

*Alleluia!*  
*Christ is risen!*



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

**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 190 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Offerings** Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**An AED/Defibrillator** unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

**The Nursery** is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

**Parents**, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



Lutheran Church in York, PA - St.  
Paul's Lutheran...

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

## The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5, 2026

**Holy Communion 9:30AM**

*Musical Setting 1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

**PRELUDE**

*Partita on "At the Lamb's High Feast"*

John Ferguson

**Stand**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia! (ELW 369)*

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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.**

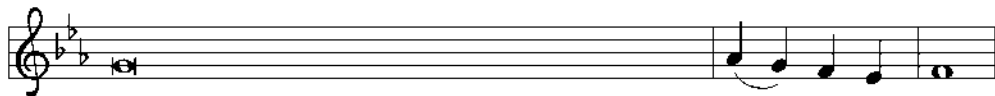
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



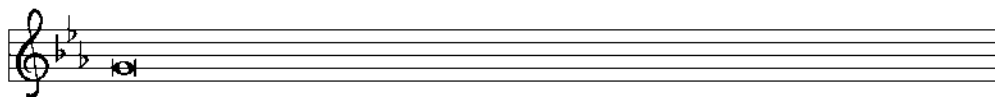
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



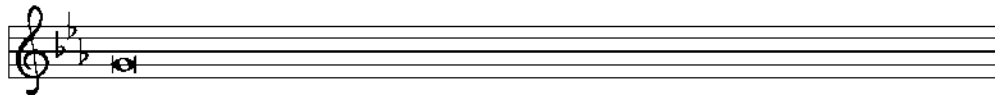
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

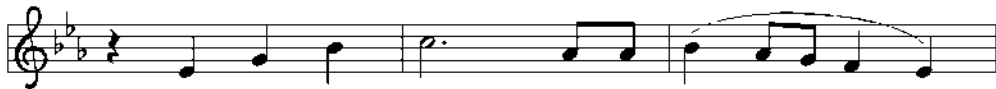


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



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 scat - 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.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



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



*Stand*

**ALLELUIA**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

*(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

*This Joyful Eastertide*

arr. Vernon Hoyle

*Stand*

**NICENE CREED**

**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 INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

May all the earth be renewed by the light of your resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We thank you for the living hope you give us through the resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim your victory over sin and death through word and deed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all who have died and who share in the joy of your resurrection.

Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through your Son, 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.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Handbell Choir *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

*This is Christ's Body (ACS 967)*

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,  
with mer - cy and love.

bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

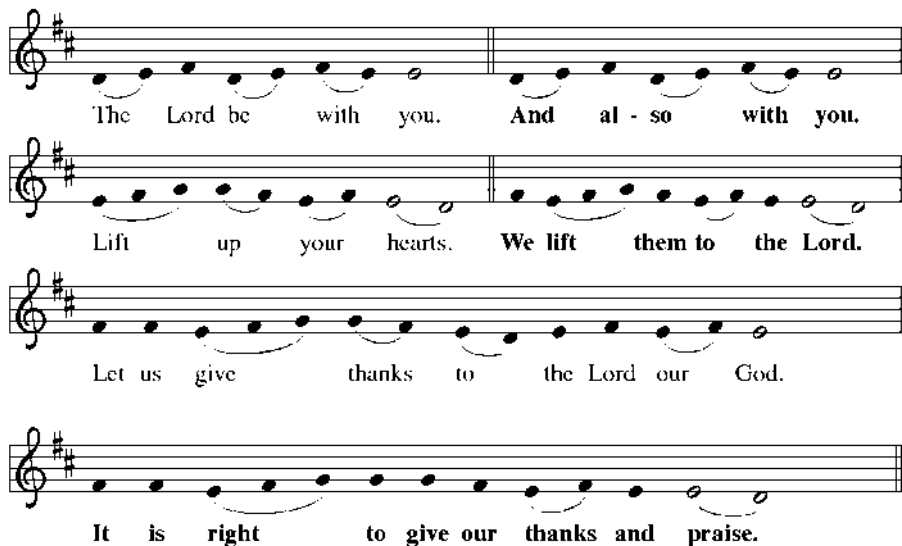
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE

*Sung by Pastor and congregation*

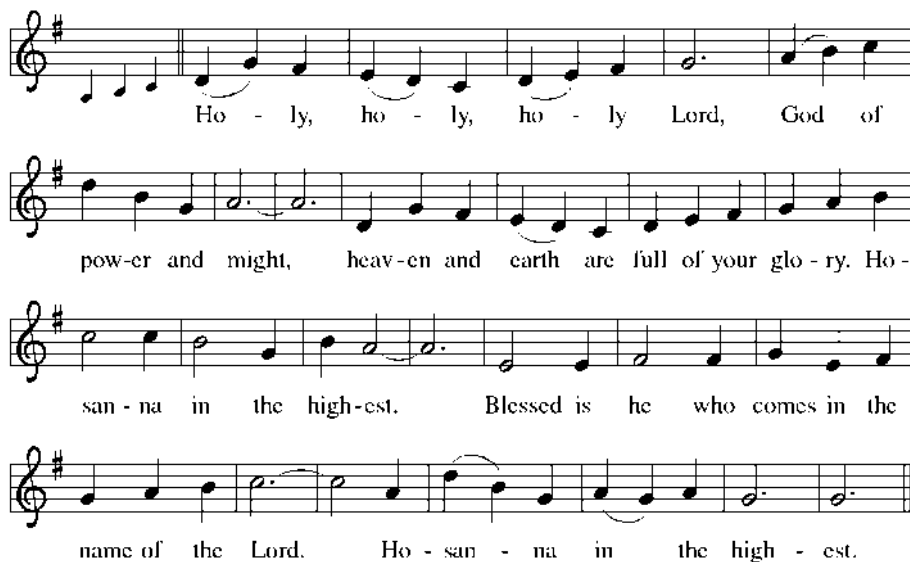


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving 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:

## SANCTUS



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. 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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



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*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist. We receive communion by intinction today.

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return to your pew using the side aisle*

# COMMUNION CANTICLE

## *This is the Feast*



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen (ELW 377)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*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**      *Jesus Christ is Risen Today (ELW 365)*

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**  
 Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata from Symphony No. 5*

Charles-Marie Widor

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

And on this day we thank our trumpeters; J. Palmer, G. Lehr, and S. McComas and saxophonist, H. Palmer.

**Instrumentalists for Summer Worship**—A sign-up sheet for anyone willing to share their musical talent is located on the stand in the Good Shepherd room. We are planning to have instrumental ensembles provide leadership for our summer worship.



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
 And in memory of Josephine M. Cushner,  
 John Cushner, M.D. and Mary R. Maxwell  
 by Joanne Cushner Debes and Family*

*To the Glory of God . . .*

Victor Fields  
Joe & Jen Guarriello  
The Rosenmiller Family  
Tina Llorente  
Josh & Lisa Miller  
Linda Turner  
The Uffelman Family  
Pat & Gary Van Natten



*In Honor of . . .*

Our family by George & Janet Fitch  
My grandchildren, Alexis & Tom Heistand and Daniel, Ryan & Brynn Butler by June  
Heistand  
Our Children, Anna, Drew, and Paula by Nicki & Scott Herdson  
Our Children, Rob Lindsay and Jana; and our Grandsons, Tyler, Robbie & Riley and  
our Great-Grandson, Ma'sai by Earline & Frank Jones  
My Mother, Dorothy Harmon and my Family by Carolyn Kapoun  
Billee & Tim Couch by Richard Keepports & Family  
Grandchildren; Christian Kopp, and Amelia and Audrey Kelly by Dave & Susan Kopp  
Son; Mark Mummert, Daughters; Amy Krichten & Lauren Lutz by Jim Mummert  
Robert & Mary Reifsteck by Cheryl Reifsteck  
Our Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren by Harold & Donita Sargeant  
My Son & Daughter-in-law, Jake Schroeder & Allison Gill by Lois Ann Schroeder  
My Loving Family by Norma Shue  
My Great Grandchildren Jordan, Eli, & Spencer Nicoll, and Nicholas &  
Emily Roedersheimer by Norma Spencer  
Our Loving Mother, Martina Uffelman by her Children & Grandchildren  
Matt, Ben & Fred Stauffer by Ted & Jenny Weikert

