

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

205 North Seventh St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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

May 10, 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:** Jill T. | Tom V.

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

**Crucifer:** TBD

**Chalice Bearer:** TBD

**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:** TBD

**Counters:** Jill T. | Mary Ann W.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Church Admin – Andrea C.

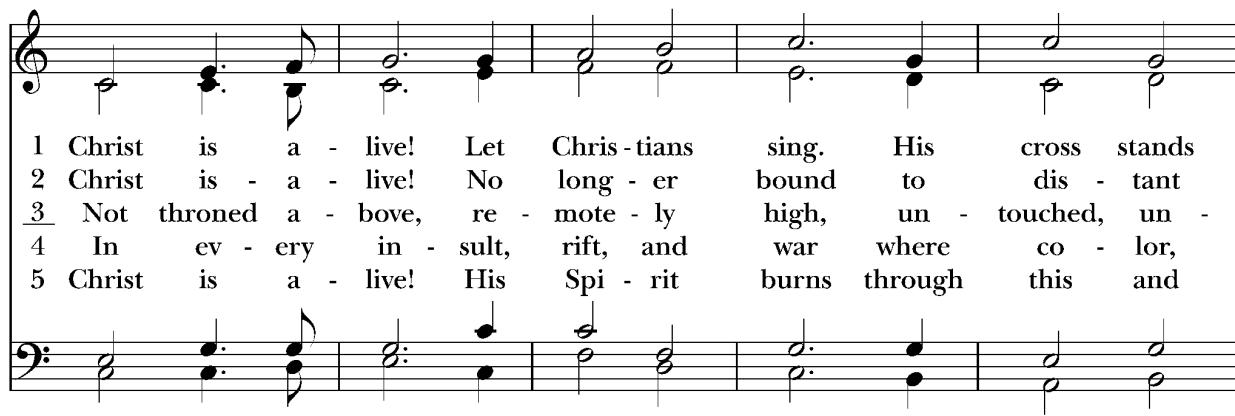
**Books in the Pews for Service**

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

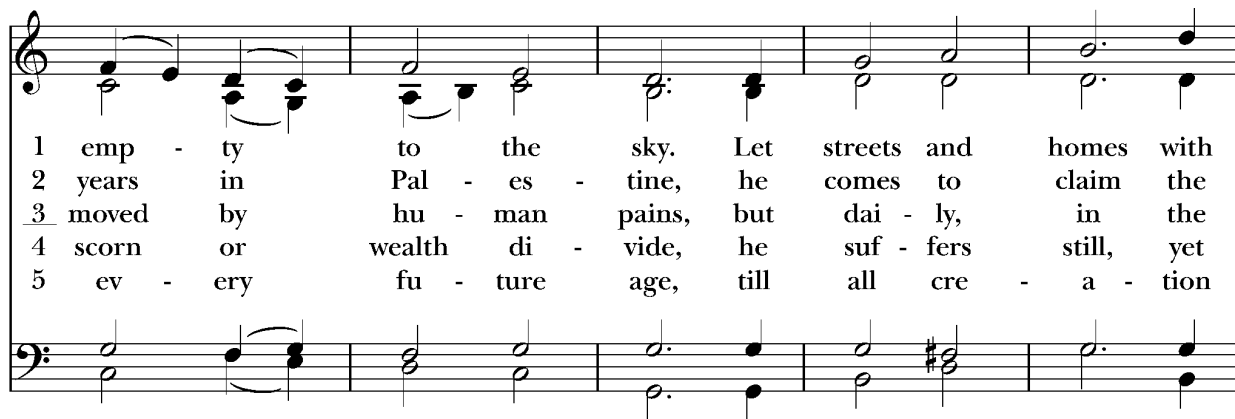
**H** – Hymnal (**BLUE** book)

