and making new acquaintances a table displaying a variety of silent auction items available for bid.

Moving to the Fellowship Hall you can view 18 original paintings donated by Pastor Reep. They will provide the excitement and entertainment as they are auctioned off following the main course and before dessert is served. The auctioneer is our own Larry Gross. For those who attended fund raisers for the National Youth Gathering in past years, Larry has a gift for lifting our spirits and lightening our wallets in support of the designated ministry project. We are sure that this year will not disappoint. If you cannot attend the event but wish to place a bid we are working out details to make such an opportunity possible for you.

The evening will conclude with dessert. There will be happy owners of original art. Thrilled bidders who acquired silent auction items and some disappointed folks whose generosity was out matched by others. But everyone will leave with a shared knowledge that the event generated interest in the Food Pantry ministry, the congregation's outreach, and finances in support of Food Pantry infrastructure which has proved invaluable during this past year of COVID-19 and a surge in families served through our ministry.



It should have been a sign of things to come when the taxi driver did a U-turn in the middle of Via Cavour to collect the four of us and deliver us to the airport in Rome for our return trip to the States. Stopping abruptly at the curb, the driver darted out of the subcompact vehicle, popped the trunk, loaded our minuscule amount of luggage, opened the rear door for Emily and the kids to load, I barely had my passenger door closed when he tapped the dashboard with his hand gesturing at a handle, “hold on” he said as we darted out into the street and toward the expressway and the airport.

“Hold on” should have been a sign for me, for us, as he attempted breaking the Guinness Book of records getting us from the Roman Forum to the International Airport. Holding on for dear life I was fervently in prayer, thanking God for a wonderful vacation with my family, the speed at which we were traveling made me think that it might be our last vacation together. I had just begun the next petition something to do with traveling mercies, when he cut in front of tractor trailer, swerved around a Vespa, down shifted, accelerated with every bit of horsepower available, cut across four lanes of entangled traffic heading towards the lane with a large sign overhead indicating the beaches and the airport. At that point I wasn’t convinced God was able to make sense out of my prayer as it switched more to self-doubt “oh sweet Jesus what have I gotten us into?” A prayer now less about help, assistance and aid, and one clearly focused on the clarity of my decision making ability!

When we arrived at the terminal he zoomed past most of the commercial carriers and darted in front of a 15 passenger van to deliver us curbside in front of the British Airways counter. When the taxi came to a complete stop my body sensed that it was still in motion. I pried my fingers from around the conveniently located handle on the dashboard, opened the door and stepped out onto the concrete sidewalk that remained motionless. Answered prayer isn’t always glamorous, spiritually edifying, or of a religious nature. The solidity of the concrete slab motionless beneath my feet brought incredible solace. My fingers, rather immobilized from the persistent grip holding on to the conveniently located handle on the dashboard of the taxi, fumbled with my wallet as I extracted the prearranged sum. Then I understood the need to hold on. The taxi driver’s wages were calculated not on kilometers traveled but upon how many trips he could jam into one day.

When we arrive at the tomb it is as motionless as the concrete sidewalk at the airport. But there doesn’t seem to be any solace. There doesn’t seem to be very much for Mary Magdalene to hang on to. When she arrives at the scene and sees the stone removed she makes a U-turn, I bet every bit as quickly as the Roman taxi driver did that day on Via Cavour. Mary Magdalene sprinted to tell Peter and the other disciple what she has witnessed. Upon hearing such news they hightail it back to the tomb at breakneck speed. The tomb remains as motionless as a concrete sidewalk. They observe the linen wrappings and the cloth. They haven’t processed what all of this means especially as it relates to the scriptures. Perhaps it is all happening too fast; too much downshifting and acceleration. The disciples went back home.

Mary Magdalene stands there weeping. Bending over she looks into the tomb. Two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet, comment on her teary state. “Woman, why are you weeping?” Those angels would have been

as startling to me as the taxi driver swerving around the Vespa and cutting through four lanes of traffic. “They have taken away my Lord” she said, “and I do not know where they have laid him.” Doing a U-turn she sees Jesus but she didn’t know that it was Jesus. The same question is put to her again, this time by one she supposes to be a gardener. “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” “Sir” she said, “if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Now the risen Jesus calls her by name. “Mary!” “Rabbouni” she declares. He says to her “Do not hold me.”

These words seem odd. Mary Magdalene needs something, someone to hold on to. Three days ago she was at the foot of the cross, the one upon which Jesus was crucified. And now in a moment that seems like time is standing still, the racing and the confusion colliding into a moment of answered prayer, she hears “Do not hold me.” These words have always puzzled me. Different from the conveniently positioned handle on the dashboard of the taxi, Jesus advises not to hold on to him.

This isn’t the same as don’t touch me. This “do not hold on to me” is more along the lines of Jesus will not be held or controlled. Gail O’Day in her commentary spins out the reasons why Mary Magdalene is told not to hold on to the risen Jesus and the reasons that we cannot hold on to him; to control him, to own him, to define him, to manipulate him, to manage him, to co-opt him for our own needs and for our own ends. Nor can our labels and categories hold him either. The presence of the Risen One in the world is made known through his Spirit! The Spirit which he will breathe forth later on that very Easter Day and the Spirit poured forth on us through Holy Baptism. The risen Lord cannot be held down. Oh to be sure he gives himself to us in words and water and bread and wine. But we cannot hold him!

Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury writes “We want (Jesus) where we can see him and manage him, so that we know exactly where to turn to be told that everything is all right and that he is on our side. We do it in religious conflicts, we do it in moral debates, and we do it in politics. We want to stand still and be reassured, rather than moving faithfully with Jesus along a path into new life whose turnings we don’t know in advance.”

Resurrection news brings plenty of U turns, traveling along unfamiliar roads at speeds we cannot control, accelerating through entangled patterns and life situations, all the while we are seeking familiar signs, a glimpse here and there that we are heading in a direction that brings us and those we love to a final destination. And sometimes resurrection news provides the solid unmoving stone whereupon we can place our feet, motionless like concrete to get our bearings, reassess what matters, and trust the one who answers prayer and guides us along right paths.

Early on the first day of the week while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb. The unforeseen obstacle of a stone removed from the tomb sent her on a journey to tell others to “come and see.” When the others had taken their leave she encountered Jesus; an encounter that precipitated yet another U-turn to announce to the disciples, hold on, “I have seen the Lord.” We arrive here early in the morning. Most of us face unforeseen obstacles. Life’s journey may have more in common with an Italian taxi ride than with two angels announcing news from the tomb. The Risen Lord comes to us not so that we can hold on to him but to enliven our journey into new life. Alleluia Christ is Risen!

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how 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. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not 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. <sup>42</sup>He 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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

*or* Isaiah 25:6-9 [not printed]

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared

to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

*or* Acts 10:34-43 [see First Reading]

**GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8**

When 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]. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But 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. <sup>7</sup>But 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." <sup>8</sup>So 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.

*or* John 20:1-18 [not printed]