

Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025 11:00 a.m.

#### **Mission Statement**

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming and inclusive community nourished by



Christ in vibrant worship and committed to God's mission of love and service especially to the oppressed and to the poor.

#### Welcome Statement

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. Called by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people, inclusive of culture, age, race or ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or family structure. We are committed to the work of racial equity and justice within and through our community that we all may be transformed to be fully the body of Christ in our world. We invite you to worship with us, receive Christ's gift of Holy Communion with us, share your own story with us, and serve with us as we strive to live into God's universal embrace in Jesus Christ.

Whether you are a new member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you to our spiritual home.

- If this is your first Sunday with us, please stop by our information kiosk to learn more about our church community.
- During our worship service, children are invited to enjoy the prayground area. For families with infants, our nursery attendants are available to provide care. The nursery is accessible through the courtyard.
- Our Holy Communion elements are free of gluten and alcohol. You may choose to receive both the bread and cup, or either one: Christ is fully present in all.
- Restrooms are conveniently located in the ministry building. From the nave, simply follow the cloister through the courtyard and enter the double doors; you will find the restrooms on your left.
- Please note that firearms are strictly prohibited within all Christ the King Church buildings and courtyard at all times.

We are delighted to have you join us and hope you have a meaningful experience with us.

**Cover:** *New Heaven and New Earth*, contemporary painting on Masonite by John Lautermilch, St. Louis. Missouri

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ: 50 days of Easter Jubilation

Easter, the happy remembrance of the resurrection of the crucified, dead, and buried Jesus Christ, has always been the chief celebration of Christ's Church. *Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter*; a joyous gathering around the festive table where all are welcome to the presence of Christ, crucified and risen.

For our early Christian forbears, celebrating Easter only 52 <u>Sundays</u> was not enough. So they borrowing from their Jewish forebears' observance of Passover and, 50 days later, the spring festival, Shavuot; and using a similar formula: "the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox," they determine the annual <u>day</u> to celebrate Christ's resurrection and added 50 more days to their Easter celebration, concluding with the 50<sup>th</sup> day, Pentecost. In 2025, the Fifty Days of Easter are from April 20 to June 8, and every day, *including weekdays*, is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, our baptism into Christ's dying and rising, and Christ's Spirit-giving presence among us as the holy communion table.

Our forebears had specific suggestions for these 50 days of worship:

- Don't just *bring back* Alleluia, buried and left unheard and unsaid during the 40 weekdays of and Sundays in Lent, sing/shout/ say Alleluia *as often as you can*. Hence, in our worship, we repeat **Alleluia! Christ is risen.**Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia! as often as we are able.
- Remember your baptism into Christ's dying and rising.

  To our forebears, this suggested that they stand (like their Jewish neighbors) for all prayers and acts of worship such as receiving communion during these fifty days. We're going to try this this year.
  - To us, this implied the joyful (and sometimes playful) use of a Thanksgiving for Baptism in place of a more somber Confession and Forgiveness.
- Include as many hymns of praise (especially those with more "Alleluias") as possible. This will be obvious each time we gather to worship.

You are welcome and you are invited to celebrate life in Christ in this beloved community with us. The worship instructions in red (rubrics) will invite you to join in each particular act of jubilation. The notes in green will help us understand the history of each act and why we continue to do them.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

All Creation Sings, Setting Twelve.

#### Gathering

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

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude: Brass Choir

Suite: "Rose Without a Thorn"

Elgar Howarth (1935-2025)

I. It is to me a right great joy

II. Pastime with good company

The prelude serves as an opportunity to center oneself before worship. We ask the congregation to refrain from conversation once the prelude begins.

#### stand

Proclamation from the Font

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism as we rejoice with all who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Anthony Lloyd, John Roalson, Bailey Wiker, Jalen Wiker, Ann Gebuhr, Leo Adams.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

#### Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

#### Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Easter's 50 days are a time of unbounded joy, not only because Jesus was raised to life after death and burial, but also because we are baptized into Jesus' dying and rising, our last enemy – death – has no power over us. For these 50 days our attention is focused, not on what we have done and left undone, but on our new fearless life in Christ for the only death we have to fear is behind us.