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

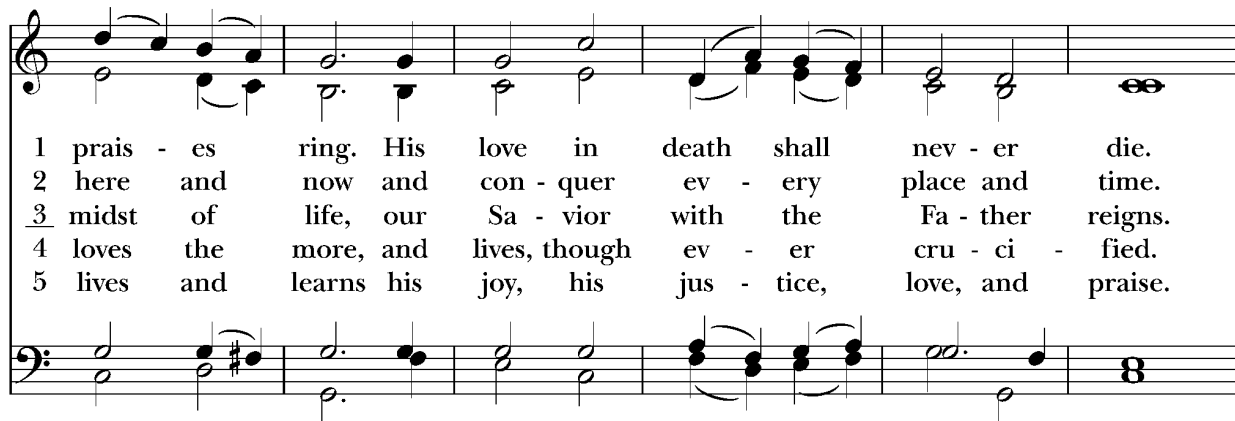
## PROCESSIONAL HYMN: (H 182) *Christ is Alive Let Christians Sing*



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and



1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion



1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and 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.**

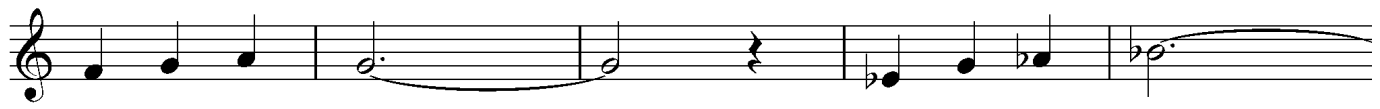
OPENING ANTHEM - *Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis* (S 236)




1. Glo - ry to you, Lord




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



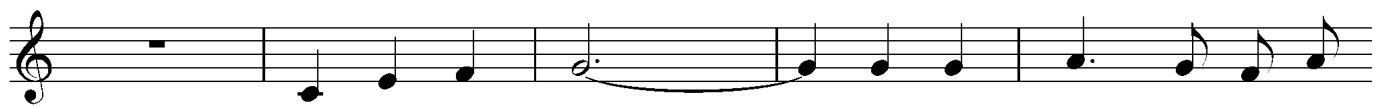
glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you



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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Mother's Day

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women who have mothered others in any way—those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. **Amen**

## FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 66:7-18

- <sup>7</sup>Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
- <sup>8</sup>Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- <sup>9</sup>For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- <sup>10</sup>You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- <sup>11</sup>You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- <sup>12</sup>I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- <sup>13</sup>I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.
- <sup>14</sup>Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- <sup>15</sup>I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- <sup>16</sup>If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- <sup>17</sup>But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- <sup>18</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>13</sup>Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former

times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*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.

The first line of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name."

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

The second line of the hymn continues the melody in the same 4/4 time and key signature. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life."

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*All stand.*

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

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN: *Bless the Lord O my soul***

**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 Blum, Brancato and Bravo-Gonzalez families. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna, we pray for St. George’s, Hellertown; St. Paul’s, Harrisburg; and the Diocesan Staff. In Kajo Keji we pray for St. Peter Logu and Kanyi Parishes. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of Pakistan (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

Altar flowers are given in honor of all the mothers on Mother's Day.

