

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



New Life Evangelical Lutheran Church
Shoreview, Minnesota
April 27, 2025

NEW LIFE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to New Life worship! We pray that you find strength and peace in God's Word of grace. Restrooms are located to the right of the main entrance. Hearing devices and a nursery are available if needed. "Let's Connect..." with cards in the pew rack or scan code. Great to meet you!



April 27, 2025

Path for Worship: CWH Setting 3



The Second Sunday of Easter

Hymns: 447, 457, 746

Today's Worship Theme: BECAUSE HE LIVES...We Have a Meaningful Mission

If Jesus had remained dead, today would be different for us. If Jesus had remained dead, all he would have provided is an example of a beautiful life; and the mission of his followers would simply be to share advice. *"Here is how Jesus would want us to love one another."* Or *"Jesus would want us to think about money like this."* Or *"This is how Jesus would pray."* But because he lives, we now have a meaningful mission — to testify to what we have seen and know to be true. Christ has risen! Jesus is not simply a standard, but our Savior. He is not primarily an example for this life, but the doorway into eternal life. His resurrection to glory is also available to us. Sharing that good news—*that's* our mission.

Prayer Before Worship

Dear Risen Savior, we praise and thank you for all you came to earth to do for us. Most of all, we rejoice that you live! Help us to live with this truth in our hearts and on our lips—always ready and willing to join in your mission of sharing this Good News. Amen.

Worship Schedule

Adult & Teen Bible Study & Sunday School
Sunday Worship
Fellowship

8:45 am
10:00 am
11:00 am

Contact Information

Church Office 651-484-1169
E-mail welsnewlife@msn.com
Website www.newlifeshoreview.com
YouTube www.youtube.com/c/newlifeshoreview

Pastor Mark Cordes, Pastor Joel Gawrisch, Administrative Assistant Cora Wakeman, Accompanist Deb Maxson

Our services are livestreamed and archived on the "New Life Shoreview" YouTube channel for the benefit of our membership and our ministry to the greater community. For more information about our livestream practice, please see an usher.

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PATH FOR WORSHIP

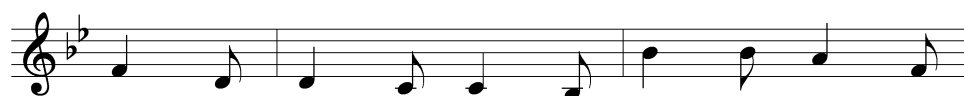
Gather

ENTRANCE HYMN


CWH 447 | *Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed*



1 How can it be, the One who died has borne our
2 For joy a - wakes as dawn - ing light when Christ's dis -
3 Where doubt and dark - ness once had been, they saw him



sin through sac - ri - fice, to con - quer ev - 'ry
ci - ples lift their eyes. A - live he stands, their
and their hearts be - lieved. But blest are those who



sting of death? Sing, sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 2
friend and King; Christ, Christ, he is ris - en!
have not seen, yet sing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" v. 4

Refrain



Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed! Oh, sing "Hal - le -
lu - jah!" Join the cho - rus, sing with the re - deemed:



"Christ is ris - en, he is ris - en in - deed." v. 3/v. 5

4 Once bound by fear, now bold in faith,
they preached the truth and pow'r of grace
and pouring out their lives they gained
life, life everlasting. (Refrain)

5 The pow'r that raised him from the grave
now works in us to pow'r'ly save.
He frees our hearts to live his grace;
go, tell of his goodness. (Refrain)

Entrance Hymn

Because he lives, we
have a story to tell
and a mission to
join!

"The power that
raised him from the
grave now works in
us to powerfully
save. He frees our
hearts to live his
grace; go, tell of his
goodness." (v 5)

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Stand

**Confession &
Absolution**

These are words acknowledging that we inherit sinfulness from our parents and have fallen short of God's perfection ourselves. We refer to these conditions as original sin and actual sin, respectively. Yet Jesus' perfect life lived for us and his innocent death in our place removes the guilt of sin forever.

**Lord, Have Mercy
(Kyrie)**

This version of the Kyrie serves as an organized form of intercession to God for the needs and conditions of all people. The words "Lord, have mercy" are an acclamation meaning, "Lord, have mercy and help us," with all for which we pray.

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

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

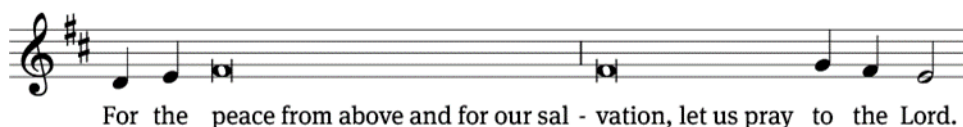
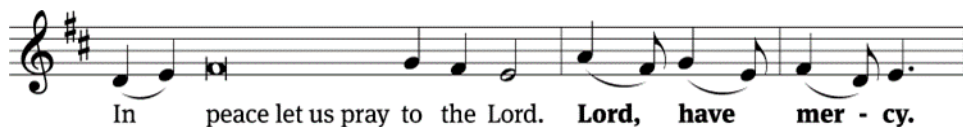
ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CWH 190



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men. A - men.

