

Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 7, 2017



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

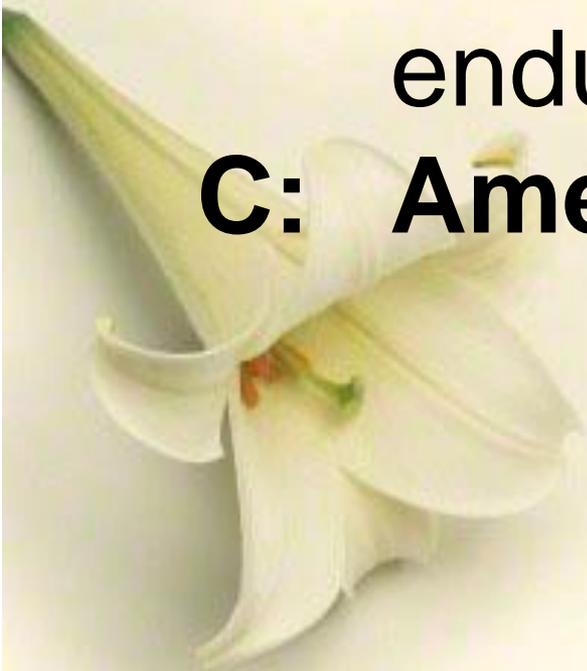


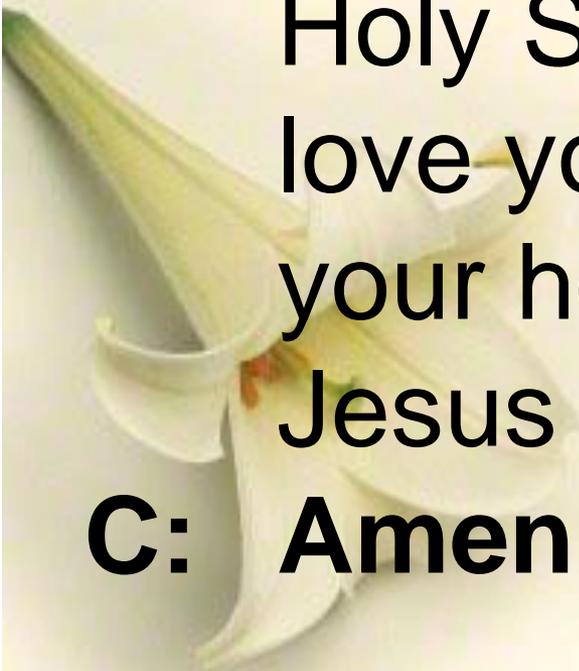
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God, who forgives all
our sin, whose mercy
endures forever.

C: Amen.





P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence.)*

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,



**known and unknown, things we
have done and things we have
failed to do. Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve
you in newness of life through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

A white lily flower is positioned in the bottom left corner of the image. The flower is in full bloom, with its petals spread out. The stem and green leaves are visible, extending towards the top left. The background is a plain, light color, making the flower stand out.



P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes
with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death,
shall never die.**



**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.**



**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn,
or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still,
yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**



