

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

“A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ”

May 3, 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: Mary Ellen W. | Martha L.

Altar Assistant/Server: Anthony P.

Crucifer: TBD

Chalice Bearer: Andrea M.

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: Chris S., Tina W.

Counters: Steve W. | Martha L.

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 518) *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

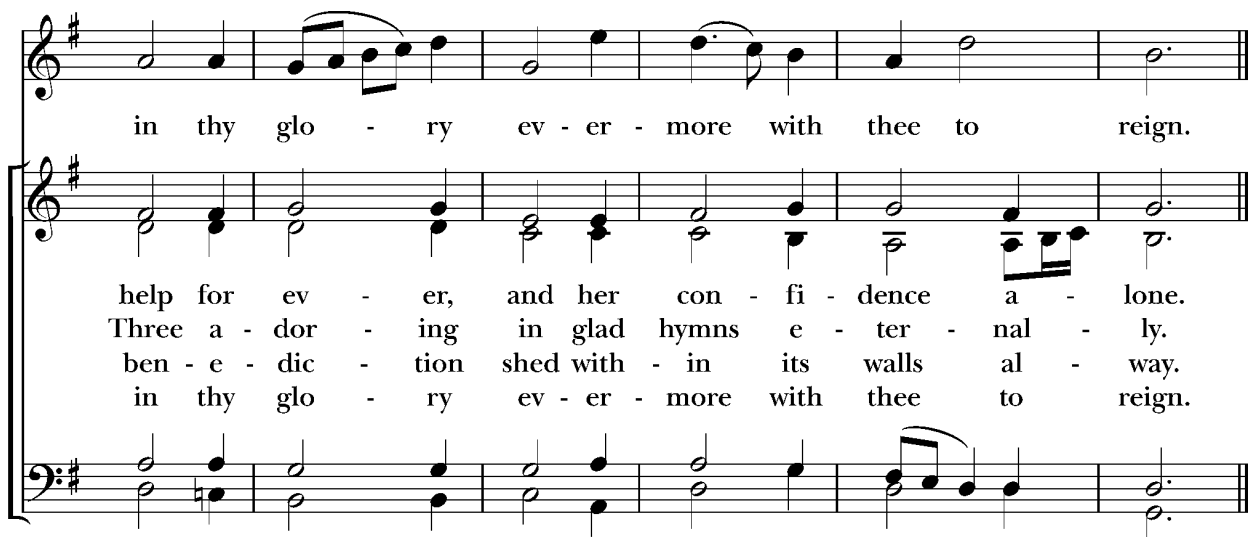
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.
 help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

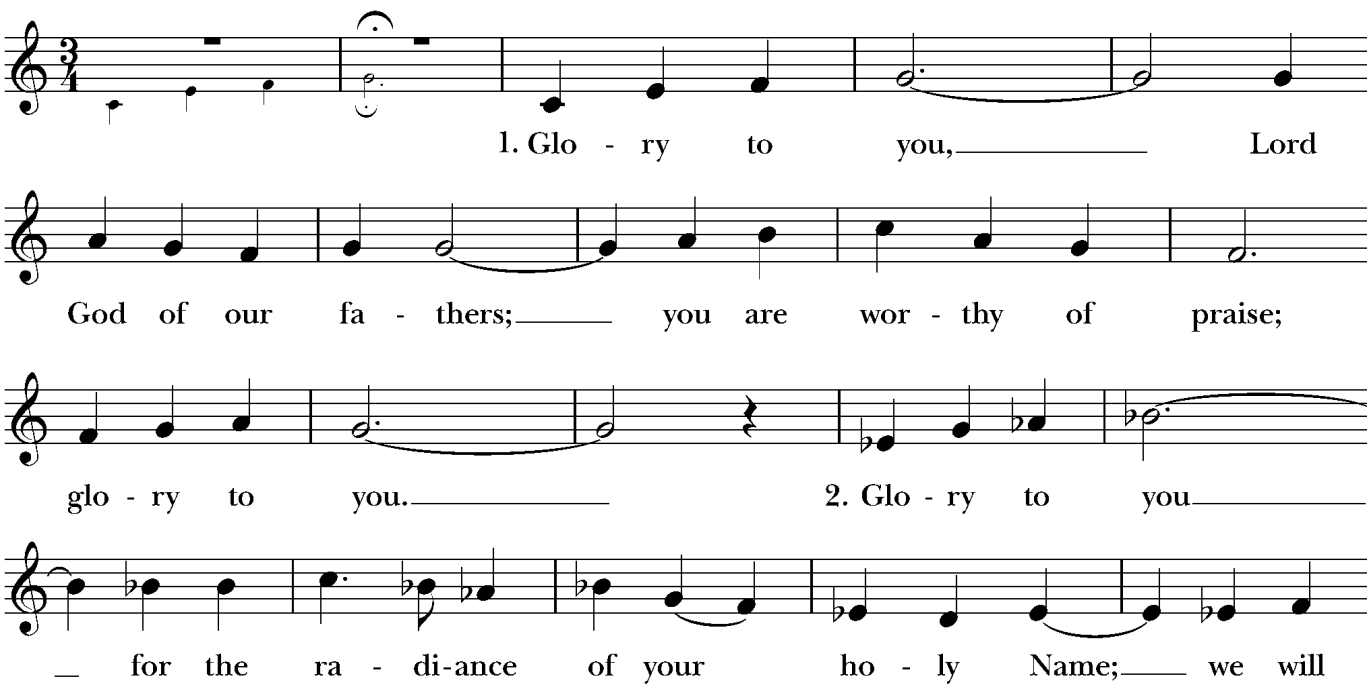
OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your lovingkindness save me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

