

Third Sunday of Easter



...We Have a Meaningful Mission

May 4, 2025 – 9:30 am

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH | Parkville, Maryland

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

If Jesus remained dead, all he would provide is an example of a beautiful life. Therefore, if Jesus remained dead, the mission of his followers would simply be to share advice. “Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another. Or “Jesus would want us to think about money like this.” Or “This is how Jesus would pray.” But because he lives, his followers now have a meaningful mission. It is not to share advice, but to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Thus, Jesus is not a standard, but our Savior. Jesus is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory will be the resurrection of all who put their faith in him. Sharing that good news—that’s our mission.

The flowers on the altar are from Bob Baur in memory of Jane on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and the anniversary of their joining Atonement. Yellow roses were Jane’s favorite flower.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher	Pastor Ben Berger
Music	Dan Meister
Usher	Tim Carne
Communion Assistant	Matt Wolf
Greeter	Ellen Cammarata
Streaming	Mark Fostervold

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THE COMMON SERVICE

“The Common Service” is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America and appeared as “The Order of the Holy Communion” in The Lutheran Hymnal. The present revision may be used either with or without the sacrament.

OPENING HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia | 150



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day;
2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed,
4 Christ, who once for sin - ners bled,



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way;
Sin - less in the sin - ners' stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.
Now the first-born from the dead,



See the place where he was laid;
"Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry; Al - le - lu - ia!
While, in strange and awe - full strife,
Throned in end - less might and pow'r,



Praise him for the ran - som paid.
Now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
Met to - geth - er death and life.
Lives and reigns for - ev - er - more.

Text: Latin sequence, 11th century, abr.; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, alt.
Tune: LLANFAIR (77 77 with Alleluias) Robert Williams, c. 1781–1821.

INVOCATION

please stand

M In the name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY – KYRIE



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

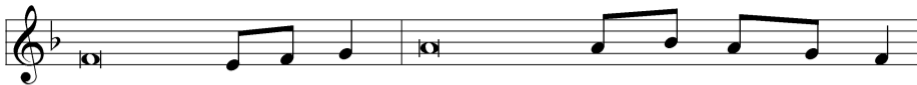
M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD – GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
 God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
 sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

please be seated



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 5:12,17-32

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 150



Praise God in his sanctuary;^{*}
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;^{*}
praise him for his surpassing greatness. **Refrain**

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,^{*}
praise him with the harp and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and dancing,^{*}
praise him with strings and flute,

praise him with the clash of cymbals,^{*}
praise him with resounding cymbals. **Refrain**

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*
Praise the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen. **Refrain****

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:4-18

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits I before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 20:29

Alleluia! “Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’” Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

please stand



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-21

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

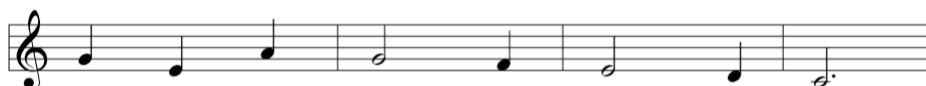
O Sons and Daughters of the King | 165



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
 2 On that first morn - ing of the week,
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee;
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear;
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing,
 Be - fore the day be - gan to break,
 For thus he spoke un - to the three,
 A - mong them came their Lord most dear
 That Je - sus had ful - filled his word,



To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 The Mar - ys went their Lord to seek.
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 And said, "Peace be un - to you here."
 He doubt - ed that is was the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "My hands, my feet, my body see;
 And doubt not, but believe in me."
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been;
 In life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>9 On this most holy day of days
 To God your hearts and voices raise
 In laud and jubilee and praise.
 Alleluia!</p> |

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615, alt.

SERMON

Acts 5:12,17-32

Resurrection Witness Will Not Be Overcome

please stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

please be seated

OFFERING

This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Atonement respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

- C** **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**
- M** Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.
- C** **Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**
Special prayers and intercessions may follow.
- M** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
Silent prayer.
- M** Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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 SACRAMENT ¹

- M** The Lord be with you.



- M** Lift up your hearts.

