

**HOLY SATURDAY  
THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER  
Saturday, March 30, 2024**

**Co-Presiders** The Right Reverend Dr. Susan Bell and The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin  
**Preacher** The Reverend Monica Romig Green

*Please gather in Bishopsgate, if you are able, as the paschal fire is kindled.*

**The Service of Light**

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**THE PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE**

*The new paschal candle is blessed and lit from the new fire, then lifted high.*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As the procession moves forward candles are lit from the paschal candle. Twice more the response is repeated.*

**THE EXSULTET**

*The Solemn Proclamation of Easter is sung by a Cantor.*

Rejoice heavenly powers! ... echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds... your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*After the Exsultet, candles are extinguished. Please sit for the readings.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.1 - 2.4a

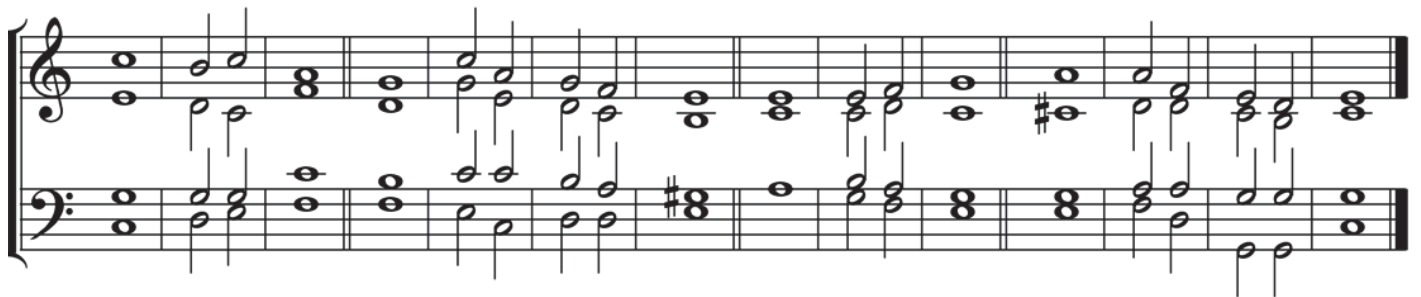
*At the end of the reading.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

Psalms 33.1-12



- 1 Rejoice in the / Lord you / righteous; \*  
it is / good for • the / just to • sing / praises.
- 2 Praise the Lord / with the / harp; \*  
play to God up/on the / psalt'ry • and / lyre.
- 3 Sing for / God a • new / song; \*  
sound a fanfare with all your / skill up/on the / trumpet.

4 For the word of the / Lord is / right, \*  
and all the / works of / God are / sure.

5 God loves righteous/ness and / justice; \*  
the loving-kindness of the Lord / fills the / whole / earth.

6 By the word of the Lord were the / heavens / made, \*  
by the breath of God's mouth / all the / heav'nly / hosts.

7 God gathers up the waters of the ocean as / in a / water-skin \*  
and stores / up the / depths of • the / sea.

8 Let all the earth / fear the / Lord; \*  
let all who dwell in the world / stand in / awe of / God.

9 For God spoke and it / came to / pass; \*  
God com/manded • and / it stood / fast.

10 The Lord brings the will of the / nations • to / naught, \*  
thwarting the de/signs / of the / peoples.

11 But the will of the Lord stands / fast for / ever, \*  
and the designs of God's / heart from / age to / age.

12 Happy is the nation whose / God is • the / Lord, \*  
happy the people / chosen • to / be God's / own.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

SECOND READING

Exodus 14.10-31, 15.20-21

*At the end of the reading.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord I sing, up - lift - ed high, and pow - er - ful to save; He  
 My strength, my re - fuge, sa - viour, Lord, the God whom I ac - claim, a  
 the char - i - ots of Phar - oah has he hurled in - to the sea; the  
 The deep has o - ver - whelmed them all they sank down like a stone; your

hurled the ri - der and his horse be - neath the Red Sea's wave.  
 war - rior strong, my peo - ple's God, and Yah - weh is His name.  
 fin - est arms and ar - my all lie drowned while we walk free.  
 right hand, Lord is glor - i - ous; the foe is o - ver - thrown.

