

*Introduction to the day: Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*Immortal Invisible*

©Laura Storey & Ed Cash

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

## **WELCOME**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,

we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,

and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth,

through the city,

through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water

and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,

our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

## GATHERING SONG *God Is Here!* (WOV 719)



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 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.**

Leader

In peace, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

2

Leader

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer-cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,  
for the health of God's church,  
and for all unity, let us pray  
to the Lord

3

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer-cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For this holy house,  
and we who offer praise, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,  
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
A - - - - men

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Wor - thy is the  
 Lamb who was slain  
 His blood to set us free  
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord  
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.  
 Po - wer, rich - es,  
 wis - dom, strength  
 Hon-or, bless - ing, glo - ry

All be-long to God on high.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Sing with all God's  
 ho - ly peo - ple  
 Join the hy - mn of  
 all cre - a - tion  
 Bless - ing, hon - - or,  
 glo - ry, mi - ght  
 Be to God and the  
 Lamb for - ev - er  
 A - men! A - men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 For the Lamb who once was slain  
 Has be-gun his reign forev - er.  
 A - - - - men!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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**FIRST READING:** Acts 11:1-18 (Jeri Wartena)

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

*A reading from Acts.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 148 (Jeri Wartena)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING:** Revelation 21:1-6 (Jeri Wartena)

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

*A reading from Revelation.*

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE** (Pastor Allen Dunn)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel*

## **GOSPEL:** John 13:31-35 (Paul Larson)

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new



commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

*Please be seated*

## SERMON (Paul Larson)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able*

## HYMN OF THE DAY



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by  
4. All — praise to the Fa - ther, from — whom all things

4 Fm Bbm Eb<sup>7</sup>/Bb Fm Eb/F



Lord; We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the  
hand; We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in  
side; We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by  
come; And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His — on - ly —

8 Fm Bbm Eb<sup>7</sup>/Bb Fm Eb/F



Lord. And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -  
hand. And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our  
side. And we'll guard each man's dig - ni - ty and save — each man's  
Son. And all praise to the Spir - it, who — makes — us —

### CHORUS

12 Fm Db Fm



-stored. And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our  
land.  
pride.  
one.

16 Bbm Fm Bbm Eb<sup>7</sup>/Bb Fm



love, yes they'll know — we are Chris - tians by our love. \_\_\_\_\_

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world this Easter Season and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeri Wartena)

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)*



In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness  
we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.  
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,

and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.  
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts.  
**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**

The risen Christ dwells with us here.  
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please follow the directions of the worship leader and the ushers.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

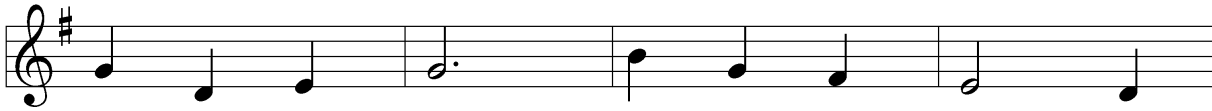
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## **BLESSING**

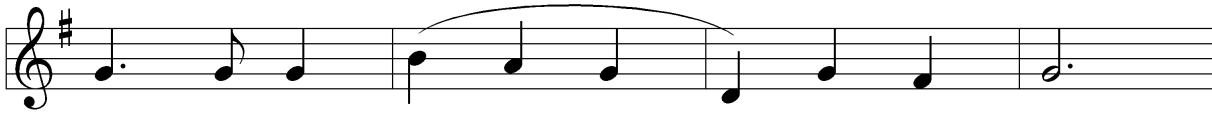
God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✚ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

# SENDING SONG *Earth and All Stars!*

(LBW 558)



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing ar - my!  
Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling dry leaves!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!  
Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band!  
Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!  
Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son!  
Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel,  
the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God and we will.**