

## Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ MAY 17, 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 to 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.

### SUNDAYS AT MUHLENBERG VIA ZOOM

Join us for fellowship via Zoom each Sunday from 9:00-11:00 am. We'll use "Breakout Rooms" via Zoom to ensure that everyone has a space to participate in this time together! Sunday School classes open around 9:00 am, and all are welcome to join for classes or stay in "The Gathering Area" for conversation. Full group Coffee Hour begins at 10:30 am. If you'd like a private word with one of the Pastors, or would like a smaller room to catch up with a small group, we have private breakout rooms for that! You're welcome to join whenever you'd like! Join each week at this link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>

### 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](http://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"*

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## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open ✝ Authentic ✝ Relational ✝ Serving

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Pastor Alex Zuber

281 E. Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-3496  
[www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://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

*Morning Has Broken* (arr. D. M. Dicie)

Flute and Piano Duet

(We stand)

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain, for the Chesapeake Bay; and the Shenandoah, the North, and the South Rivers.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather in this community; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our siblings in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

**We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy +Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing ~see next page~**

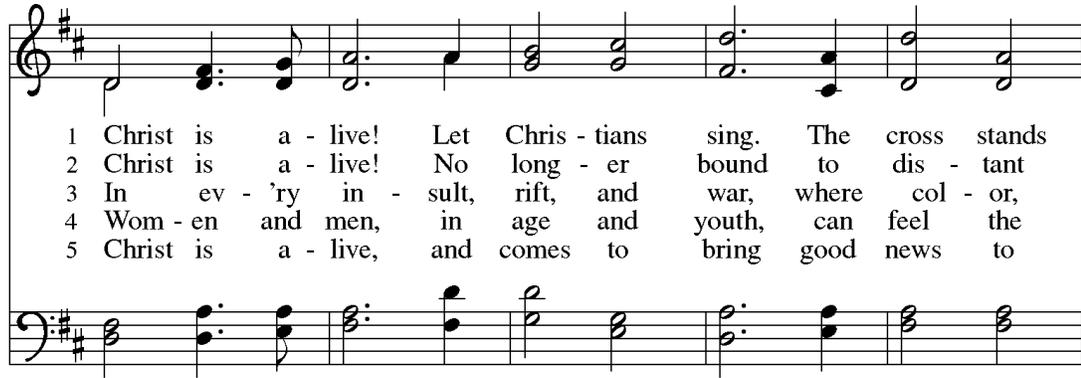
*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar, reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.*

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

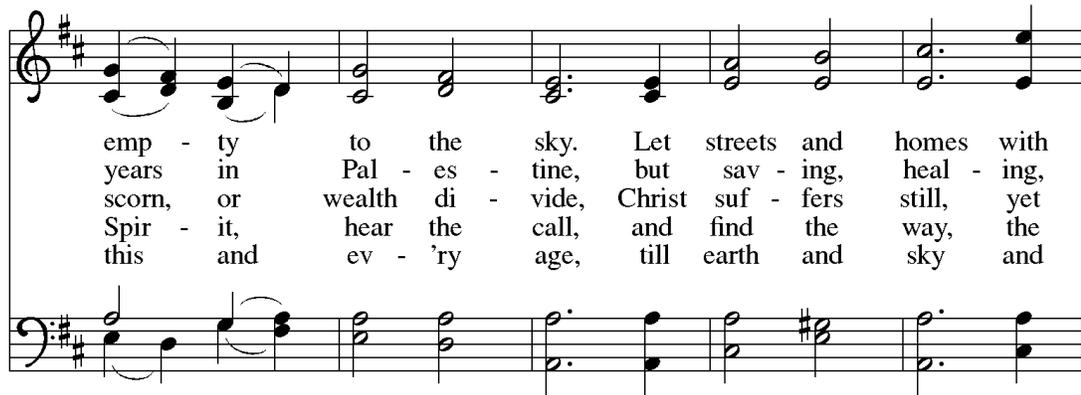
Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

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

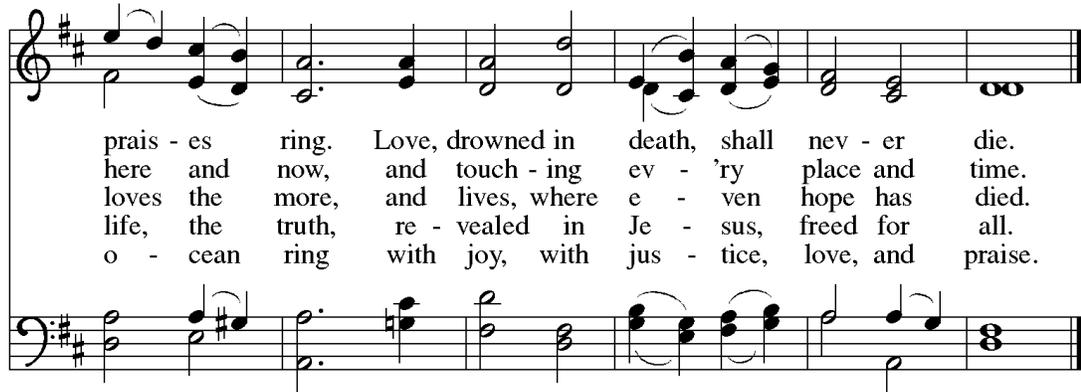
## Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

### 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 ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for

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.

him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*The reading concludes:*

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

### PSALM 66:8-20



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs. R**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**



those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

*After the reading:*

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

*(We sit)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Lauren Eanes

*Silence for reflection follows.*

*(We stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** we sing verses 1, 4, 6, 7 & 8

