



# April 26, 2026

## 4th Sunday of Easter

+ GATHERING +

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us, the Yellow Breeches, Conodoguinet Creek, and Susquehanna River. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (ELW 366)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*

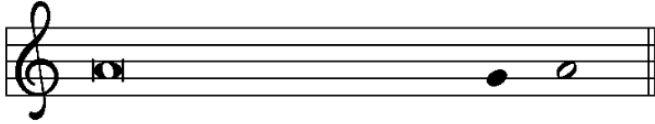
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## 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 a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



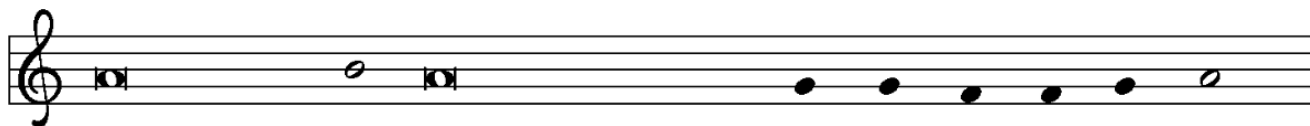
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



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

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.  
God of freedom,  
**Paul and Silas worshiped you,  
even when they were flogged and imprisoned.  
Transform our hearts  
so that we may also rejoice in you  
at all times and in all situations.  
Amen.**

**LADIES' ENSEMBLE**

*FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH, ARR. SCHRAM*

**READING** // Acts 16:16-34

One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL // Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

They had come to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

[Jesus said,] “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON (10:45)

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*You Shall Go Out With Joy* (GTG 80)

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

## **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

You freed Paul and Silas from their chains and filled a midnight cell with songs of praise. Free your church from whatever binds us: fear, complacency, or the comfort of our own walls. Set loose our voices to sing your goodness even in the dark places. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You shook the foundations of that prison and opened every door. Shake loose the foundations of systems that imprison the vulnerable. Open doors of dignity and freedom for all people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You created a world of abundance and entrusted it to our care. Where greed has exploited the earth and its people, bring accountability and restoration. Strengthen those who work for environmental justice and the flourishing of all living things. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

When the jailer saw the open doors, he despaired, but Paul cried out, "Do not harm yourself, we are all here." We pray for all who are in despair today, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we name before you, aloud or silently in our hearts. Remind them that you are present even in the darkest night, and that your voice calls out for their life and their wholeness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The jailer washed the wounds of those he had harmed, and his whole household was baptized before dawn. We pray for reconciliation where there has been injury, including in our families, our congregation, our community, and between nations. Give us the grace to tend the wounds we have caused and to receive the healing you offer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You brought Paul and Silas through imprisonment and into resurrection joy. We give thanks for all who have died trusting in that same joy, and we hold in prayer those who grieve. May the promise of Easter morning sustain all who wait in grief for the dawn. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING



*Scan for online giving*

## OFFERING HYMN *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* (ELW 367, stanza 4)

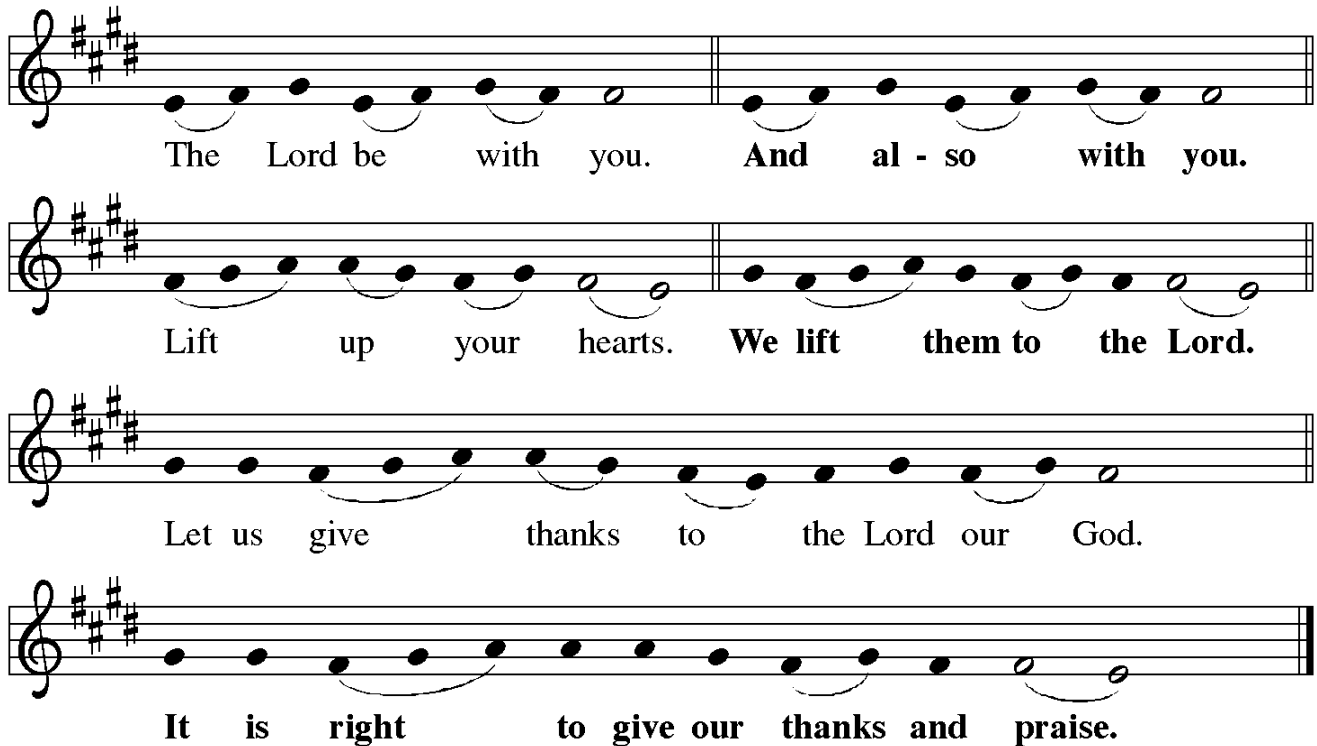
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring  
and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be - to the  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

+ MEAL +

## DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

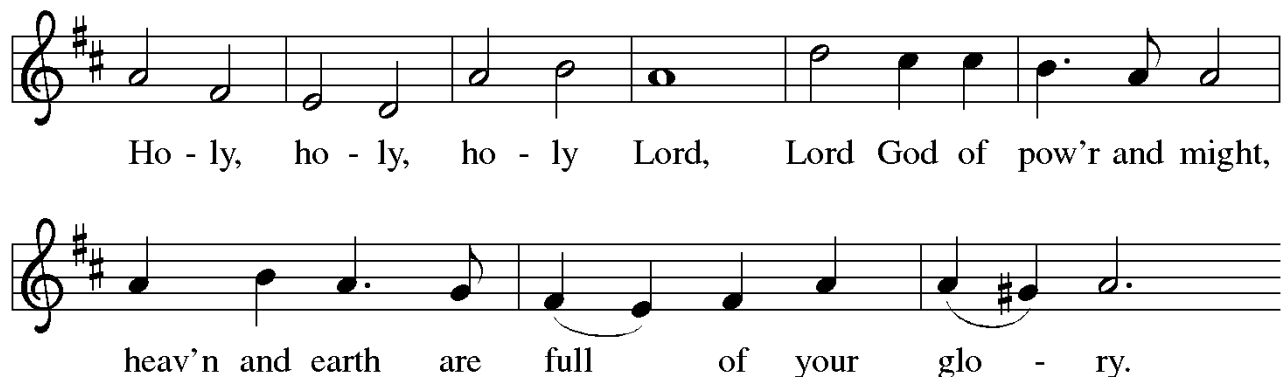
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ...