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GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CWH 191

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

Glory Be to God -

Gloria in Excelsis

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" recalls the angels appearing to the shepherds and has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

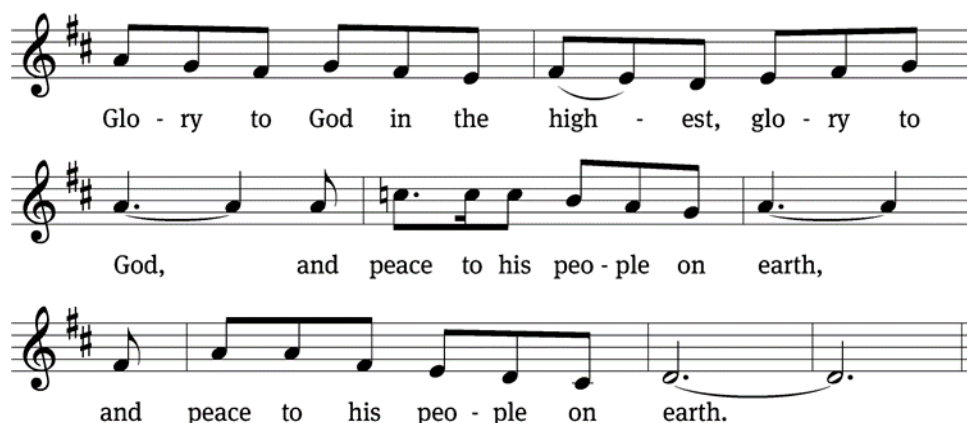
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12, 17-32 (EHV)

The apostles were not going to let opposition and persecution prevent them from fulfilling their meaningful mission of telling others about Christ's death and resurrection.

Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the hands of the apostles. With one mind, they all continued meeting in Solomon's Colonnade. . . .

¹⁷The high priest rose up, along with his associates (that is, the party of the Sadducees), because they were filled with envy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison,

The Word

God continues to speak to his people through his powerful Word. The Prayer of the Day, the readings, and the psalms or anthems are all chosen according to the *Lectionary*. The *Lectionary* is a listing of readings for each Sunday of the Church Year. The readings have been chosen to bless the gathered believers with balance, discipline, direction, and freshness.

The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament and occasionally from the Book of Acts. This lesson often contains events or prophecy that find fulfillment in the Second and Gospel Lessons.

brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple and keep on telling the people the whole message about this life.” ²¹After they heard this, they entered the temple courts at daybreak and began to teach.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin (that is, the whole council of elders of the people of Israel). Then they sent orders to the jail to have the apostles brought in. ²²But when the officers arrived, they did not find them in the prison. They returned and reported, ²³“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!”

²⁴When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were puzzled about them, wondering what could have happened.

²⁵Then someone came and reported to them, “Look! The men you put in prison are standing in the temple courts and teaching the people.”

²⁶Then the captain went with the officers and brought the apostles in without force, because they were afraid that the people might stone them. ²⁷After they brought them in, they had them stand before the Sanhedrin. The high priest asked them, ²⁸“Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this name? Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood down on us!”

²⁹But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you arrested and killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹God exalted him to his right hand as Ruler and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and the forgiveness of sins. ³²We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