The people sit.

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

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—
³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system is in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life." The second system is also in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, with some dynamics like *mf* and *f* indicated.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus told his disciples,] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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 Louise Bach, Ruth Bachmann, Myra Bailey and Joanna Bauer. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna, we pray for Prince of Peace, Dallas; St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg; and Diocesan Youth. In Kajo Keji we pray for Emmanuel Parish Logili. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of North India (United)

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 Janet, Nick, 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, 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

Alar Flowers given in memory of Romaine Wessner, Bob Nelson's mother, by Chris and Bob.

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: Music Meditation

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.**

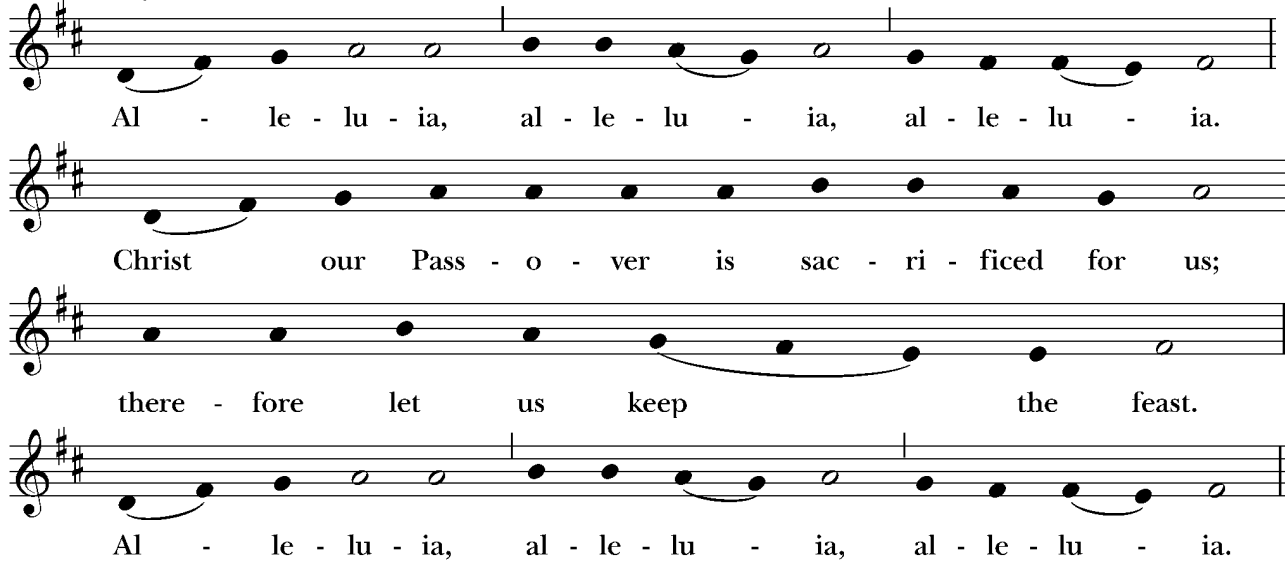
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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 487) *Come my Way, my Truth, my Life*



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Let us pray.

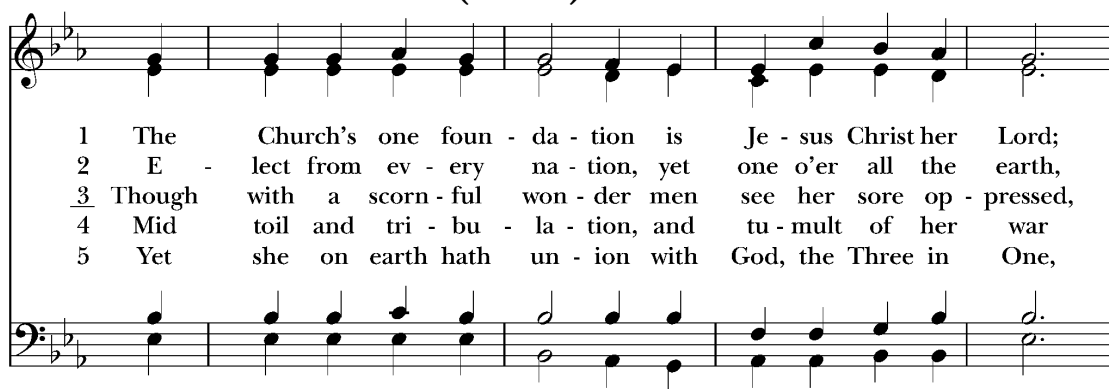
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

