

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9th, 2023



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: Almighty God, who by the death of Thy Son hast destroyed sin and death, and by His resurrection hast restored innocence and everlasting life, in order that, delivered from the power of the devil, we may live in Thy kingdom, grant unto us that we may believe this with our whole heart, and, steadfast in this faith, may praise and thank Thee evermore; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Acts 10: 34-43 Wednesday: Acts 3: 12-20 Friday: 1 Pet. 3: 1-10
Tuesday: Acts 13: 16a, 26-33 Thursday: Acts 8: 26-40 Saturday: 1 Pet. 2: 1-10

Musician: 10 a.m. – Louise Gondosch
Reader: 10 a.m. – Paul Wachs
Greeters: 10 a.m. – James & Wendy Hyatt



Easter Pancake Breakfast

Today at 11 a.m following service.

Breakfast includes: pancakes, sausages, hot-cross buns, coffee and orange juice.

a free-will offering will be collected *to enable the Fellowship Committee to cover costs*)

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
Easter Pancake Breakfast following the service
Monday: 10-11 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study
1:30 p.m. – Sewing for Haiti
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – Precious Moments
8:00 p.m. – Zoom Parish Ed Meeting
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – SOUL
Saturday: 1:45 p.m. – Youth/Confirmands at Gravity Rock Climbing



April 2023 Worship Schedule

April 2 - Palm Sunday - [worship & praise team with the choir]

April 9 - Festive Creative Easter Communion

April 16 - 2nd Easter Gospel Melodies Service of the Word

April 23 - 3rd Easter Communion LSB Setting One

April 30 - 4th Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday Morning Praise

PRECIOUS MOMENTS: If you or someone you know would benefit from friendly conversation, a time for kids to play & sing; hear a Bible story and make a craft - please join us Tuesdays in the nursery area from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee and tea are always on.

LUTHER MANOR AGM: Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm in the common room at Luther Manor. Luther Manor is a not-for-profit that offers quality, affordable housing to medically independent seniors. If you are interested in becoming a member of the corporation or serving on the Board of Directors, please speak to Mark McCumber of Don Fretz.

YOUTH & CONFIRMAND EVENTS:

Saturday, April 15: Gravity Rock Climbing. Sign up with Louise to ensure your spot! We will meet there (399 Vansickle Rd Unit 3) at 1:45 p.m. Cost is \$21. Everyone under eighteen years old must have a facility waiver signed by their parents ahead of time.

Link is here: (<https://app.rockgympro.com/waiver/esign/gravityclimbinghamilton/38b3a821-1992-44d0-a025-9d963f89f103>).

Saturday, April 29: Games Night at Luther Manor. We will meet at the church at 6:45 p.m. to prep then head over to Luther Manor for 7 pm. Let Louise know if you can make cookies, muffins or squares for this event.

As always friends are welcome to join us! More information on these April events will be emailed or speak with Louise (905-329-8579)

The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society is holding their general meeting on Sunday, April 16 at 3 pm, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1054 Upper Sherman Ave, Hamilton, ON L8V 3N5. All are welcome to attend to learn more about our mission in Haiti.

MARY MARTHA: The following is our Mary Martha Schedule for our Winter/Spring program.

(more details will follow):

April 18th -- Speaker-Jude Mersereau

May 16th -- Bible Study--Pastor Todd (tentative)

June 10th – Potluck

Please feel free to attend any or all of our Tuesday night events!

Please Note: We need everyone's participation for completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a caring squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. *Lorraine, on behalf of the Caring Squares* (If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)



They may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. Isaiah 61: 3

Where: Peace Lutheran Church, 60 Young St., Tillsonburg, ON

When: May 6th, 2023 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Cost: Registration including morning coffee and lunch - **\$40.00**

Need assistance with registration: Call: Janice Buchner at 519-866-3754; OR Diana Grant at 905-431-9826

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Mark your calendars for VBS. **In-person VBS** is being planned this summer **Monday, July 17 to Friday, July 21**. The program will run in the morning with an afternoon extended care for Grade 1-6. Registration forms and Volunteer forms are in narthex.