¹ Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – *SANCTUS*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - - men.

please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Atonement practices member communion. We ask, therefore, that only members of this congregation and our fellowship (the Wisconsin Synod) partake of the sacrament. If you are a member of another Lutheran denomination or Christian church and would like to commune with us in the future, please speak with our pastor after the service and he would be delighted to explain what that entails.



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Today in Triumph Christ Arose | 164



1 To - day in tri - umph Christ a - rose
 2 Though Sa - tan rage, his pow'r is gone;
 3 O Christ, our Sav - ior, Help - er, Friend,
 4 To God the Lord, on high - est throne,



And con - quered all his hell - ish foes.
 His thun - d'ring roar can harm us none.
 Be with us till our jour - ney's end.
 To Christ, the Fa - ther's own dear Son,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Great splen - dor marks his vic - to - ry;
 Our strong de - fend - er hurls him down
 In mer - cy guide us by your grace
 To God the Ho - ly Spir - it be



Sing praise to God e - ter - nal - ly!
 And wins for us a heav'n - ly crown.
 Till we be - hold your glo - rious face.
 All praise and thanks e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Kaspar Stolshagen, 1550–94, abr.; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht, b. 1903. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: HEUT TRIUMPHIERT GOTTES SOHN (8888 8888) *Geistliche Deutsche Lieder*, Frankfurt a. O., 1601.

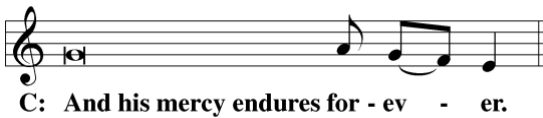
please stand

SONG OF SIMEON – NUNC DIMITTIS



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord Look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story | 562



1 I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a -
2 I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it



bove, Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, Of
best Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To



Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

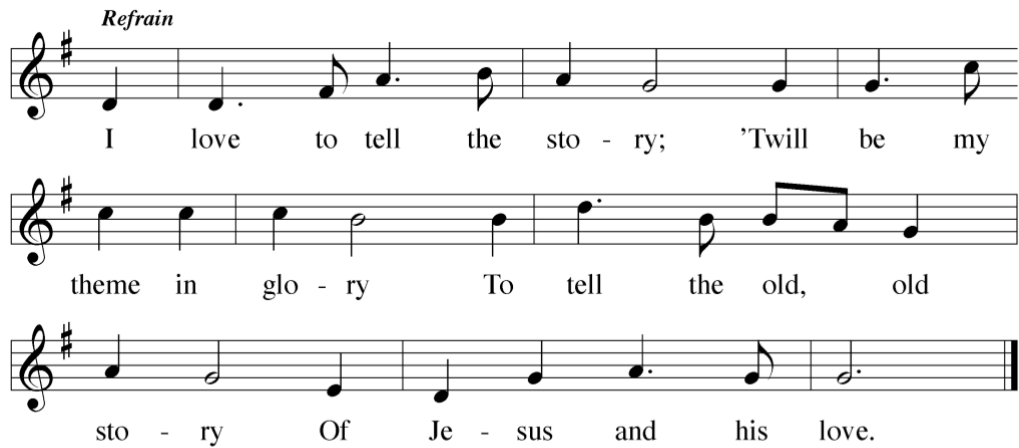


sto - ry Be - cause I know it's true; It
glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'Twill



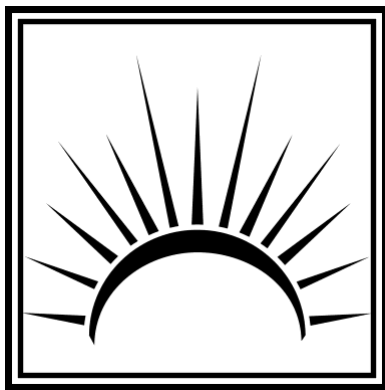
sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else can do.
be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my
 theme in glo - ry To tell the old, old
 sto - ry Of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Arabella C. Hankey, 1834–1911, abr.
 Tune: HANKEY (76 76 D with Refrain) William G. Fischer, 1835–1912.



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