**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

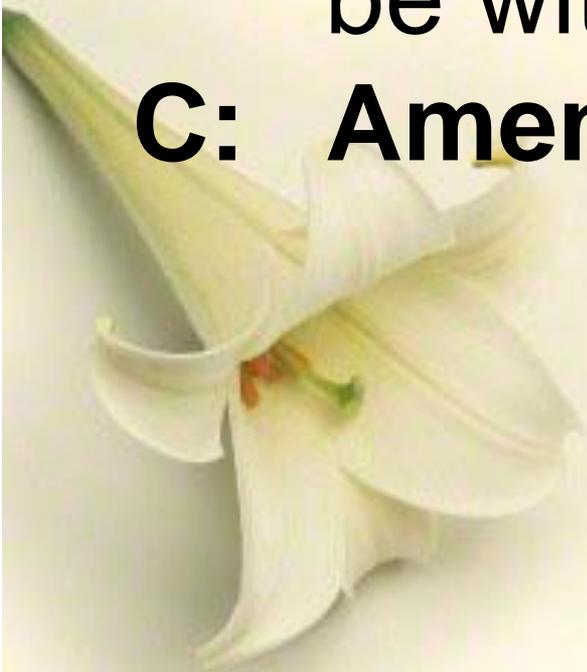


**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**



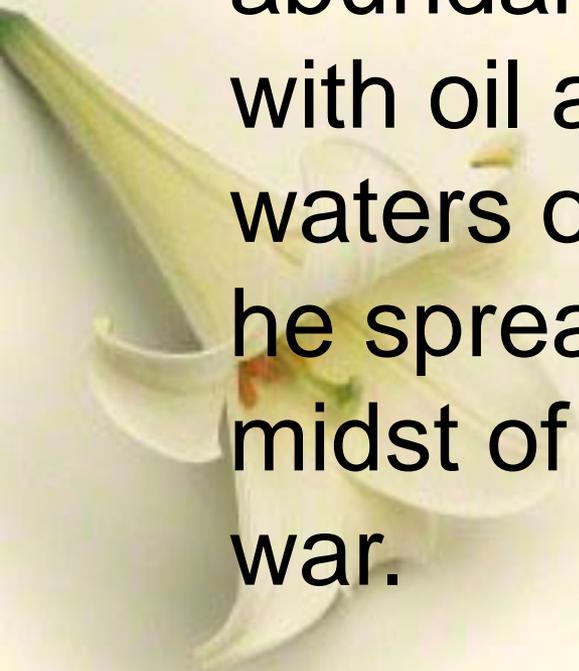
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen



INTRODUCTION

P: Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world’s violence and war.



We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

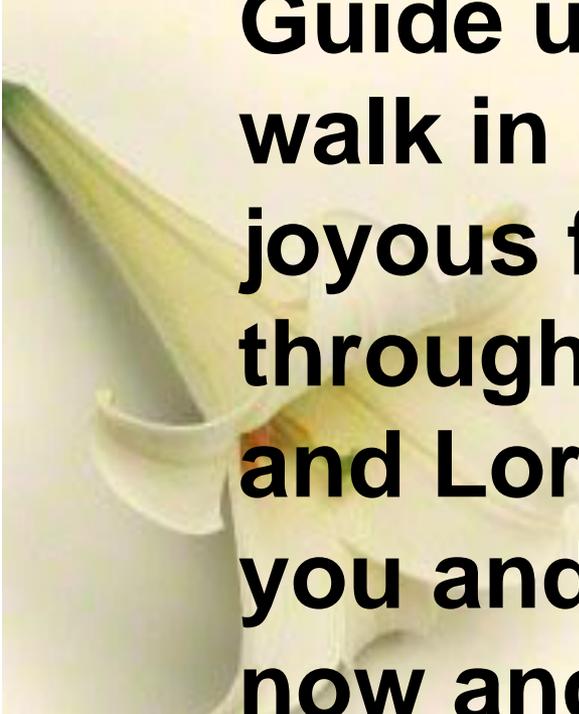
C: Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

C: **O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



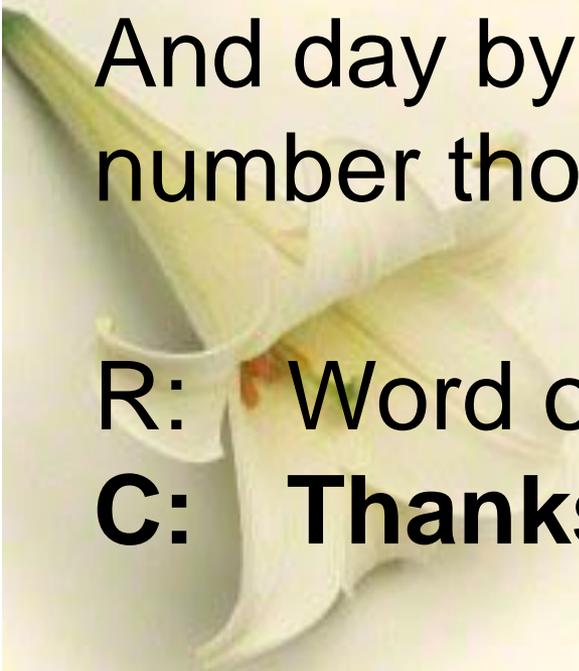


FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

The first reading is from Acts, the 2nd chapter.

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.



Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

A Responsive Reading

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

**C: The LORD makes me lie down
in green pastures and leads
me beside still waters.**



R: You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right
pathways for your name's sake.

**C: 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.**



R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

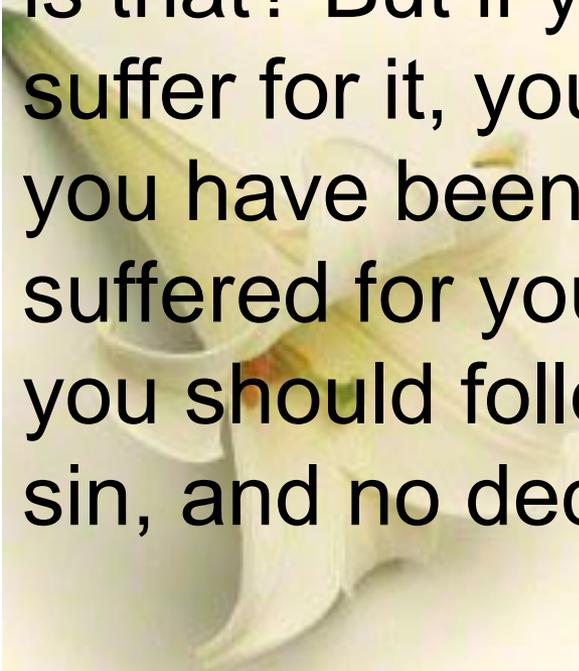
C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