Thanksgiving for Baptism helps us physically to remember our baptism into Christ together with the beloved global community of God's people and the company of all who have died and now rest in Christ.



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

### Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

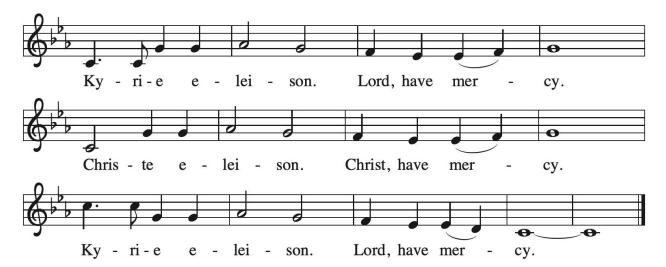
#### Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

# And also with you.

### **Kyrie**

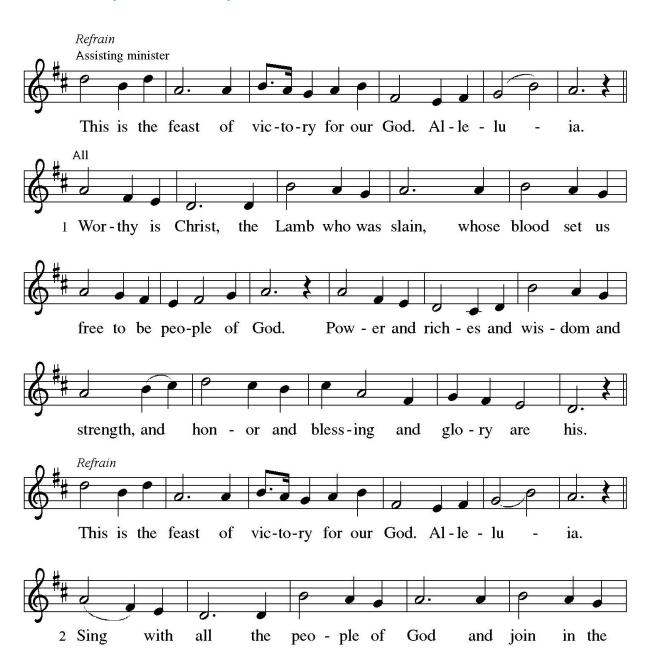
This ancient prayer addressed to God as Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit is included at the chief worship service on all festival days and recognizes the magnitude of God's extravagance and our need to experience "mercy," that is God's steadfast love.



#### Hymn of Praise

Based on texts from Revelation 5:12-13 and 19:5-9, this hymn evokes the songs of "as great multitude whom no one can number" and emphasizes that Christ the Lamb of God, not as a sacrifice for sin but as the Passover Lamb whose death enables the feast of our Passover from death to life.











This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



### 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.

#### Word

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

With the exception of the 50 days of Easter, First Readings are regularly from the Hebrew scriptures (Old Testament) and, with the appointed psalm, always relate to the Gospel Reading. On Easter Sundays, the First Reading is from the Book of Acts and are chosen to proclaim the ongoing effects of the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection as Christ's Church began to grow and spread throughout the world. This year's Acts readings focus on the full inclusion of Gentiles into the community of believers.

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Peter's vision: God give the Gentiles repentance that leads to life Spark Story Bible, p. 526

<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?" 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 "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.'9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 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.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 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.' 17 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?" 18 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.

or The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 148

# Sung in alternation by verse



- <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, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove 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 forev- | er 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;
- 8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do-ing God's will;
- 9 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!