5 What Gods can be compared with you,  
 in holiness and dread?  
 When you stretch forth your mighty arm,  
 your enemies fall dead.

6 Yet with your constant love, you led  
 the people you redeemed,  
 and brought them safely to the land  
 Of which our fathers dreamed.

7 And you will bring them, plant them on  
 the mountain called your own,  
 the sanctuary, resting place,  
 which you have made alone.

*Silence is kept.*

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

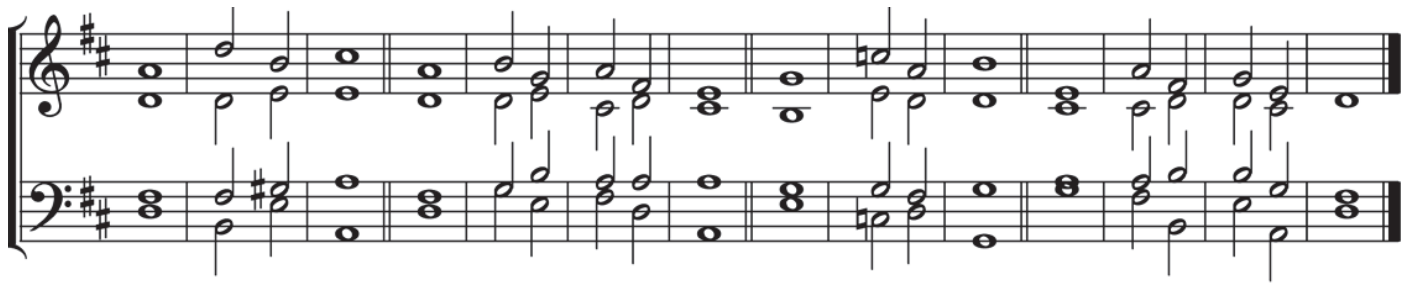
THIRD READING

Isaiah 55.1-11

*At the end of the reading.*  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

Isaiah 12.2-6



2 Surely God is / my sal/vation;  
I will trust and / will not / be a/fraid,  
for the Lord is my strength / and my / might;  
he / has be/come my • sal/vation.”

3 With joy you will draw water from the / wells of • sal/vation.

4 And you will say on that day: “Give thanks to the / Lord and / call on • his / name;  
make known his deeds a/mong the / nations;  
proclaim that his / name / is ex/alted.

5 Sing praises to the Lord, for / he has • done / gloriously;  
let this be / known in / all the / earth.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy O / royal / Zion,  
for great in your midst is the / Holy / One of / Israel.”

*Silence is kept.*

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit you renew the earth. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOURTH READING

Ezekiel 37.1-14

*At the end of the reading.*  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

1 Breathe on me, breath of God;  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

2 Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine  
to do and to endure.

4 Breathe on me, breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

*Silence is kept.*

Living God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FIFTH READING

Zephaniah 3.14-20

*At the end of the reading.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

Psalm 98



1 Let us sing a new / song to / God, \*  
who / has done / marvel·lous / things.

2 With a strong hand and / holy / arm \*  
--- / God has / claimed the / victory.

3 God has made / known the / victory; \*  
the righteousness of the Most High  
has been openly / shown in · the / sight of · the / nations.

4 The Holy One has shown mercy and faithfulness to the / house of / Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the / vict'ry / of our / God.

5 Shout with joy to God / all you / lands; \*  
lift up your / voice, re/joyce and / sing.

6 Sing to God / with the / harp, \*  
with the / harp and • the / voice of / song.

7 With trumpets and the / sound of • the / horn \*  
shout with joy before our / God who / reigns in / Majesty.

8 Let the sea make a noise and / all that • is / in it, \*  
the lands and / those who / dwell there-/in.

9 Let the rivers / clap their / hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before God, who will / come to / judge the / earth.