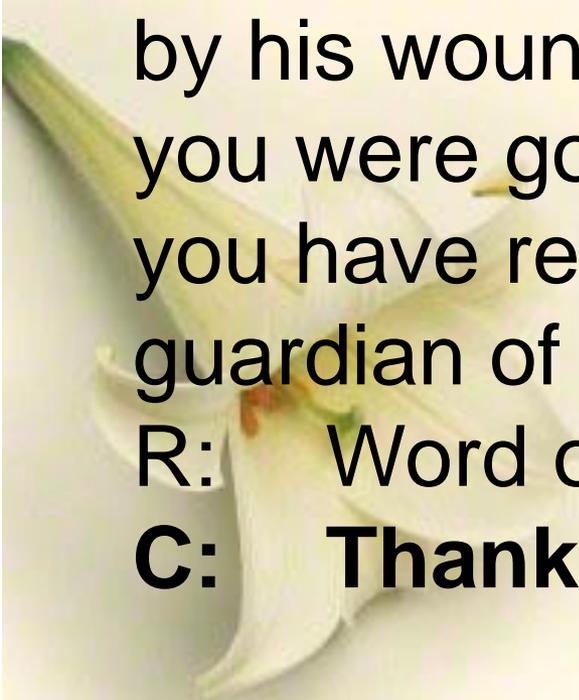


SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

The second reading is from 1st Peter, the 2nd chapter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."



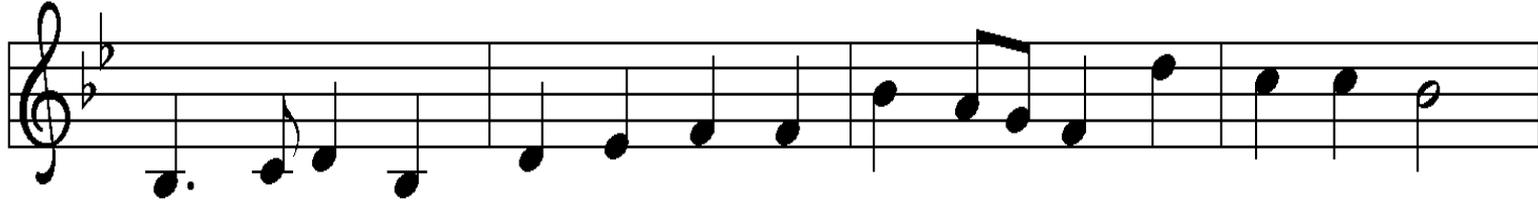


When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

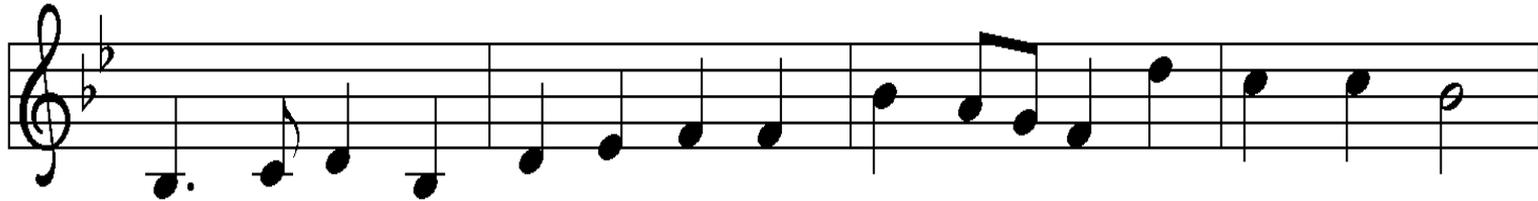
R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



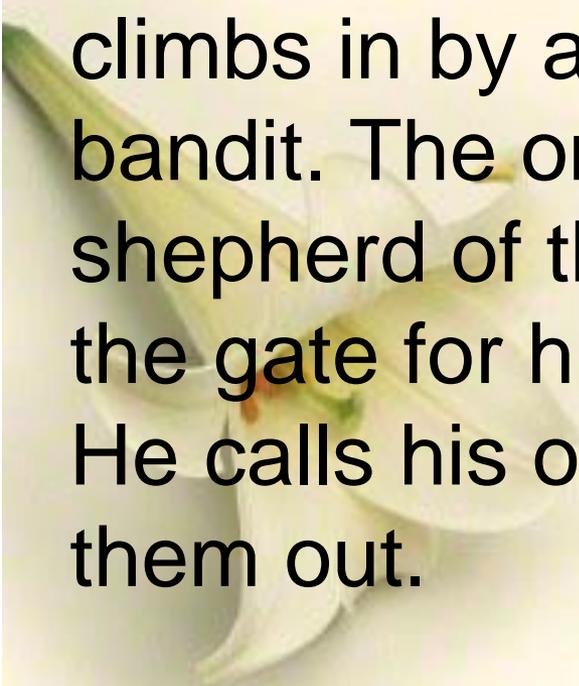
Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

