

Second Sunday of Easter ~ APRIL 19, 2020

WELCOME TO WELLSTREAM WORSHIP

We welcome you in the name of Christ to this digital form of worship. The Wellstream is a digital ministry that allows Muhlenberg Lutheran Church to **livestream our 11:00 am Sunday morning worship services** through our Social Media platforms. You are encouraged to join in all parts of worship, responding and worshipping as you would in person. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet so that you may follow along with the worship leaders. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation, wherever you are. We stand for portions of our worship service, and invite you do this as it is comfortable. ***If you are watching this service LIVE, we encourage you to engage with other members of the community in the comments on either Facebook or YouTube—responding to prayers, offering prayer requests, or sharing the peace.***

We recognize that **Worship** and the formation of **Community** is central to living out our mission in the world. Worship is where we gather around the true Wellspring of God's Grace—the Word and Sacraments of Jesus Christ—in order that we might find renewal, and become a source of this same grace in our daily living. Worship, and the community we find there, is at the heart of who we are. However, in this season of Social Distancing in the midst of COVID-19, the best way to be community, is to not be in community. This service is not meant to replace face-to-face community, and digital worship cannot provide the sacramental nature of worship to those who engage online. However, this can be a powerful tool in this difficult season for connecting God's people when life gets in the way and *equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

CONNECT WITH US LIVE AT 11:00 AM

To access the service LIVE, visit our [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#) at 11:00 am. Both are also accessible from the homepage of our website.

COFFEE HOUR

Join members of the community for a digital coffee hour at 10:30 am by following this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/388500586?pwd=VUYraGFZMEZTTDk5ekRQZUx1Q3pSQTo9>

GIVE ONLINE

While we aren't meeting in person, the work of the church has not ceased. Please don't forget your financial gifts to God's mission in this place. You may mail your check to the church (281 E. Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801) or give online at www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give.

BEST PRACTICES FOR 'ATTENDING' CHURCH ONLINE

- Get out of bed and get dressed—it will put you in the right mindset to worship
- Go through your normal Sunday routine—minus the “hurry up we're running late” part
- Gather your family together—avoid distractions and make worship something for all
- Project the feed on your largest screen—it will feel more like you're “there”
- Sing along loud and proud—yes, it feels weird, but it feels weird for those leading worship in an empty room too!
- Engage in the message—let this hour be the beginning of a conversation with your friends and family, call and check in with others who “went to church”

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open ✝ Authentic ✝ Relational ✝ Serving

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Pastor Alex Zuber

281 E. Market Street

(540) 434-3496

Harrisonburg, VA 22801

www.muhlenberglutheran.org

If you're interested in why we do what we do, follow the notes in this column.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING

We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness.

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S TIME Children are invited forward for a brief message with the pastor.

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (arr. W. Leupold, b.1943)

Alice Wightman, Organ Soloist

(We stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

O God, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen:

You place us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Your works declare glory and splendor, and you call us to praise and reverence.

Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us.

Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us.

Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace.

Renew us in the waters of baptism, refresh us with the winds of your spirit, and sustain us with your Word of life. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for the sake of the new creation, we pray. Amen.

Through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Just as Jesus appeared before his disciples in his resurrected form still bearing the scars of the crucifixion— this world is wounded, deeply, yet at the same time, there is resurrection and transformation. We are called to care for creation in its beauty and in its woundedness. The resurrection of Jesus offers hope of new life, for all of creation, and for generations to come. God of creation, fill us with this hope, for in our brokenness we can do nothing apart from you, but only through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled.

Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship. This hymn sets the tone for the day.

GATHERING HYMN

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!



1 Christ is ris-en! Shout Ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of de-spair.
3 Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.



Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der: all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend.
Tell its grim, de-mon-ic chor-us: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"



Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na, ev-'ry-one!

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ~ This is the Feast

~see next page~

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

-continued on next page-

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

This prayer collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(We sit)

WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

FIRST READING ~ Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],
²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so

Liturgy, from the Greek, means “the work of the people.” Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators.

that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The reading concludes:

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

PSALM 16



¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**

³But those who run after | other gods
shall have their troubles | multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,
never take their names up- | on my lips. R**

⁵O Lord, you are my portion | and my cup;
it is you who up- | hold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night | after night.

⁸**I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken. R**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;
my body also shall | rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the | path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for- | evermore. **R**

The scripture readings follow a three-year cycle, called a lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts.