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

*~see next page~*

## Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, with ex-ul-ta-tion  
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay, death brood-ed fierce-ly  
3 O God, you saw my deep dis-tress be-fore the world's foun-  
4 You said to your be-lov-ed Son: "'Tis time to have com-



spring-ing, and, with u-nit-ed heart and voice and ho-ly  
o'er me, sin was my tor-ment night and day; in sin my  
da-tion, and, with your mer-cy mea-sure-less, you planned for  
pas-sion. Then go, bright jew-el of my crown, and bring to



rap-ture sing-ing, pro-claim the won-ders God has done, pro-  
moth-er bore me. My own good works all came to naught, free  
my sal-va-tion. You turned to me a fa-ther's heart; you  
all sal-va-tion; from sin and sor-row set them free; slay



claim the vic-t'ry God has won, how pre-cious was our ran-som!  
will a-gainst God's judg-ment fought, so firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
did not choose the eas-y part, but gave your dear-est trea-sure.  
bit-ter death for them that they may live with you for-ev-er."

5 The Son obeyed your gracious will,  
was born of virgin mother;  
and, your good pleasure to fulfill,  
he came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised he bore,  
a servant's form, like mine, he wore,  
to lead the devil captive.

6 To me he said: "Stay close to me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be;  
for you I strive and wrestle.  
The foe will shed my precious blood;  
all this I suffer for your good;  
my life o'er death will triumph.

7 "Now to my Father I depart,  
from earth to heav'n ascending,  
and, gracious wisdom to impart,  
the Holy Spirit sending,  
who will in trouble comfort you,  
will teach you well, your faith renew,  
and in all truth will guide you.

8 "What I on earth have done and taught  
guide all your life and teaching;  
so shall the glorious reign of God  
increase, the whole world reaching.  
Let none the gospel gift impede;  
I make you free; be free indeed!  
This final word I leave you."

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](mailto: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

*This Little Light of Mine* (arr. B. West, 2015)

Piano Solo

(We stand)

## OFFERING SONG

### Father, We Thank You



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -  
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your  
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,  
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.  
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

## 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.**

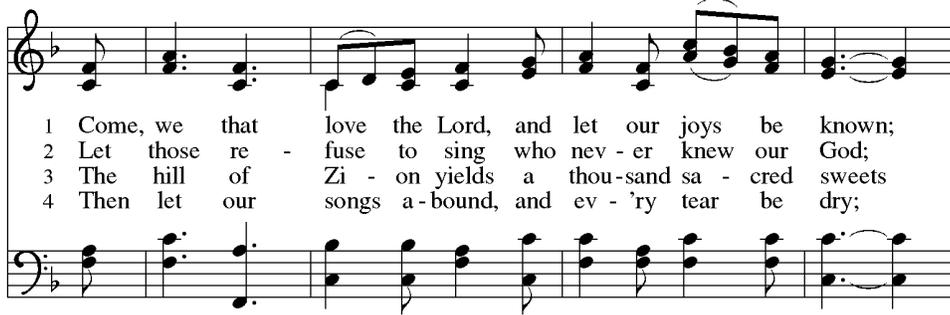
# SENDING

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.

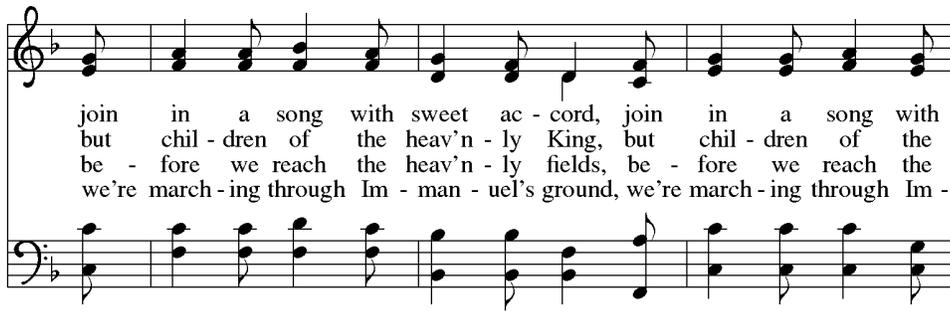
We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

## SENDING HYMN ~ Come, We That Love the Lord

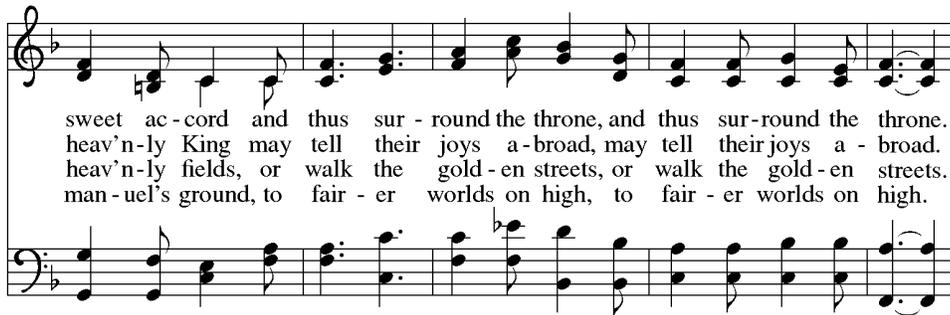
The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.  
heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

*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!**

*Feel free to stay and listen to music.*

## **POSTLUDE**

*We're Marching To Zion* (arr. G. Young, 1980)

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## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER** ~ Neil Alexander

**LECTOR** ~ Kathy Alexander

**MUSICIANS** ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister  
Wylie Walton, Cantor  
Rachel Peters, Flutist

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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