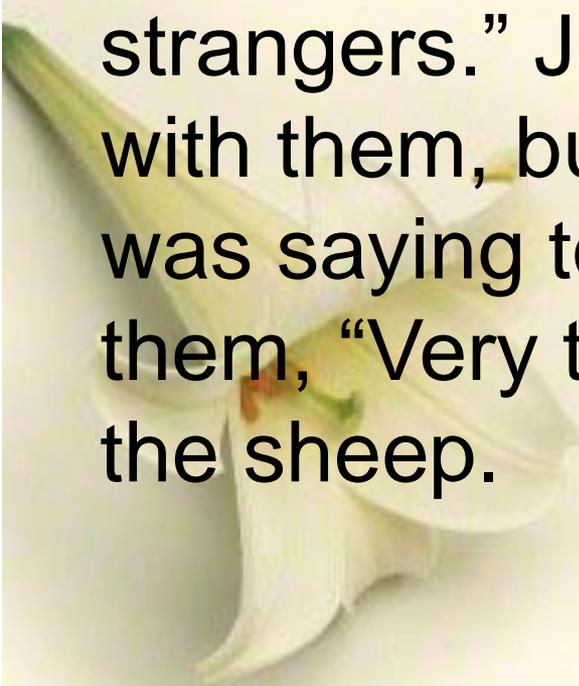
GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.



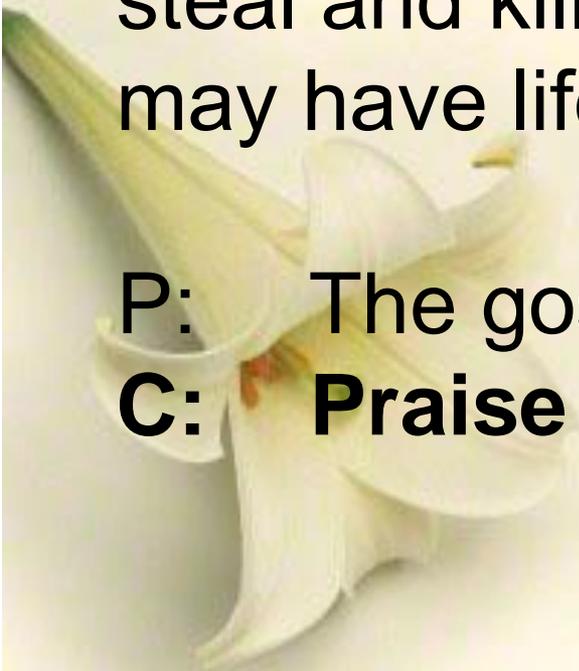


When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sermon

“I’m Hearing Voices!”



HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.**

**In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.**

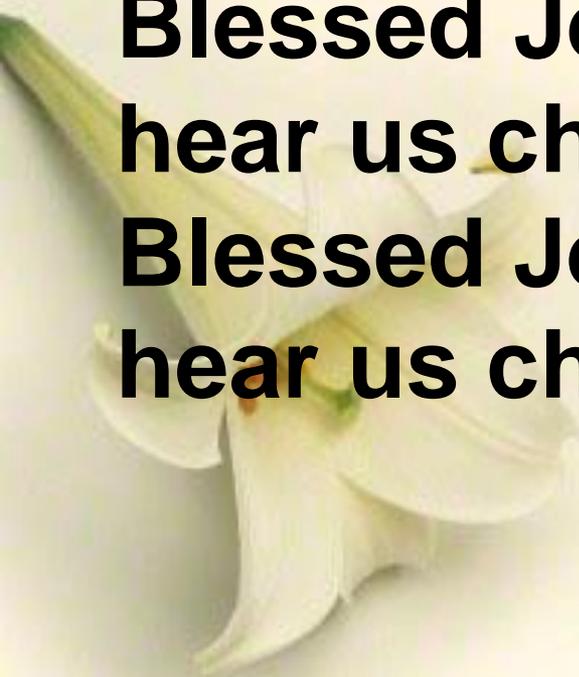
**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.**