<u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u>		<u>April 2nd, 2023</u>		<u>Attn: 10 a.m. – 102</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,663.50	56,004.77	(24,183.19)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	193.00	4,465.00	(111.921)
Property Improvement:		67.00	1,593.50		

WE THANK the following people for purchasing an Easter lily to beautify our church for today's Easter service:

Rev. John & Linda Makey:	In loving memory of their parents, Earl & Jean Makey and Norman & Phyllis Smith
Erika McNeil:	In loving memory of her mother and father, Lilli & Erick Drichel
James & Wendy Hyatt:	In thankfulness for their family
The Gondosch Family:	In thankfulness for their church family
Kimberly Zacharuk:	In loving memory of her grandmother, Lillian Dueck
Don & Lois Fretz:	In loving memory of family members
Howard Bogusat:	In loving memory of his wife, Lorraine Bogusat
The Whittard & Kaija Families:	In loving memory of Julie Whittard

FLOWERS have been placed on altar this morning to the glory of God by Andy and Bette Vasko & family in loving memory of Mary Vasko; and by the Stark Family in celebration of Helen Stark's 95th Birthday. Happy Birthday, Helen!

HEARTFELT THANKS to all the members and friends of Christ Lutheran who held Pastor Gary, Wendy and family in prayer during his father Bernard's end of life and entry in the eternal Kingdom of our God. The Kuenzel's are grateful to all for their compassion and concern during this time.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION remains the same Pilgrim method of receiving the Body & Blood of Christ. Returning to reception at the rail is still under review with the pastor and board of elders. Our concern is primarily accessibility and wellbeing for all worshippers. Pilgrim style has also given people who have mobility issues a renewed comfort in being able to receive with all worshippers in the same manner. There will also be a need for at least two extra usher volunteers every Communion celebration. Thank you for your patience and understanding as this unfolds. Any questions or concerns please speak with Pastor Todd.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FESTIVE EASTER HOLY COMMUNION

April 9, 2023 - 10 AM

OPENING HYMN:

"Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today"

LSB # 457

**Jesus Christ is ris'n to-day, A—le-lu-ia!
Our tri-um-phant holy day! A—le-lu-ia!
Who did once up-on the cross, A—le-lu-ia!
Suf-fer to re-deem our loss! A—le-lu-ia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, A—le-lu-ia!
Unto Christ our Heav'nly King. A—le-lu-ia!
Who endured the cross and grave, A—le-lu-ia!
Sinners to redeem and save! A—le-lu-ia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

Charles Wesley, public domain

INVOCATION & EASTER SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the day the Lord has made! **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Let us approach the throne of God, **Who is our joy and delight.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS: *[Jonah's confession from the belly of the whale]*

Let us confess our sins to God our Father:

(Silence for prayerful reflection)

Merciful God, gracious Father,

Forgive my sins. Help me in my distress. I am thrown into the deep, into the heart of the sea, with all my wrongs flooding around me. My sins like weeds have encircled my head. The deepness of my distress closes in to take my life. My rebellious thoughts have driven me down into the pit of hell. The guilt, like a prison, has kept me locked up with the consequences of my actions and in-actions. Forgive me for forgetting You, O Lord, when my life was fainting away. I confess to holding onto fake gods when I should have remembered Your help and grace. Have mercy on me, and may my heartfelt prayer rise before You. I call out to You, O Lord, for You hear and answer me. Amen.

Salvation belongs to the Lord, for He remembers you with His never-failing mercy. So upon this Your confession, as a called and ordained Servant of Jesus Christ, in His place and by His Holy Command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE:

O Risen Lord, **have mercy on us.**

O Resurrected Christ, **have mercy on us.**

O Victorious Saviour, have mercy on us and give us Your Easter peace.

Alleluia!

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Almighty and Merciful Father, You give us the joy of celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. Graciously help us by Your Spirit to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, and as we are kindled with Heavenly desires, may we ever thirst for the Fountain of Life, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament: *Isaiah 25: 6-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from

all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Easter Acclamation"

*Easter people, raise your voices, set your alleluias free,
Every steeple now rejoices, Christ has won the victory.
Three long days the earth was silent, Searching for a song to sing.
Now break loose the voice of triumph, Let the alleluias ring.
Let the alleluias ring. Alleluia, Christ is risen,
Now the garden wakes to praise. Oh, the life that He has given,
Christ has conquered death with grace. This the season of rejoicing,
This the time for glorious song. Raise a hymn of celebration,
Shout for joy with voices strong. Shout for joy with voices strong.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, love's redeeming work is done.
Alleluia, alleluia, come and praise the risen Son!
Alleluia, alleluia, Life has rolled the stone away.
Alleluia, alleluia, Christ The Lord has risen from the grave!
With almighty shouts of glory, let creation rise and sing.
Finished now the wondrous story, Christ is crowned our Lord and King.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, lift your music to the skies.
Alleluia, alleluia, Christ has opened paradise.
Christ has opened paradise.
Christ is risen today. Christ is risen today. Christ is risen today
Risen today. Risen today!*

The Epistle: *Colossians 3:1-4*

[St. Paul writes:] If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

EASTER GOSPEL VERSE: *"He Lives!"*

**I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever people say--
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him, He's always near:
He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today;
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way--
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart--
You ask me how I know He lives; He lives-- within my heart!**

Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 28: 1-10*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, 28th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" Children's Handbell Choir

GOSPEL SONG: "At The Lamb's High Feast"



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.