SECOND READING ~ 1 Peter 1:3-9

Kathy Thompson, Biblical Storyteller

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The reading concludes:

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

(We stand)

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

GOSPEL ~ John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do

not doubt but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We sit)

SERMON

Pastor Alex Zuber

Silence for reflection follows.

(We stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4th century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true.

We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/ her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith:

**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

After each petition:

. . . Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Have a prayer concern to share? Share it live or email it to info@muhlenberglutheran.org.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
"Peace be with you."

(We sit)

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.

Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners. This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

OFFERING

Bells for Easter (arr. K. Wissinger)

Gloria Dei Ringers
Kath Wissinger, Director

(We stand)

OFFERING SONG ~ The Peace of the Lord

~see next page~

The Peace of the Lord

La paz del Señor



1 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá: la paz del Señor a ti ya
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

2 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla;
 se hace presente ahora y aquí
 apréstate a recibirla.*

3 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,
 la paz del Resucitado:
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla;
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,
 apréstate a compartirla.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. **Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world. We give thanks for that saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

EASTER THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Through your Word you speak new life into our lives, rolling away stones and ushering in a new way of resurrection life here and now.

For your Word of new life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you created the heavens and the earth. By your Word you saved the earth from the waters of the flood. By your Word you led the Israelites safely through the sea. By your Word you led your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

For your Word of *deliverance*, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, your words and deeds have transformed death to resurrection life. Your Word has brought us all—wherever we are—to stand at the entrance of the empty tomb, and to walk with you into this Easter dawn.

For your Word of *Easter life*, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that the Alleluias we raise may be heard across all nations. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

SENDING

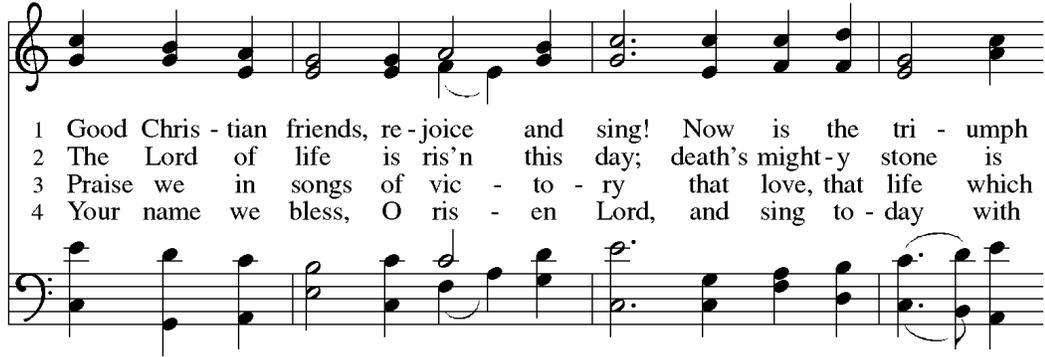
Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.

We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

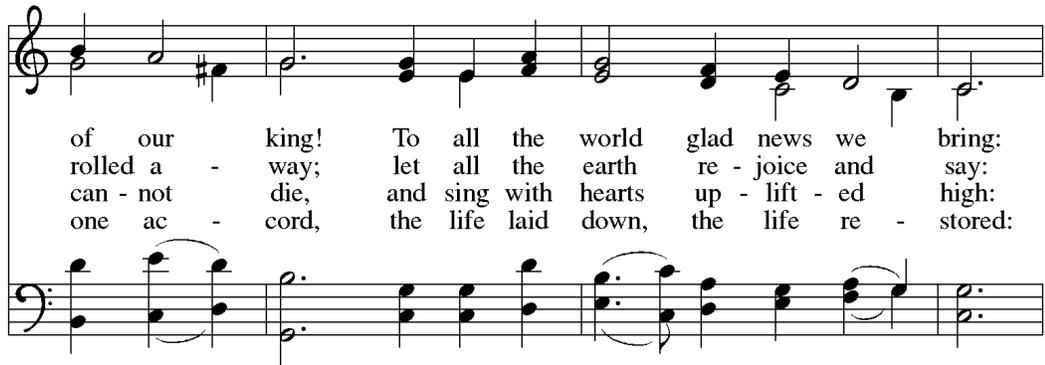
SENDING HYMN

The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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, al - le - lu - ia!

In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel.

BLESSING

The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

We have been renewed at the Wellspring of God’s grace!
Now, go in peace!

We go to be: Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune (W. Held, 1914-2015)

*Feel free to stay
and listen to
music.*

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

PREACHING MINISTER ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

PRESIDING MINISTER ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Meg Wightman

LECTOR ~ Alice Wightman

MUSICIAN ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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