**We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.**



**You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.**



**Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.**



APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,**

**He is seated at the right hand
of the Father,
and He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

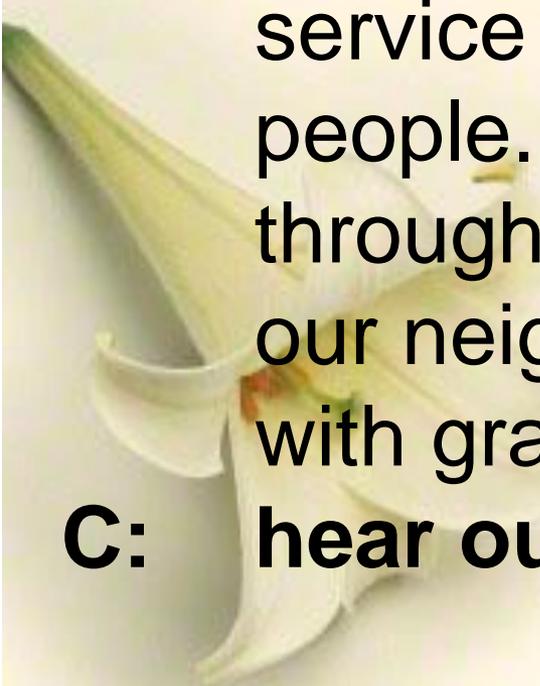
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

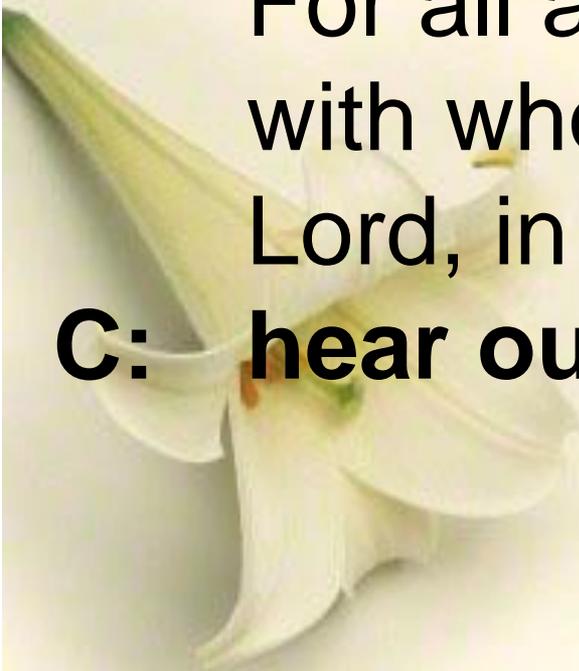


PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)*
We pray for the church. Strengthen ministers of word, sacrament, and service who are called to shepherd your people. Renew your church and unite us through your Spirit. Send us out to serve our neighbors and to receive their care with gratitude. Lord, in your mercy,

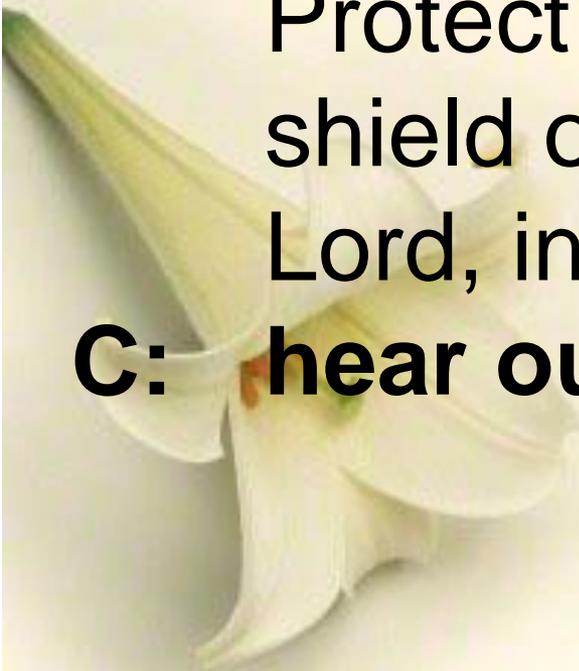
C: **hear our prayer.**





P: We pray for the earth. For pastures and prairies, rivers and streams, oceans and mountains. For those who care for livestock and pets. For all animals, wild and domestic, with whom we share this world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



P: We pray for the nations. Guide
leaders into the path of peace.
Uphold all who govern. Bring an end
to injustice, warfare, and violence.
Protect those who risk their lives to
shield others from danger.
Lord, in your mercy,

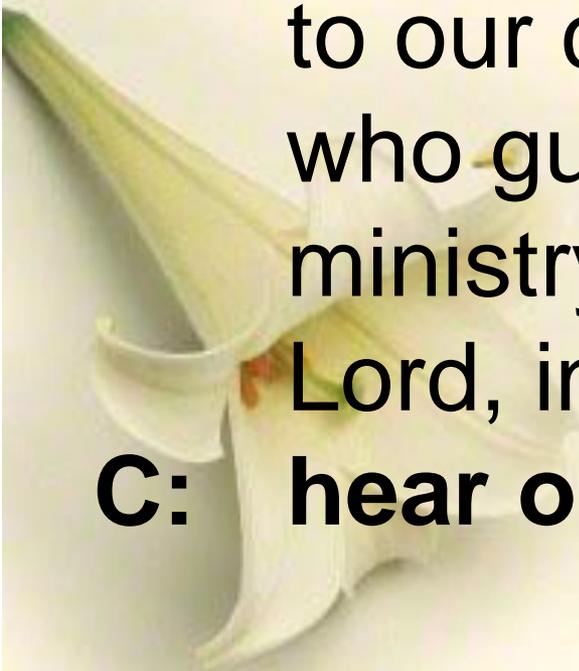
C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those in need. For those who lack safe housing and adequate food. For workers whose pay is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**