Alleluia!

EASTER MESSAGE: *Matthew 28:1-10 "I'm Still Standing"*

CREEDAL HYMN: "*In God We Believe*" *Tune—"Immortal, Invisible God"*

**In God we bel-ieve; our Cre-at-or, Whose pow'r
in love, He has made us for worship this hour.
He grac-iously gives us our years and our days
And bless-es with kind-ness our work and our ways.**

**In Jesus, the Sav-iour, o-ur hope is se-cured,
True God and True Man once the cross He en-dured;
He rose from the dead, giv-ing free-dom from sin,
With hearts cleansed from guilt, we have true peace with-in.**

**The Spirit at work in our lives we con-fess;
With pow-er and truth He the Church does now bless.
As saints, sins for-given, one day we shall stand
Before Him in glo-ry, for-ever, A-men.**

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the treasures of Christ's resurrection may be seen throughout the world: Dear Loving Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your Son, our Passover Lamb, has taken away the sin of the world. Forgive us and all people.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son said, 'Peace be with you'. Bring your peace to the world and to our own country.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping. Comfort those who are sad, lonely, or grieving.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son met the women and asked them to tell the disciples about his resurrection. Guide Christians everywhere to witness to the resurrection in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son proclaimed himself to the two disciples from the Scriptures and made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. Reveal him to us and all people through the teaching of your word and the celebration of your holy meal.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side. Reassure those who are troubled by doubts, and strengthen their faith in your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who are dying, and lead them to life with you forever.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

COMMUNION LITURGY (SUNG RESPONSIVELY): *"Jesus Christ Is Risn' Today"*



May the Lord now be with you. **May the Lord remain with you**



Lift your hearts to God in praise **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**



Let us thank the Lord our God! **It is good and right to do.**



Ev — er more let prais-es ring **Al--- le---l---u— ia!**

It is good and right and proper, that the Church continually, offer thanks to God the Father, for the resurrection of our Lord. Jesus Christ the Paschal Lamb, by Whose death He has conquered death; since He rose, we too, shall rise, joining with the Heavn'ly Host we praise Your name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

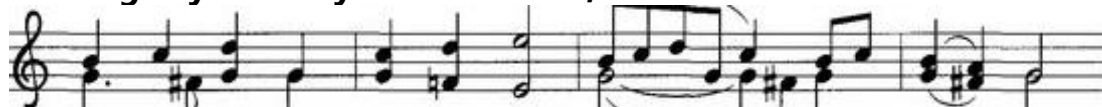
tune: Jesus Christ Is Ris'n Today



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Al--- le---l---u—ia!



Migh-ty God by all a-dored, Al--- le---l---u— ia!



Earth joins Heav-en as we sing: Al--- le---l---u— ia!



Blest Ho-sann-as to our King: Al--- le---l---u— ia!

SPOKEN LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."

SUNG WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"I Know My Redeemer Lives"*

The night Lord Jesus was betrayed, He took the bread and when He prayed, and giv'n to His disciples, said: "Now take and eat all from this bread."

"This is My + Body given for you", and ev'ry time that this you do, remember that I died to free; all men that they may come to Me."

And after that when He had supped and given thanks He took the cup, and then to His disciples said: "This is My + Blood; for you it's shed." "

Now drink the Cup, for this is new, My Testament, poured out for you; your sins are gone! Now this shall be fore'er a meal rememb'ring Me."

LAMB OF GOD

tune: *"I Know My Redeemer Lives"*

O Lamb of God, You take a -- way, the sin of
all; now hear us pray, And grant us from our
sin re -- lease; Have mer-cy Lord! Give us Your peace!