New heaven, new earth: springs of living water in the new Jerusalem Whirl Story Bible, p. 518

<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. or The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

#### stand

**Gospel Acclamation** 



Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. *John 13:35* 

Gospel John 13:31-35

Jesus gives a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you

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.

sit

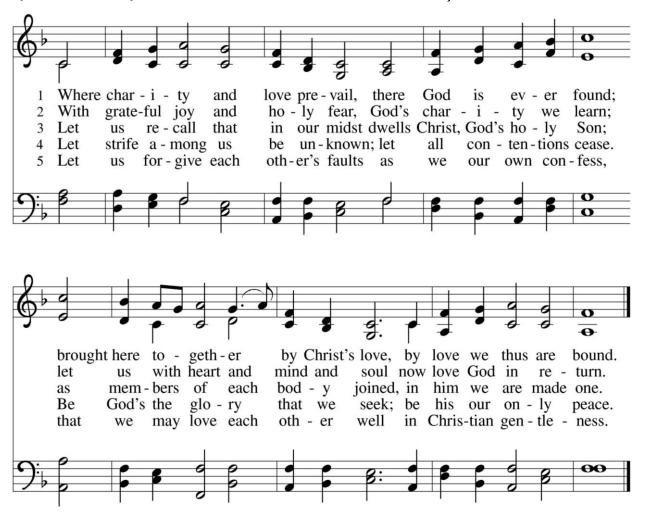
Sermon

Silence

At the conclusion of the introduction, the assembly stands to sing the Hymn of the Day.

#### Hymn of the Day 359

### Where Charity and Love Prevail



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

#### 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;



The Nicene Creed celebrates its 1700 anniversary in May 2025. Recognizing this, the Lutheran World Federation and the Orthodox communion suggest that in solidarity through the 50 days of Easter which we are celebrating at the same time, we omit the words "and the Son," marked in gray which is a later addition.

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.

As a sign of our Easter joy, please remain standing.

### Prayers of Intercession

Those in the Prayground are invited to light a tea light on Prayground altar or color their prayers on the provided coloring sheets. These colored prayers will be collected during the offering.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

We join the whole church in commemorating: Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160, May 18; Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330, May 21; Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists, May 24.

### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say: Peace be with you.

### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## Offering

If you give through your bank or online, please place a reusable "Our Offering" card in the basket. These cards are located in front of you in the pew backs.