P: We pray for this assembly. For ushers, acolytes, and greeters. For those who clean and prepare this space for worship. Give wisdom to our councils, committees, and all who guide this congregation's ministry.

Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith (*especially*). In your goodness and mercy, bring us to the fulfillment of your promise to dwell in your house forever.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.



P: Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

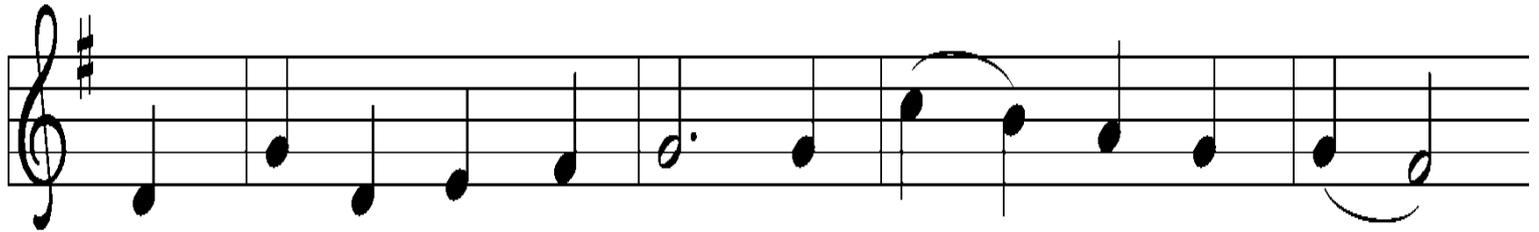
C. And also with you.



~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~
“The Gospel”
by Ryan Stevenson



Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,

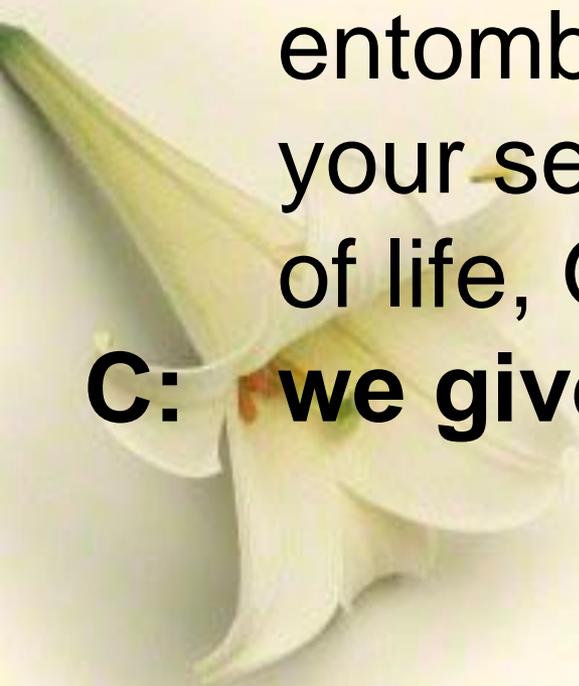


all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness Through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**



DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

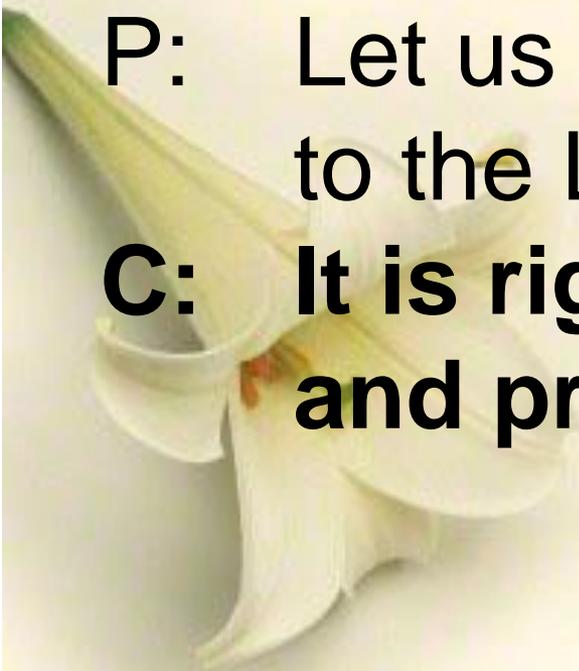
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise
to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.**