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: *"Because He Lives"*

God sent His Son they called Him Jesus
He came to love heal and forgive
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove
My Savior lives –

Chorus

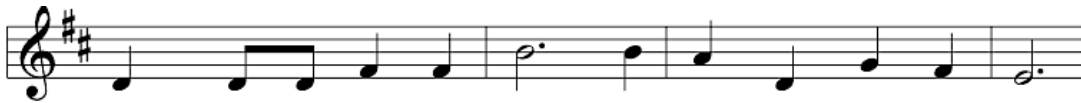
Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives!

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He reigns—

Chorus

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

"Crown Him"



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
3 Crown Him the Lord of love, Be - hold His hands and side,
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri-fied.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, sts. 1–3, 5, alt.;

Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and Tune: Public domain

"Now All The Vault Of Heav'n Resounds"



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!" Al - le -
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing! Al - le -
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Al - le -
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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"Beautiful Saviour"



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
Robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
Bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd serve Thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o - ra - tion



Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
Than all the an - gels in the sky.
Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

POST COMMUNION SONG: *"Come, Thank" "Let Altogether Praise Our God"*



Come, thank the Lord and sing His praise, shout out what
Come, thank the Lord and sing His praise, Who keeps His



He has done! Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and
Pro - mis -- es! He leads us forth in joy and peace, we



Proud -- ly bear His name! We proud--ly bear His name!
Share His Sav -- ing News! We share His Sav -- ing News!

SPOKEN POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have overcome death through your Son Jesus Christ, and have opened for us the gate to eternal life. As you have given us the benefits of his death and resurrection in this Holy Communion Feast, may His Body and Blood continually bear fruit in our lives as we are Branches on this True Vine. We ask this through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour + and give you peace. **Amen.**

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Thine Is The Glory"



1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; End - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life; Life is nought with-



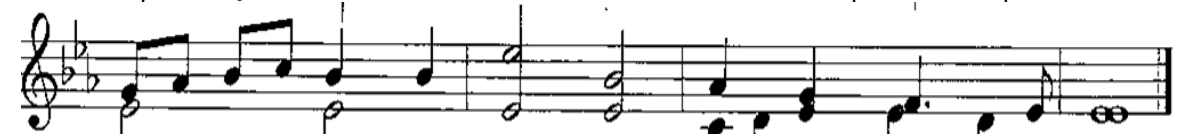
vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his Church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-qu'rors,



Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For the Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan



Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
To thy home a - bove.



End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won!

© Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939
Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

JUDAS MACCABAEUS
5 5 6 5 6 5 6 5 and refrain

REV. TODD HOFFS
Maundy Thursday
John 13 & 1 Cor 11
Worthiness
April 6, 2023

When you see a red maple leaf you can't help but think of Canada. When you're behind another vehicle and see the small red poppy in the middle of their license plate, you know they must be a war veteran. We feel better buying meat from the grocer if the wrapping is all intact. Or when the bag of sugar is glued shut. It's a seal of approval, quality control, evidence that it's been tested. You likewise have a mark of approval. The seal of the Holy Spirit. Given to you in your Baptism. A seal which means you have a faith life in Jesus. It labels you with Jesus' cross and you are His disciple. This is why Jesus washes feet at the Passover tonight. This kind of serving will become a trademark of the church's ministry. As I have loved you, so love one another Jesus says. Do for others as I have done for you. Love by serving. Serve by welcoming. Witness and share. How you love yourself is how you love your neighbour; how you love yourself is based on how God loves you. To be a person of faith means you see things—people, animals, plants, the earth—as inherently connected to God, connected to you, and most worthy of love and dignity.

The more you can connect, the more of a forgiven member of Jesus Body you become. If you can't connect with people of other religions, classes, or races, with your "enemies" or with those who are suffering, with people who are disabled or different or live in ways you don't, — well, to put it very bluntly, you're not captive to the ways of our Lord. You can't love the God you don't see And hate or ignore or reject the person you CAN see. Either you learn how to live with the human race and with all that God has created, or, quite simply, you're rejecting and disliking all whom God loves. If you want to live an isolated life, trying to prove that you're better than everybody else or believing you're worse than everybody else, you are already in hell. You have been invited—even now, even today, even this moment—to live in the Communion of Saints, in Jesus' Presence, in His Body on earth and as it is in Heaven. While we are sealed with faith, we can't see that seal in other people. When Communion is something to define membership instead of proclaiming grace and sharing a benefit, we always get in trouble; that's been the temptation of every denomination since Luther's Day. The Lord's Meal has been used to separate who's in from who's out, who's worthy from who's unworthy, instead of making sure all of us are radically unworthy, and how worthiness isn't even the issue. If worthiness is the issue, who can stand before God? Apostle Paul sees abuses in the Corinthian church. He helps them see the problem and correct it. People arrived at ancient houses churches at different times As different classes of people got off work early and late. Those with financial means arrived whenever they wished. Food would be prepared and share a lunch or dinner. Later on business people would arrive. Then free people, ex-slaves and low income would find a way and come last. Then slaves could arrive, but often very late. So not only is the food gone, but Holy Communion Bread and Wine is getting abused. Drunkenness, gorging, hoarding, selfishness. Which are total marks of UNWORTHINESS. This is the sin Paul centres on. Blurring the lines of feasting and stuffing one's face. To this Paul encourages EXAMINING one's own self. The Greek word he uses here is *dokimazō*, usually means testing. In Greek culture, it describes the marketplace where authorities examine or test coins. Making sure they're not counterfeit. [Like when the cashier takes your \$50 bill and puts it under a light to test its validity. This test gives