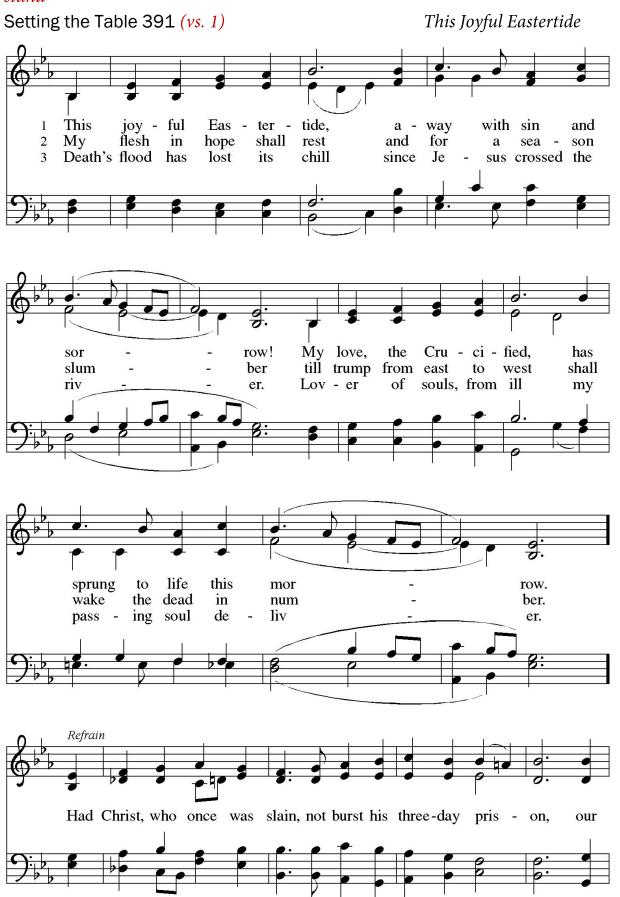
Motet

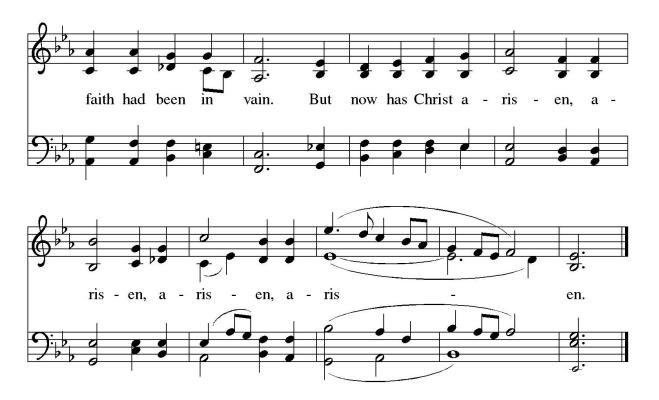
A New Commandment
David Barton

I give you a new commandment: To love one another as I have loved you.

If there is this love among you, Then all will know that you are my disciples.

#### stand





Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

#### Offering Prayer

Let us pray:

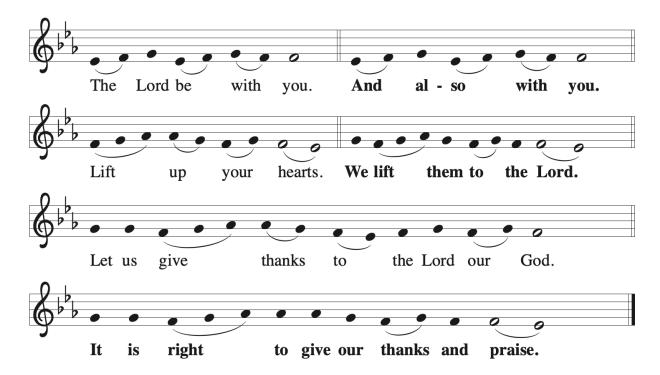
Risen One,

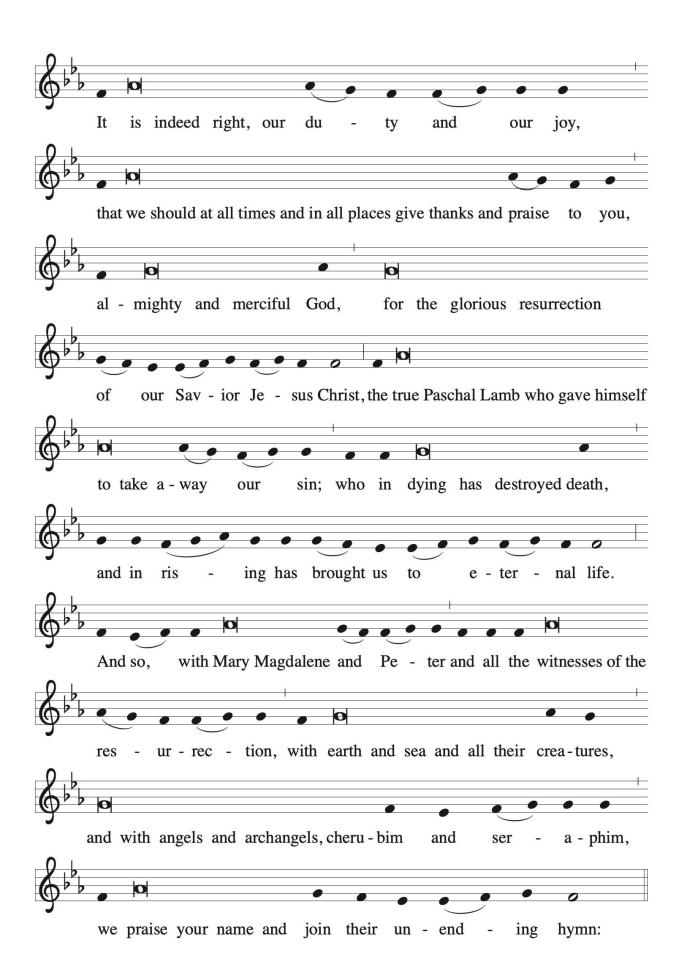
you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The presiding minister invites the Assembly's joyful thanksgiving. In the "proper preface" beginning with "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy," the presiding minister celebrates the "death of our foe" and the gift of the holy communion meal which we receive from God through Christ "the Paschal (Passover) Lamb."