10 God will judge the / world in / righteousness \*  
--- / and the / peoples • with / equity.


*Silence is kept.*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery. By the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Bells will be rung and the organ will sound as we rejoice in the Resurrection, leading into the singing of the Gloria.*





and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly king,  
al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the  
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God you take a - way the  
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed  
at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,  
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



1 Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
 tell it out with joyful voice;  
 Christ has burst his three days' prison:  
 let the whole wide earth rejoice!  
 Death is conquered, we are free,  
 Christ has won the victory.

2 Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,  
 with glad smile and radiant brow;  
 Lent's long shadows have departed,  
 all his woes are over now,  
 and the Passion that he bore;  
 sin and pain can vex no more.

3 Christ is risen, Christ is risen;  
 he hath opened heaven's gate:  
 we are free from sin's dark prison,  
 risen to a holier state;  
 and a brighter Easter beam  
 on our longing eyes shall stream.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 6.3-11

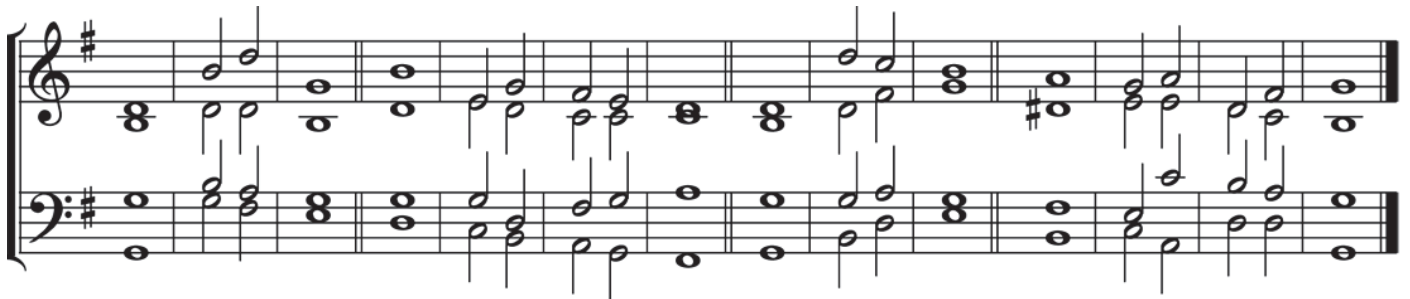
*At the end of the reading.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL PSALM

Psalm 114



1 Hallelujah! When Israel came / out of / Egypt,  
 the house of Jacob from a / people / of strange / speech,

2 Judah be- / came God's / sanctuary  
 and / Is·rael / God's do- / minion.

3 The sea be- / held it • and / fled;  
 ---/ Jordan • turned /and went / back.

4 The mountains / skipped like / rams,  
 and the / little • hills / like young / sheep.

5 What ailed you O sea, / that you / fled?

---/ Jordan • that / you turned / back?

6 You mountains that you / skipped like / rams?

you / little • hills / like young / sheep?

7 Tremble O earth, at the / presence • of / God,

at the presence of the Holy / One of / Jacob • and / Rachel.

8 God turned the hard rock into a / pool of / water

and flintstone / into • a /flowing / spring.