## 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: Ave Maria** – Suzanne P. on flute and Bethann K. on piano

**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: (LEVAS 87) *More Love to Thee O Christ***

1. More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee!  
 2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest;  
 3. Then shall my ev - ery breath Sing out your praise;

1. Hear thou the prayer I make On bend - ed knee;  
 2. Now thee a - lone I seek, Give what is best;  
 3. This be the on - ly song My heart shall raise;

1. This is my ear - nest plea;  
 2. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
 3. This still my prayer shall be:

More love to thee, More love to thee!

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

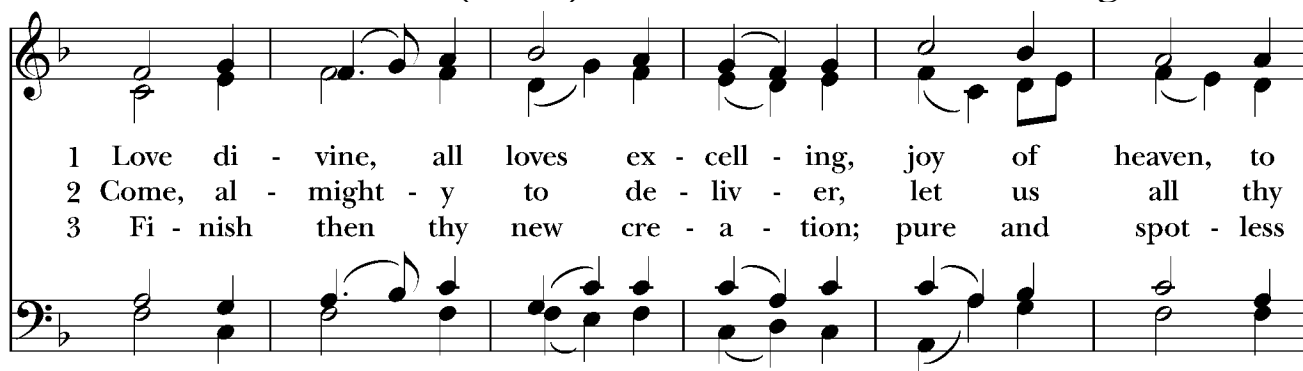
Let us pray.

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.

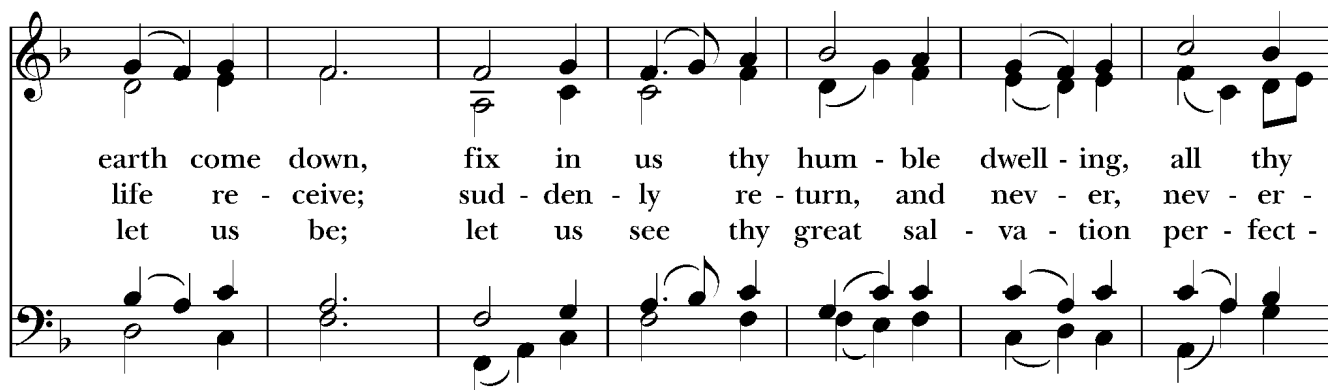
## EASTER SEASON BLESSING

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 657) *Love Divine All Love Excelling*



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - mighty - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## DISMISSAL (BCP 366)

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

