



**The Third Sunday of Easter, Year A**  
**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

*“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”*

April 19, 2026

10:00am Service - Rite 2

Links to the Sunday (10AM) Livestream Service  
and Service Bulletin available weekly

**Welcome visitors and seasonal neighbors! We rejoice in your presence among us.  
To get to know you better please sign our guest book kept in the narthex.**

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570) 421-7481 | Office hours Tu-Th 2-6pm  
E-Mail: office@christchurchstroudsburg.org  
Website: www.christchurchstroudsburg.org

***“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”***

Diocese of the Susquehanna

Priest: The Rev. Bill Martin

**Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan & Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols, *Bishops***

**VESTRY**

Senior Warden – Carl A.

Jr. Warden – Cheryl C.

Clerk of Vestry – Chris S.

Patti A., Myra B., Debby C., Kevin F.,  
Marcos G., Katina W., Sharon P.

**LITURGY PARTICIPANTS**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Bill Martin

**Lectors:** Deborah E., | Carl A.

**Altar Assistant/Server:** Anthony P.

**Crucifer:** TBD

**Chalice Bearer:** Debby C.

**Music Director:** Bethann K.

**Choir:** Patti A., Carol C., Deborah E., Suzanne P., Gail M., Andrea C.

**Bell Choir:** Patti A., Rose H., Gail M., Bobby P., Meghan P., Chris S.

**Ushers/Greeters:** Debby C., Tina W.

**Counters:** Bob N. | Jill A.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Church Admin – Andrea C.

**Books in the Pews for Service**

**BCP** – The Book of Common Prayer (**RED** book)

**H** – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

**WLP** – Wonder, Love & Praise (**GREEN** book)

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN: (H 495) *Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus*



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -  
2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on  
3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er  
\*4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;  
thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,  
to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,  
to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal  
thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -  
seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art  
right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic



Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it  
giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the  
plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us  
spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our



we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name  
gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.  
in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.  
Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

## OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)


*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

*People* The Lord is Risen Indeed.


## COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

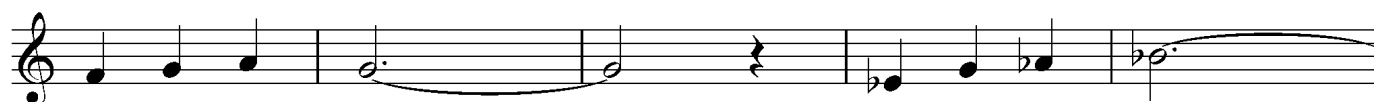
OPENING ANTHEM - *Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis* (S 236)



1. Glo - ry to you, Lord




God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;



glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you



for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will



praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.




3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your




tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to



you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -



ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and



high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

<sup>2</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>3</sup>Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*  
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

<sup>10</sup>How shall I repay the Lord \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?

<sup>11</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>13</sup>Precious in the sight of the Lord \*  
is the death of his servants.

<sup>14</sup>O Lord, I am your servant; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>15</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

<sup>16</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*  
in the presence of all his people,

<sup>17</sup>In the courts of the Lord's house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Colossus.

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Bless the Lord O my soul (WLP 825)*

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of [the disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses

and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Celebrant*           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SEQUENCE HYMN: *Bless the Lord O my soul* (page 7)**

### **THE SERMON**

### **THE CREED (BCP p. 358)**

*Please stand as you are able.*

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359)**

*All remain standing.*

Great are the deeds of the Lord! Sisters and brothers, let us pray, saying,  
“Christ, hear our prayer! Jesus, have mercy on us!”

May your Church be faithful, even as you are faithful. May we and your whole Church unashamedly work to further the gospel. May we overcome whatever apathy or distraction might threaten our witness.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May the nations of the world seek wisdom and truth. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Audrey and Kevin, our own Bishops, Bill our Priest and Barbara our Canon Missioner. In our country we pray for Donald our President, and Josh our Governor. May people, rich and poor, powerful and weak, find in you the source of healing and wholeness. In our congregation we pray for the Ziegler Family, Patti Alleger, the Altomare, Armitage and Ausfahl families. In the Diocese of Susquehanna, we pray St. Margaret's, Emmaus; Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace, Gettysburg. In Kajo Keji we pray for Lubule, Koiba Parish. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

*Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May we protect and guard the created order. May we recognize the majesty and splendor of all you have made. May we remember that healthy waters, sky, and land make us healthier people.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May we be ever compassionate toward those who are pushed into the margins of our society. Give us open hearts that welcome and open hands that touch. Teach us a love that crosses boundaries and borders.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May the sick and suffering know in their bodies and minds your healing power. You desire to make men and women clean of disease and stigma; make your grace known.