*Please stand.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 16.1-8

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the end of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Monica Romig Green

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.*

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*The Presider says the thanksgiving for water.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water... To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

**I will, with God's help.**

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*All stand as the Presider addresses the people.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The members of the community may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY HYMN

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

CP#211

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that Love, that Life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The Lord of life is ris'n today;  
sing songs of praise along his way;  
let all the earth rejoice and say:  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people, and grant that we who are baptized into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

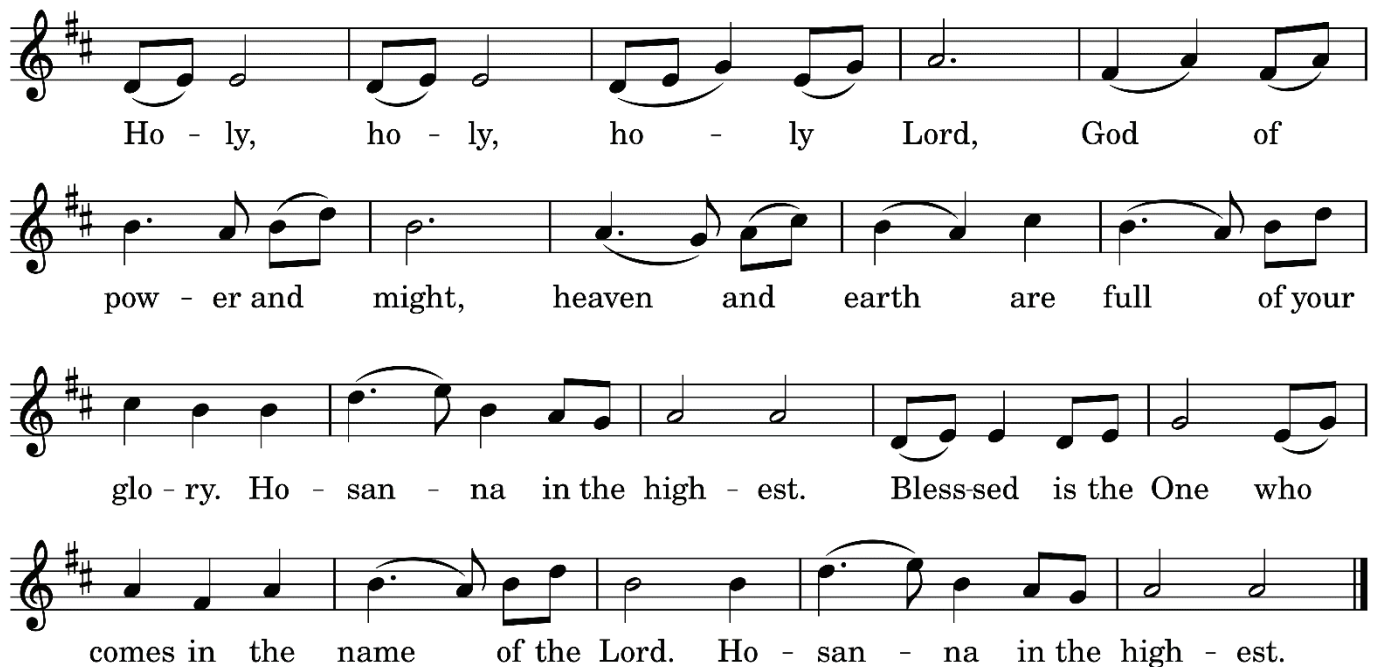
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth... we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heaven and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God... Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you ... by whom, and with whom, and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all hon- our and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.*

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Lord, we died with you on the cross.  
**Now we are raised to new life.**

We were buried in your tomb.  
**Now we share in your resurrection.**

Live in us, that we may live in you.

## THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## LAMB OF GOD

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

world: have mer-cy on us. world: grant us peace.

*All are invited to receive the Holy Eucharist. Please proceed to the high altar or the standing nave station.*

COMMUNION MOTET

This Is the Day

Anonymous 16<sup>th</sup> century

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

All your works praise you, O Lord.

**And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

CP#239

1 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now  
can no more, O death, appal us.  
Jesus lives! By this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
Alleluia!

2 Jesus lives! Henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath  
when we pass its gloomy portal.  
Alleluia!

3 Jesus lives! For us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.  
Alleluia!

4 Jesus lives! Our hearts know well  
nought from us his love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever.  
Alleluia!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G

JS Bach

## PERMISSIONS

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