The presiding minister continues in thanksgiving and intercession.

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the forebears, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:

his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

All honor and glory are yours, almighty God, through Christ Jesus, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### Communion

Invitation to the Christ's Table

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

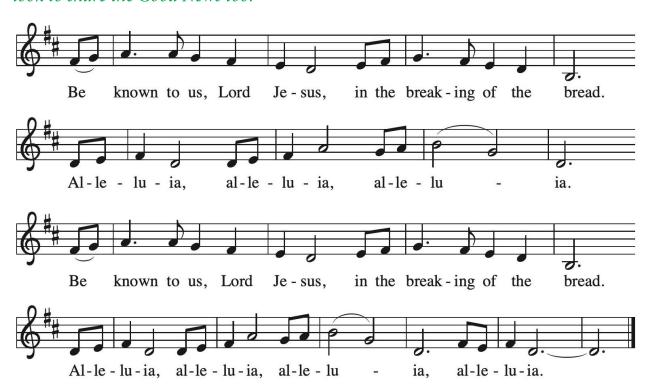
Throughout the Fifty Days of Easter, we encourage you to follow the early Church suggestions and STAND to receive the Sacrament or a blessing.

All are welcome to receive communion. At the direction of the ushers, please take an individual communion glass from the table at the corner of the pews and approach the altar rail from its corner. Please return to the seats through the short center aisles where there are trays for used glasses. Children of all ages are invited to commune or receive a blessing. Our holy communion elements do not contain gluten or alcohol.

#### sit

### Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus

This song is from Luke's Gospel story (24: 13-35) told to the apostles by two disciples whom the risen Christ meets "on the way to Emmaus." They do not recognize Christ until "at the table" he "takes, blesses, and breaks the bread," after which they run to share the Good News. Meeting Christ at this Table, we look to share the Good News too.





Text: John 13:34-35

Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous



Text: Mark Mummert, b. 1965, based on 1 John 4:11, 16, 19

Music: GOD IS LOVE, Mark Mummert Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

#### stand

# Communion Blessing

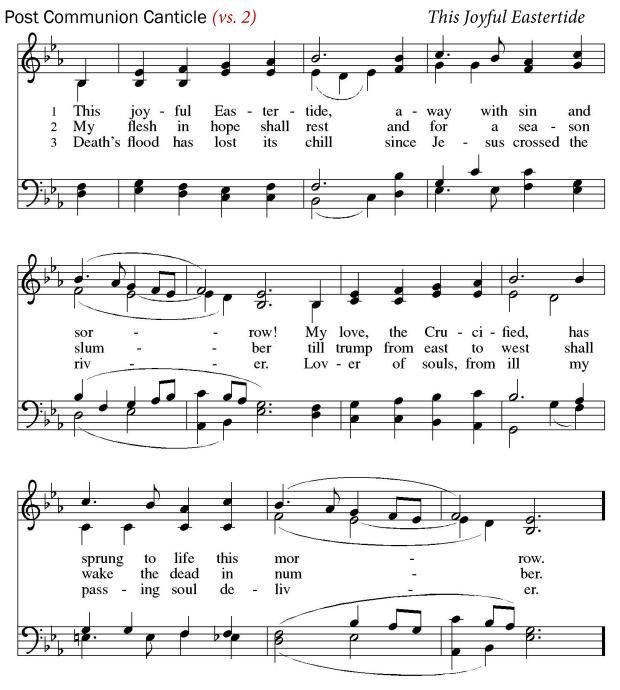
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.** 

### Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The bread and wine are taken from the Lord's table to members who are hospitalized, home-bound, or otherwise unable to be present in the liturgy.





Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

# Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Living One,

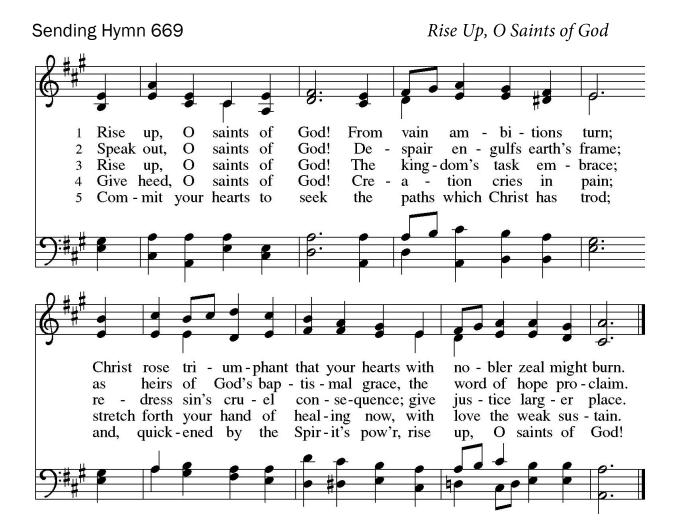
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

### Sending

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



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### Blessing

God the creator,

By whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

Open to you the gates of everlasting life.

Amen. Alleluia.

God the redeemer,

who is rising from the grave, has set creation free, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen. Alleluia.

God the Holy Spirit,

Who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Christ,

Empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen. Alleluia.

And the blessing of almighty God,

Be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Trumpet Fanfare

XXX

You are invited to remain seated and enjoy the postlude or depart quietly and greet our clergy in the courtyard and narthex.

Pealing of the Bells

Earliest accounts of Christian worship testify to an offering following the Eucharist designated to the poor and the alien by those able to give out of gratitude to God and generosity in imitating Christ.

Month-to-date contributions are \$320.00.

Christ the King Lutheran Church thanks you for your generous financial support. Offerings may be mailed to the church office, 2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005, or given online through our website, www.ctkelc.org.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by DJ Fomby in celebration of thirty-two years of togetherness for Robert Hoover and DJ Fomby.

# **Snacks Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for:

- May 25 at 11:00 a.m.
- June 1 at 11:00 a.m.
- June 8 at 11:00 a.m.

You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!



### Serving

God gives us gifts and talents so that we might serve.

| David Karohl              | Head Usher                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Linda Murray              | Usher                       |
| Tate Williams             | Bellringers                 |
| Anneliese Williams        | Acolytes                    |
| Ben Kerswell              | Cantor                      |
| Martin Jones              | Music Associate             |
| Rachel McWhirter          | Digital Verger              |
| Lisa Miller               | Lay Eucharistic Minister    |
| Judy Hungerford           | Lay Eucharistic Minister    |
| Linda Thomas              | Lay Eucharistic Minister    |
| Dcn. Ben Remmert          | Crucifer                    |
| Dcn. Aimee Elles          | Server                      |
| Bill Pelham               | Server                      |
| Trish Chapman             | Assisting Minister          |
| The Rev. Dr. Amandus Derr | Presiding Minister/Preacher |

# Members of the Altar Guild:

Jill Bailer, Bette Bowers, Anita Bryant, Kellye Burke, Carole Derr, Reinetta Hansen, Maureen Lamson, Gaelyn Lesher, Liz Lloyd, Linda Marx, Peggy Mathis, Jacquelyn McAnelly, Marie Monroe, Mary Jane Orsburn, Jan Petner, Eleanor Verret, and Nyla Woods. Members bake bread and order flowers, deliver flowers to church members, rotate paraments, arrange the communion ware, and generally prepare the nave for worship. Contact Janis Petner, jhpet1@gmail.com, for more information.

Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696

Memorial Campus: 12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024

Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

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All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