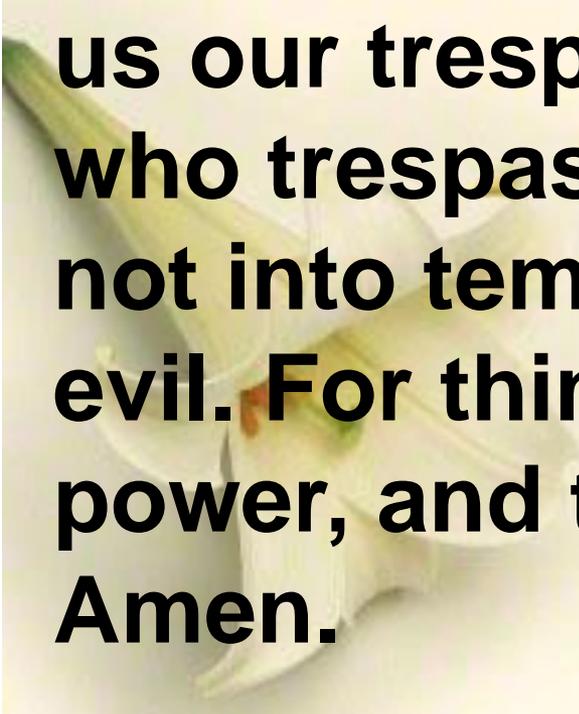


WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.



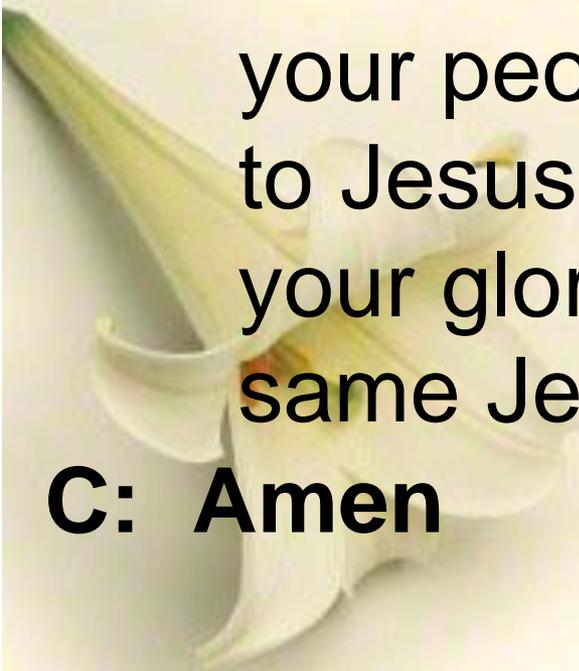
COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