O Lord our God, restore to health those who cry out to you, especially Lynn, Joan, Gail, Anthony, Oliver, Lorelai, Marshall, Richard, Antonia, Rebecca, June, Barbara, Eliza, Margaret, Kelly Ann, Berni, Julian, Noel, Mike, Chris, Frank, Zach, Laura, Jo, Loretta, Brianna, Renee, Mary and Jim E, Jodi, David, Denise and Jay.

*Invite the congregation to add their petitions, followed by silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

May those who have died, especially Richard M. Ziegler, know the salvation found in you, Christ Jesus. Preserve the living in the enduring hope that, just as we are baptized into your death, so will we also live with you forever.

*Silence*

Christ, hear our prayer!

**Jesus, have mercy on us!**

*Celebrant*

We give thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his presence with us. Because he lives, we look for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you**

in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*Celebrant*        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*            And also with you.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BLESSINGS**

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN *From all that dwell below the skies Verse 3* (H 380)**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP 367)**

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.

*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (WLP 858)***

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new

Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 364)

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

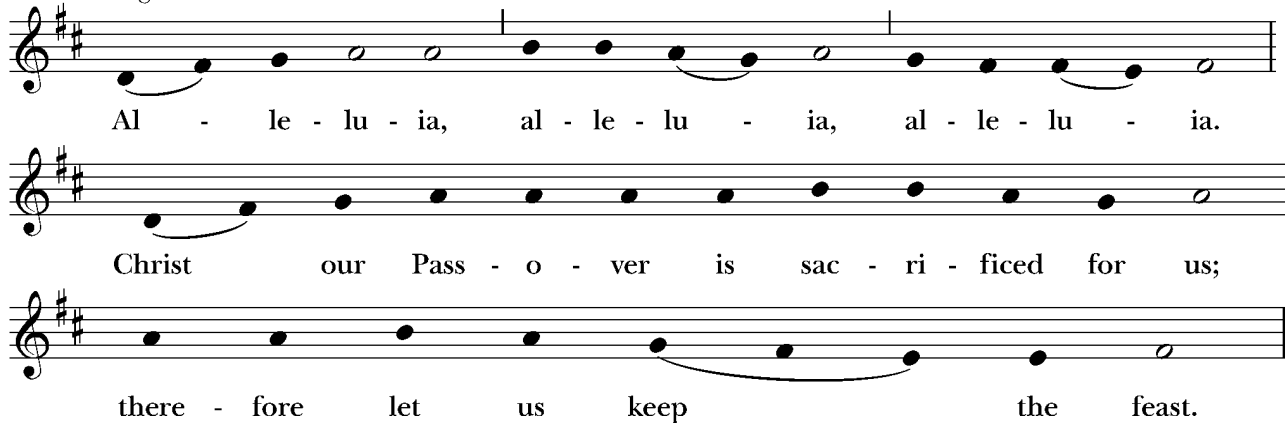
## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

**[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;**  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]**

## FRACTION ANTHEM: (S 154) Christ our Passover (*Alleluia, Alleluia*)

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**INVITATION (BCP p. 364)**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)**

*You can remain seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you can consume it then drink from the first cup of consecrated wine. You can also hold the bread to “intinct” or touch the tip of the bread into the second cup of wine. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. If you would like a blessing, come forward and cross your hands over your heart to indicate you would like to be blessed. Gluten free wafers are available. Please let the priest know as you come forward. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

**COMMUNION HYMN: (H 343) Shepherd of Souls Refresh and Bless**

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
 word of grace, in strength of which we  
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**EASTER SEASON BLESSING**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN: (H 174) *At the Lambs High Feast***

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
 2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;  
 3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;  
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;  
 Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
 thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:  
 From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,  
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;  
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;  
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.  
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

## DISMISSAL (BCP 366)

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