EASTER SEASON BLESSING

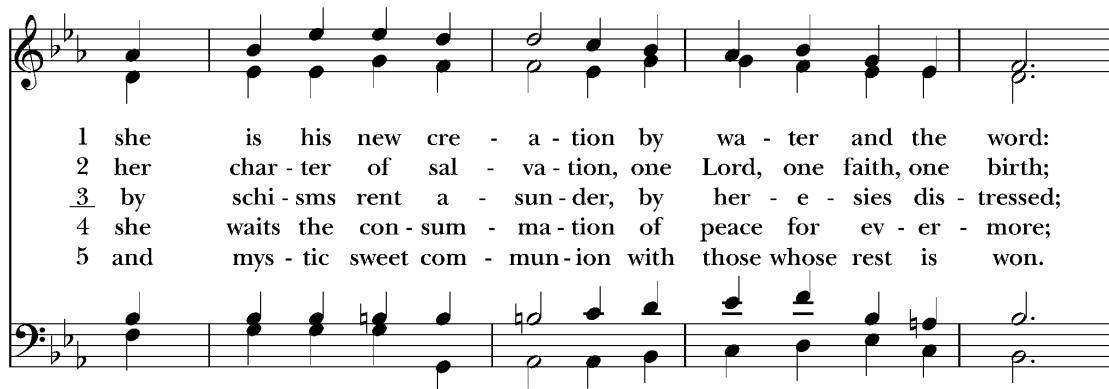
The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,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

Amen.

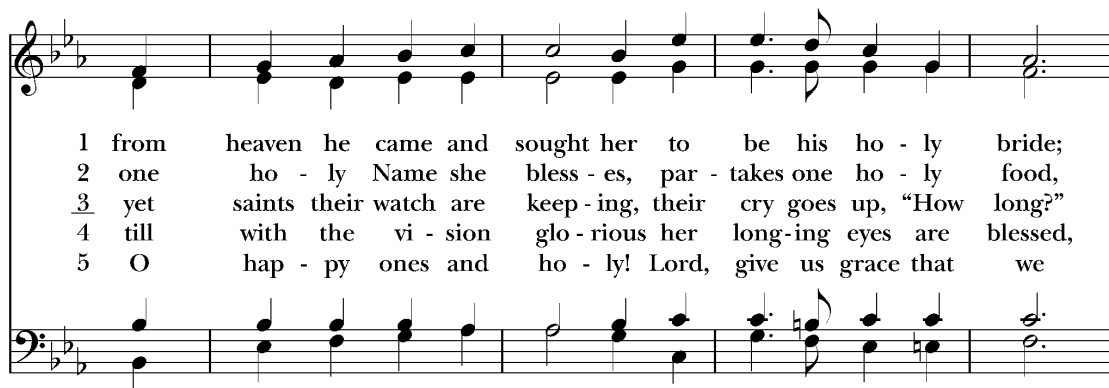
RECESSIONAL HYMN: (H 525) *The Church's one Foundation*



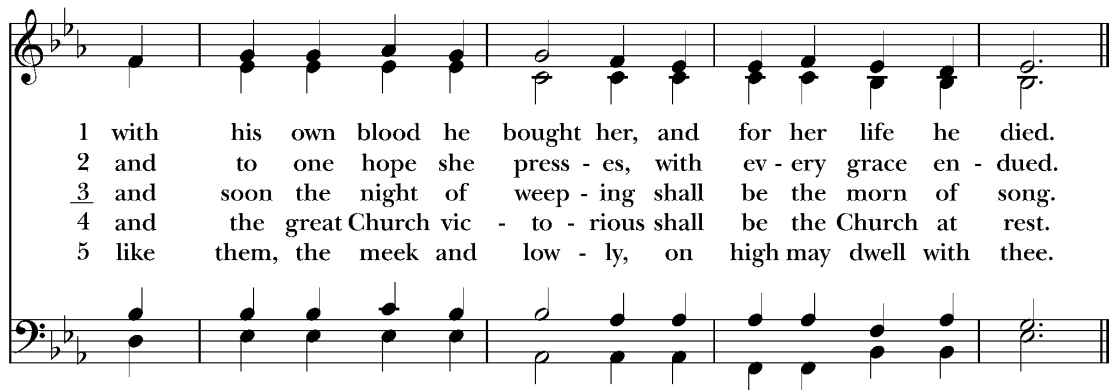
1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

DISMISSAL (BCP 366)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