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

Our Parents by Larry and Deb Becker

Josephine M. Cushner, John J. Cushner, MD, and Mary R. Maxwell by Jo Anne

Cushner Debes and Family by Joanne Cushner Debes and Family

Donald Heistand by the Heistand Family

John Herdson and Paula Kassolis by Nicki & Scott Herdson

Donald Herrington by Matt & Betsy Herrington

Fathers; Francis Ports & Kenneth Hinkle, Mothers; Delores Ports & Ruth Hinkle,

Sisters; Sandra Hinkle, Dorinda Hinkle, & Susan Holtry by Ken Hinkle & Jennifer Ports

Our Loved Ones by Frank & Earline Jones

My Father, Donald Harmon by Carolyn Kapuon

William & Doris Douglas, Charles & Lucille Keeports by Bonnie & Dick Keeports

Richard T. & Margie Martin, Michael T. Martin, Sandy & Dale Shellenberger,

Wilfert & Viola Wildasin; James & Julia Martin by Tom Martin

Our Dads, Brian Miller & Nichols Rutledge by Josh & Lisa Miller

Our Parents; John & Mary Monk and Charles & Ruth Jones, by Kathy & John Monk

The Rev. Dr. & Carl Simon and Mr. & Mrs. William F. Morgan by Sarah Morgan &

Geoffrey Simon

Our Parents by Jeff & Rose Riese

Our Parents by Norma & Ronald Riese

My Mother, Thelma Nace by Pat Rudacille

Our Parents, Harold & Grace Sargeant, and Donald & Bertha Spencer and grandson,

Dakota Walburn by Harold and Donita Sargeant

My Husband, Gary Schroeder by Lois Ann Schroeder

My Husband Don, Son Alan; Parents, Chester & Laura Ely, sisters Evelyn Loyd

& Lois McDowel by Norma Ely Spencer

Our Father, John Uffelman by his Children & Grandchildren

Mary & Henry Weikert and Lois & Vernon Bull and by Ted & Jenny Weikert

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

Go quickly.

Go quickly to the emergency room.

Go quickly to pick up your child.

Go quickly to sports practice.

Go quickly to; meet the bus, board the flight, catch the train.

And something parents of toddlers say, go quickly to the potty!

Go quickly are two words rarely spoken without being clothed with urgency. Lurking beneath them is a deep need or desire for an outcome to materialize.

The health and wellbeing of a loved one, concern that your child isn't left alone in front of the school, punctuality stressed for the development of communal activity, and to ensure that one arrives at one's destination on time, or to keep from having an "accident." Go quickly.

In the Bible we hear the counterpart of "go quickly" "go with haste."

Mary went with haste. She went quickly to the Judean town to see her aunt Elizabeth after receiving the angelic word that she would have a baby. Not any baby, she would bear Jesus, the Messiah; the Savior of the nations.

The shepherds on the hillside went with haste. They went quickly to Bethlehem to see the newborn child after receiving the angelic word that the Savior, Christ the Lord, was born.

Lazarus' sister Mary went quickly out of the house when she learned that Jesus had finally arrived in Bethany four days after her brother Lazarus had died.

Easter morning the women at the tomb went with haste. They went quickly to tell the disciples the angelic messenger's news "*Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come; see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him!*"

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary headed for Galilee. And as they quickly went, as they went with haste, as they lived into the angelic messenger's word, Jesus met them! The risen Christ met them. They didn't find Jesus, he met them! They were stopped dead in their tracks by the living Lord! Jesus, the Lord of Life spoke to them. His voice got their attention.