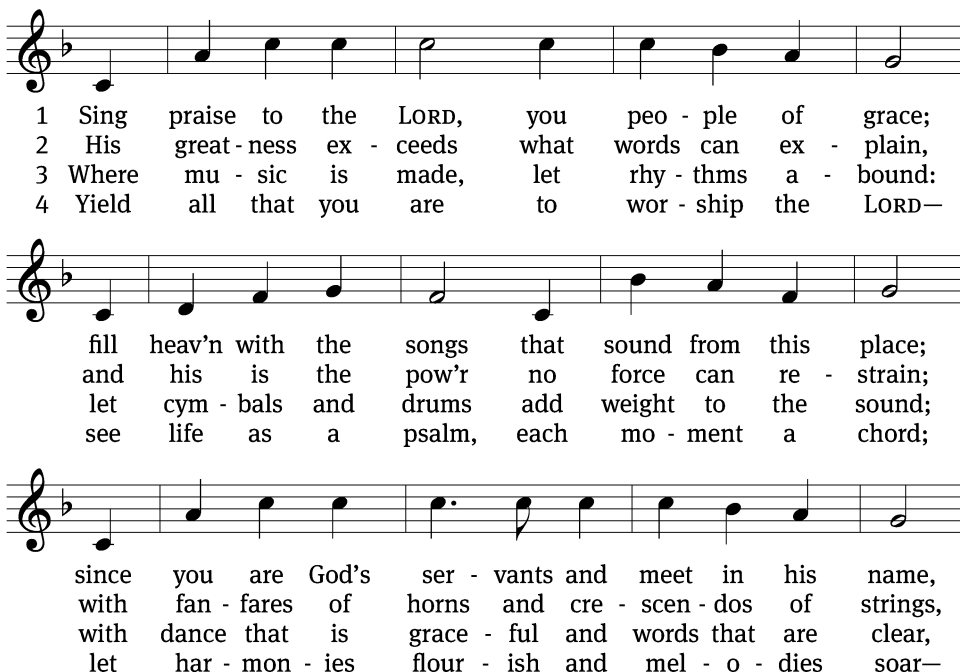
Psalm

Along with Old Testament believers we respond to God's gracious promises in the word and song of the Psalms. The singing of the Psalm, while connecting believers of both the Old Testament and New Testament ages, also serves as a bridge between today's Bible readings.

The Church sings Psalm 150 in services that encourage God's people to proclaim his message.

PSALM

Psalm 150A | *Sing Praise to the LORD, You People of Grace*



1 Sing praise to the LORD, you peo - ple of grace;
 2 His great - ness ex - ceeds what words can ex - plain,
 3 Where mu - sic is made, let rhy - thms a - bound:
 4 Yield all that you are to wor - ship the LORD—

fill heav'n with the songs that sound from this place;
 and his is the pow'r no force can re - strain;
 let cym - bals and drums add weight to the sound;
 see life as a psalm, each mo - ment a chord;

since you are God's ser - vants and meet in his name,
 with fan - fares of horns and cre - scen - dos of strings,
 with dance that is grace - ful and words that are clear,
 let har - mon - ies flour - ish and mel - o - dies soar—

*Refrain*

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SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-18 (EHV)

*The risen Savior promises to be with his churches as they carry out
 the meaningful mission of sharing the light of the gospel.*

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood ⁶and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever.
 Amen.

⁷Look, he is coming with clouds,
 and every eye will see him,
 including those who pierced him.
 And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.
 Yes. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty.

The Second Reading

is from the New Testament letters of the apostles or the Revelation to St. John. It stresses Christian faith and Christian living as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰I was in spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹²I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last— ¹⁸the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

The congregation stands for the Gospel Acclamation and the reading of the Gospel. (In the past soldiers put down their weapons and kings removed their crowns when the Gospel was read.)

This Gospel verse serves as a prelude to the reading of the Gospel, as a reflector of the season of the Church year, or as a bridge between the Second Reading and the Gospel.

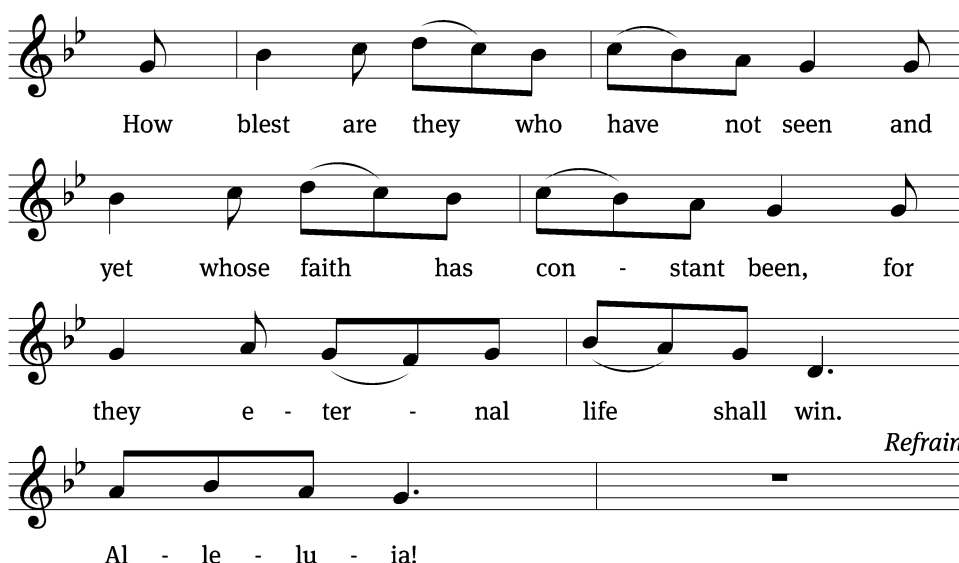
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

Refrain



Verse



GOSPEL

John 20:19-31 (EHV)

*Jesus lovingly deals with our doubts and provides us with peace
so that we might be empowered to carry out the meaningful mission
of sharing Christ's forgiveness.*

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Gospel

Christ - his life, his words of law and gospel, his suffering and death, his resurrection, his ascension, his assignment to his Church, his promise to return - is the center of the Gospel. The faithful have waited for this moment, this reading. They stand in reverence.