customer's confidence in the coinage.] This examining comes down to faith. Is it genuine? How do we know? Are we worthy? No. No one is. If you are, your ego is talking. My 1st call serving in Edmonton, AB. I'm dressed, waiting by the door, 1 minute to show time. I get a firm tap on my shoulder. An arm points out into the congregation, at a young woman with a child and boyfriend sitting up in the front. "She's living with him and they're not married." She whispered loudly in my ear. "She shouldn't be communing today. If she does I'm leavin'!" Isn't that nice? Whistle blower, judge and jury all rolled into one. It turned out the young family didn't commune [I think they had to take the baby out for a change of diaper or feeding.] Maybe she had a feeling? I did cover this at a visit or Bible study later on....She wasn't supposed to commune because she lived with a man without marriage. It wasn't a great family situation. She wound up having 2 more children With 2 different men. But she attended church services. She had a deeply imbedded family dysfunctional issue going back many generations. But – that was her life. What about everyone else? I asked, "what about YOUR public sins you carry out with you?!" "Back-stabbing, bearing false witness, gossip, spreading rumours, causing arguments and offense...." Dead silence. Those weren't real sins to them. Gossip was fine as long as you told the truth – it wasn't a rumor. Which is wrong, of course. It's not about feeling worthy, it's about surrender. Where your heart is at. Is it with God or just yourself? You give up your way of doing it your way, thinking the Lord is always taking your side...Rather, be comforted trusting that God has your back. That His way is your way and that's the best way. In this way, we receive our Lord's Body and Blood with humble gratitude, We eat, we drink -- And go back from the meal confident. Filled with joy as Christ takes up residence within us in a real, personal way. No more reason to feel insecure. You live in Him as He lives in you. There is nothing to prove, to protect, or to test. Jesus is the food and all we're expected it to be hungry. The Spirit works in us helping us feel our hunger every day; There is plenty of room inside our hearts for His holy presence. If you're filled with your own opinions, ideas, righteousness, superiority, or sufficiency, you are a world unto yourself and there is no room for "another." The only preparation for coming to Holy Communion is hunger. Hunger for strength. Hunger for help, for peace, for reassurance, Hunger for hope. And you are always satisfied. Martin Luther says in his Small Catechism that – He or she is fully prepared who believes in the words GIVEN AND SHED for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. We still teach the faith. I spend time with youth and kids each Sunday morning So that they see and treasure and enjoy and see the eternal value In Holy Communion and a life of worship in the church. No one eats a meal once and never again. The same is for our Lord's Holy Meal. It's for you. No matter who you are, Jesus invites you to His Meal. You get to have the same Body which suffered on the cross and the same Blood which dripped down Calvary's wooden beams. Jesus' Meal is for all of us who place their trust in His accomplishments. There is reverence, there is joy. There are tears, there is laughter. Because of Jesus, there is room for all of us. And the way you welcome and make room is a seal of Jesus' approval! Worthy are you. Amen.

REV. TODD HOEFFS
GOOD FRIDAY 10 AM
Stations of the Cross
April 7, 2023

Betrayal Arrest Violence Denial Trial Humiliation Torture Death Burial.