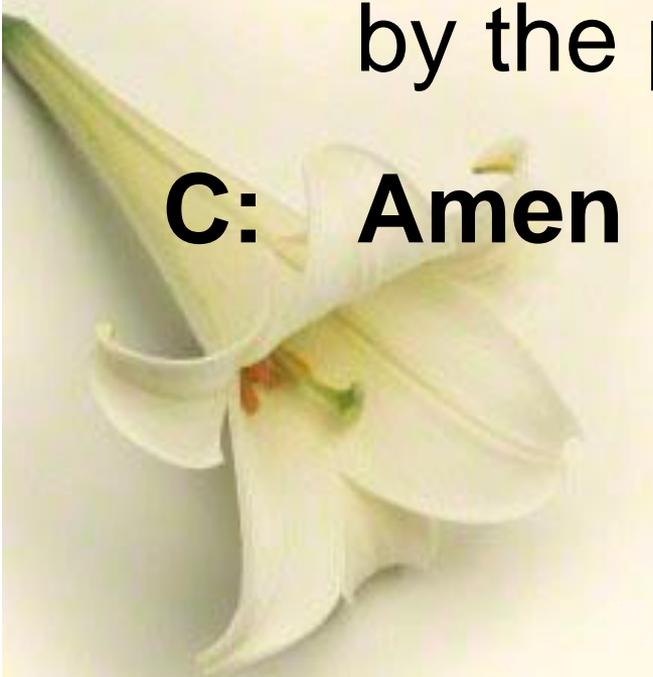
C: Amen



BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



CLOSING HYMN

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

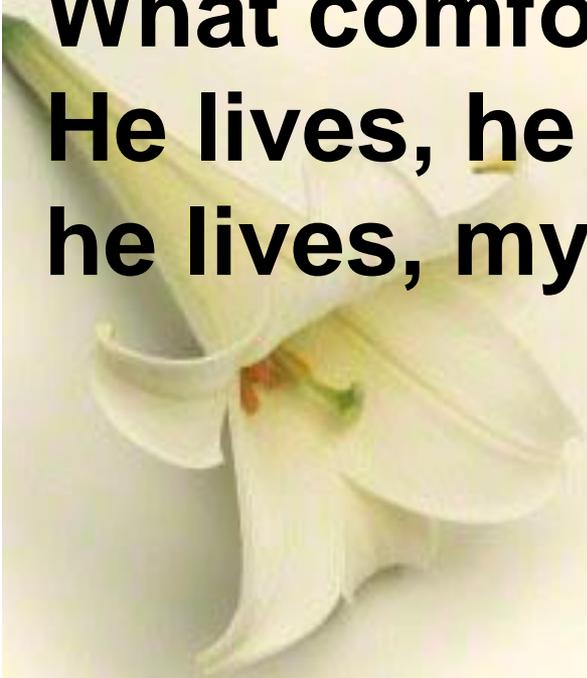
Verses 1, 2, 7, 8

I know that my Redeemer lives!

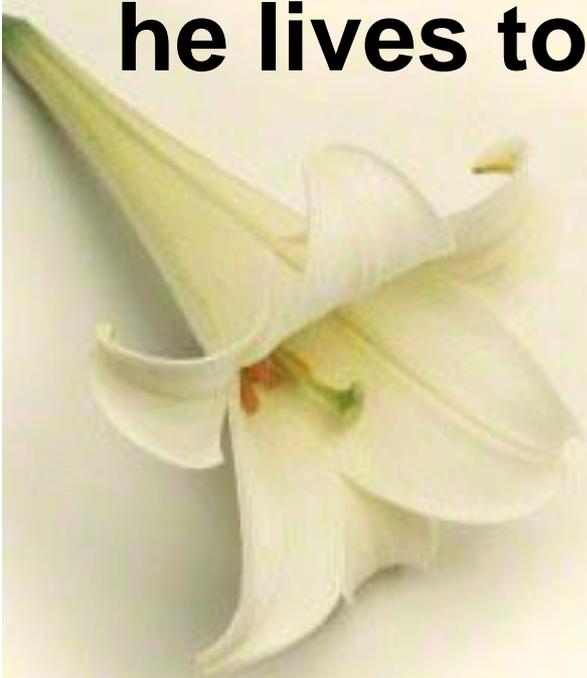
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead;

he lives, my ever-living head!



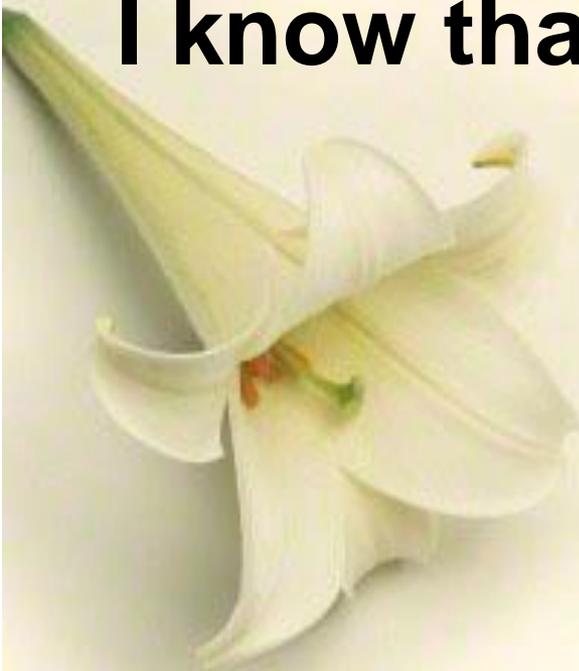
**He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.**



**He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.**



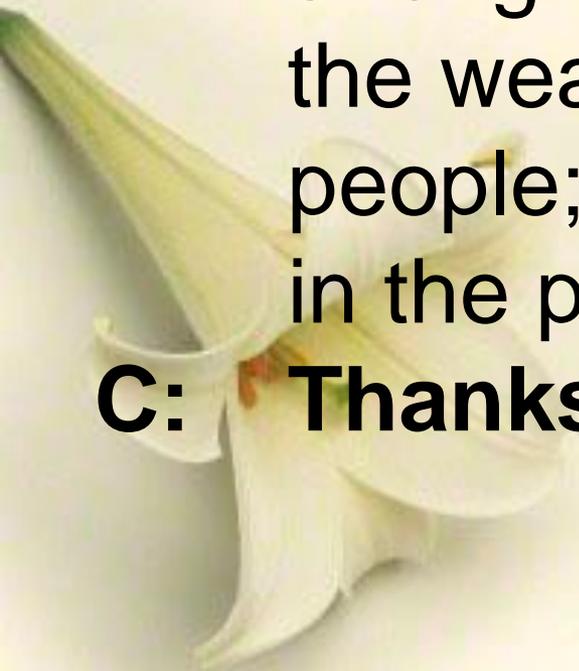
**He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**



DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



*Thanks for worshipping
with us today!*

*Please join us in the
Fellowship Hall for
refreshments*