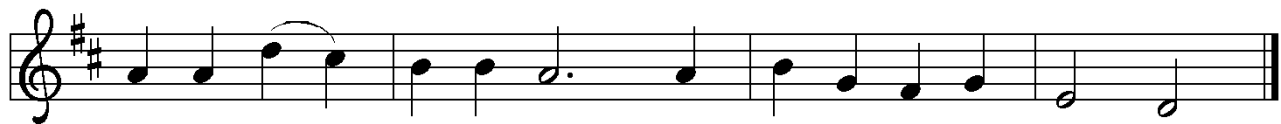


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



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

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*All who wish to meet Jesus are welcome at communion.*

*Our tradition at communion is to give our name before receiving the bread and wine so that the sacrament is made more personal.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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

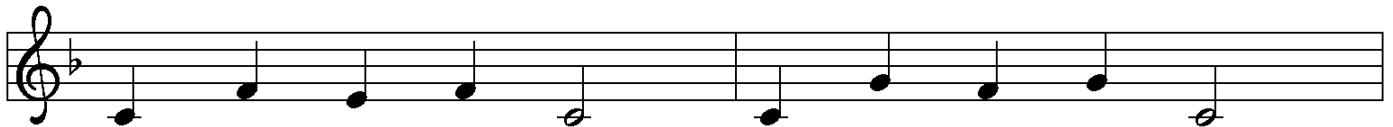


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN

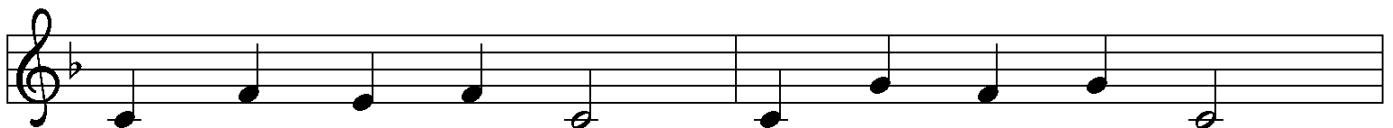
*Day of Arising* (ELW 374)



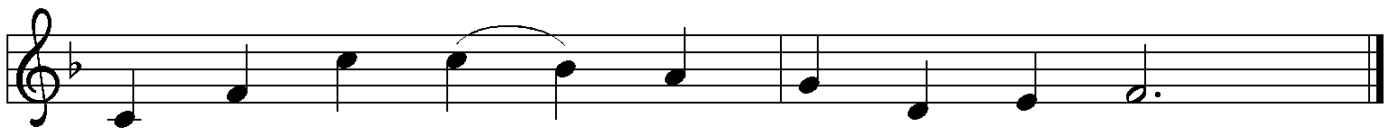
1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.  
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:  
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,  
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, love our enemies, and bring your healing to the nations. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

## BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*When in Our Music God Is Glorified* (ELW 851)



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -  
2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -  
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and  
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most  
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as  
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship  
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness  
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us  
joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
moved us to a more pro - found  
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!  
sing, for whom he won the fight:  
give us faith to sing al - ways:

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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PASTOR:	Pastor Alex Martini
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:	Karl Segletes
ORGANIST:	Deb Dillane
LADIES' ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR:	Priss Bashore
LADIES' ENSEMBLE ACCOMPANIST:	Susan Niedzwiecki
LITURGIST:	8:00: Stacey Niedzwiecki    10:45: Jean Wiltrout
LECTOR:	8:00: Esther Long    10:45: Bill Laubenheimer
USHERS:	Creedin & JoAnn Paulus
TECH TEAM:	Craig Nelson & Pam Ringhoffer

**Mission Central Volunteer Opportunity** - St. Peter is excited to partner with Mission Central in Mechanicsburg to help "Connect God's Resources to Human Need", which is Mission Central's slogan. The next volunteer day is tomorrow, Monday, April 27, 12:15 - 2:45 PM. If you would like to volunteer, contact Cheryl Fratus.

**Penn DOT Adopt-A-Highway** - Meet us in the church parking lot on May 2 at 9 AM to help with St Peter's spring clean-up at the Rt 15 and 114 interchange. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and bring gloves! If you have any questions, please contact David Hamilton.

**2nd Sunday Fellowship** - on Mother's Day Sunday, May 10, we will celebrate a time of fellowship from 9-10:30 AM. Join us for coffee, cake, and other snacks while visiting with your new and longtime friends. Beverages will be provided & you are welcome to bring a snack to share. Contact Dottie Shultz for additional information.

### **Save the Dates!**

- The annual Church Picnic is June 14, following the worship service.
- St. Peter VBS, Gather Around God's Campfire, is July 13-16, 9-11:30 AM.