These are the words of Good Friday. These are the things that happen to Jesus. These are the horrible things that Jesus endures as the result of sin. Our sin. Humanity's sin. Rebellious sins corrupt the earth, sky, the entire universe. Blood must cleanse the wrongs. The day of preparation in Jerusalem is the day lambs are slaughtered. In the Temple, for the Passover, the story of the Lamb of God is Jesus slaughtered by the people for the world's sake. Betrayal begins with Judas Iscariot, Jesus' disciple and keeper of the money. Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane [oil press] Fitting. Olive trees -- olive presses: Jesus' life is squeezed and pressed out of Him. This leads to trial, which is a fiasco before Annas [not the real high priest, as Rome deposed him] Jesus' trial coincides with Peter's own kind of trial, denying he knows Jesus 3 times. We see Pontius Pilate. Roman Governor. Stationed in Israel as his last duty by Caesar who isn't fond of his former service. He finds no case against Jesus. Jesus speaks but doesn't incriminate Himself in the Roman legal way. The Jewish religious leaders tell him Jesus committed evil? A very broad term, unknown to Rome. Pilate is nervous. His job is on the line and he can't have any trouble during Israel's high holy day. "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." Pilate judges Jesus, in Whom there is no condemnation, Sitting on the judges' bench on the STONE PAVEMENT. In Aramaic, it's Gabbatha. This is a mosaic stone tablet formation, of granite litho stones. The Stone which the builders rejected is the cornerstone Convicted on the stones set into the floor of King Herod's outer palace. Jesus comes to His own people, Both Jew and Gentile, And His own people receive Him not. Pilate doesn't want to crucify the Jews' king. "We have no king but Caesar". This is what the religious temple leaders say. Jesus dies for blasphemy yet they are placing another god in place of the True God. That's the heart of every human sin. Wanting another god. This whole tragedy is about Identity, People whom Jesus loves and journeys with, people created in God's image forget who they are. Judas forgets his own name, which means "God is praised", Judas forgets what his life is like before Jesus, Judas forgets who he is as a disciple Judas falls prey to something we are all over-concerned with in one way or anotherà Money [power], having things OUR way regardless of the cost. Dear Peter. Jesus calls him the pebble placed in the rock which is the church. Because Jesus enters into death the gates of hell have no hope of prevailing. Peter forgets that before Jesus, he spent his life as a normal fisherman. Peter forgets all the miracles, all the love, his discipleship journey. Peter forgets who he is, denying his discipleship. In order to save himself, he denies his identity. The crowd forgets. The crowd forgets who's given them birth, and a promise, the seed of the Saviour. The crowd forgets Jesus comes directly from Father Abraham's ancestry. The crowd forgets the real meaning of Passover and freedom from slavery. And the crowd forgets the law they accuse Jesus of breaking. God has not abandoned them. But they deny

God. "We have no king but Caesar." Like they, we too break God's law. We live for ourselves and our own desires. We live as if we've lost all hope, relying on our own strength, forgetting whose we are. Jesus is hurt, whipped, mocked and killed. Killed in the most horrible way. Jesus is killed as a result of all humanity [before, during, since and until the end of this world] denying who we all are and what our Lord does for us. And because of our spiritual memory loss, We neglect serving and worshiping in spirit and in truth 30 pieces of silver, No I do not know him. I have no king but the Caesar. Let us not ever forget WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE! God remembers all of us. Not a single sparrow falls to the earth without God seeing it before it happens. Jesus is crucified and dies. All part of the original plan to take back the world. Let us not forget what it means to be God's people again. Only a God who's willing to be among us, as one of us, yet perfect, can solve this. Jesus lifted up on the cross lifts up the power and the glory of the Word made flesh – the glory of a Father's Son full of grace and truth. We do not understand the glory of Christ until we understand the cross. Glory in Jesus' death. Glory when Jesus breaths his last, And that large, thick Temple curtain, closing off the holy of holies – the inner sanctuary representing God's presence with his people – is torn from top to bottom. Torn by Jesus' nail punctured hands. This invites us into a new reality – a reality of unhindered access to God opened up with Jesus' cross. The cross, with its reconciling power to God, is what gives our grief and our hope a real identity. We are not enemies, or strangers, or derelicts, We are children of God, siblings of Jesus, vessels of the Spirit, identified by our faith. Anxious need for power and control is broken. Fear is gone. Death is overturned. This death covers us in grace, Erases our betrayals, Punctures our inflated egos, Fills our imaginations with the memory of God's goodness. No more identity crisis. We belong to our Lord no matter where life takes us. We are fellow forgiven humans hidden in Christ. We have renewed memories. Recalling all that God has done in our lives. All the tough spots the Spirit has soured in and saved us. We remember how and whom to help.

Because we are remembered.

Mercy. Love. Peace. Compassion. Forgiveness. Life. These are the words of Good Friday.

Amen.