Some translations record Jesus' words as "Hi there." That doesn't seem to carry the magnitude of the moment. Other translations like the New Revised Standard version from which we read this morning render his word to them "Greetings!" That still seems a bit timid. And others render it "Peace be with you." My preference on this Easter morning is the word "Rejoice!" Meeting the risen Lord even amid fear and sadness, somehow for me "rejoice" grabs my attention. Anyone might greet you in a time of mourning and sadness with hi there, or peace be with you, but rejoice? That speaks of something beyond death, sadness and loss. While the greeting obviously got their attention, it is the fact that the Risen Christ meets them, he comes to them, and he comes to them in a real and tangible way. The women kneel down before him and take hold of his feet. They can

touch him. He is not a phantom or a ghost or a vision, he is physically present with and for them.

Jesus reiterates what the heavenly angelic messenger told them, do not to be afraid and to go to Galilee. “*Go, and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.*” Go quickly. Go to Galilee. Go with haste to the place where the risen Jesus says he will be. He will meet his disciples there. He will meet you there. The desired outcome materialized. Jesus is with them. He is with us.

Having heard God’s Word, Jesus’ promise to be with them, we share the news with others. This message is life giving. It is the reassurance that Our Risen Lord continues to meet us on the way to Galilee, to the places where we live and work and interact with family, friends, neighbors and with complete strangers; at the emergency room, or picking up your child from school, getting them to sports practice, or meeting the bus, boarding the flight, catching the train. And in ordinary things like potty-training toddlers. In our lives of faith Jesus meets us. He meets us again this morning in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion, his body and blood given for you and for me for the forgiveness of our sins, for restoration, for new beginnings, fresh starts, and a reconciled way of life. We receive his body and his blood, given and poured out for us to eat and drink.

“Rejoice” is a fitting greeting for us who have been forgiven and who are given hope amid so many things that are seemingly hopeless. Christ Jesus the Risen Lord meets us and we rejoice in him! The Psalmist called our attention to the word “rejoice” as we sang this morning “*on this day the Lord has acted. Let us be glad and rejoice in it.*” As we live into the angelic messenger’s word, Jesus meets us. The risen Christ meets us, telling us to rejoice and not to be afraid. Jesus knows how fear has always been crippling for God’s people and how joy has always been life giving. His greeting to us this morning, “Rejoice!”

Rejoicing is what God’s people do in the presence of the Almighty: Abraham rejoiced before the Lord. David rejoiced before the Lord. Jesus told the crowd gathered for the Sermon on the Mount, rejoice and be glad, your reward is great in heaven. The shepherd rejoiced over the lost sheep being found. The Jailer and his household after being baptized rejoiced before the Lord. Jesus told the disciples to Rejoice that their names are written in heaven. Rejoice in the Lord always admonishes Paul to the Philippian community. Rejoicing is in our religious DNA. It is what we do in the presence of God. It is what our ancestors in faith did, what the women did on that first Easter morning and what we do this morning gathered in the presence of the Risen Christ.

“Rejoice!” Jesus says to us this Easter morning. Rejoice, God has acted. The risen Christ meets us in the Word proclaimed. Stopping us in our tracks, calling us to come and have a new day. This resurrection news is for the poor and lonely, the dying and those who mourn; it is for families with toddlers, teenagers, and couples starting out in life and for those celebrating meaningful milestones. It is for people who struggle, people who fear, and people who rejoice. God’s Easter gift of life is given for all. Living into the angelic messenger’s Word can easily startle and overwhelm. God’s word for us, as to the women on that first Easter morning, “*Rejoice, fear not.*” Go quickly. Go with haste and tell others the good news of God. And while you are going don’t be startled when Jesus meets and greets you. Amen.

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

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness 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* **Jeremiah 31:1-6** [not printed]

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

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds

on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

*or* **Acts 10:34-43** [see above]

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.

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