Hymn of the Day

This Hymn is representative of the best of the Christian Church's hymnody. It is specially assigned to this day for its rich content, and its connection with today's Gospel.

Sermon

is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's redeemed people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshipers and enlivens their faith and life.

HYMN OF THE DAY


CWH 457 | O Sons and Daughters of the King

Refrain



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

Verses



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the
3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for



heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the
faith - ful wom - en went their way to seek the
thus he spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will



grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia! v. 2
tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia! v. 3
go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia! *Refrain*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>4 That night th' apostles met in fear;
among them came their Lord most dear
and said, "My peace be with you here."
Alleluia! (v. 5)</p> <p>5 When Thomas afterwards had heard
that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
he doubted that it was the Lord.
Alleluia! (v. 6)</p> <p>6 "Behold my hands, my feet," said he,
"my wounded side, O Thomas, see,
and doubt not but believe in me."
Alleluia! (Refrain)</p> | <p>7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God," he cried.
Alleluia! (v. 8)</p> <p>8 How blest are they that have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been;
in life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia! (v. 9)</p> <p>9 On this most holy day of days
to God your hearts and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia! (Refrain)</p> |
|--|--|

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SERMON

Acts 5:12, 17-32

Mission to Ministry

Following the sermon, stand

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this season, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds.

Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Statement of Faith

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.

The Creed is a summary and profession of the Christian faith.

The Prayer of the Church

is spoken in response to our Lord's invitation to pray for all people and in all circumstances. Often spoken responsively, it reflects and gives voice to the individual thoughts, requests and deep and unexpressed needs of God's people ascending to his throne of mercy.

By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in the feast of your Sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

Amen.

Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

OFFERING *Stand as an offering plate is brought forward and placed on the altar.*

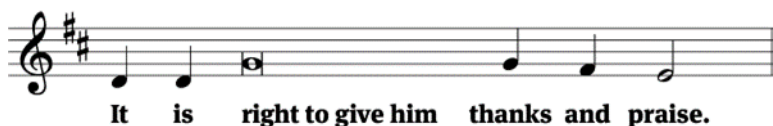
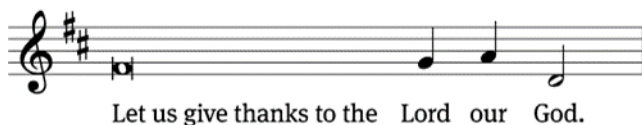
God has so richly blessed us in every way. Christ's boundless love empowers us to respond so that we can "...be generous in every way, which produces thanksgiving to God." (2 Corinthians 9:11 *EHV*) Offerings may be placed in a plate near the entrance coming or going. As you continue to make use of E-giving and drop-off at church to support our collective gospel ministry at New Life, you are encouraged to give generously to those in need, being confident of this: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6 *EHV*)



The Sacrament

PREFACE

CWH 199



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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Preface

The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift worshippers' hearts in praise. These are among the oldest sentences in the Christian liturgy.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CWH 200

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,
 heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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**Prayer of
 Thanksgiving**

Jesus took bread and
 gave thanks.
 See Matthew 26:26.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CWH 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us.

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer was given by our Savior to his Church in response to the disciples' request to be taught to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13.

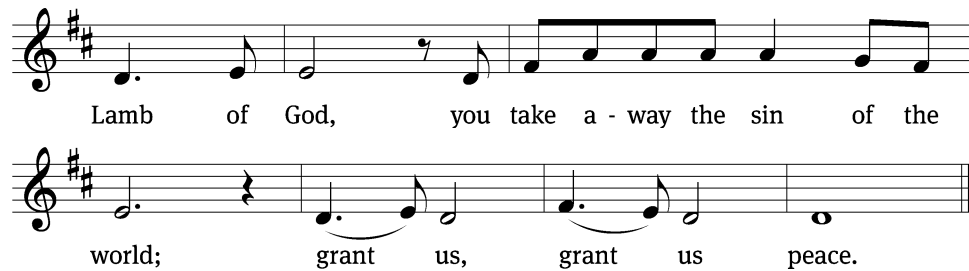
The conclusion to the prayer, also known as the Doxology, was a common conclusion to ancient prayers.

Words of Institution

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death. See Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24,25.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Jesus is God's Lamb (*Agnus Dei*), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all. (John 1:29)



Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
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Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

We are a “sacramental” church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We don’t want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith.

Personal preparation for Holy Communion may be found on the back cover.

Following Distribution, stand

Depart

We give thanks for the grace we have just received in our Savior’s Holy Supper. At peace, we prepare to go back into the world as witnesses of our hope in Christ.

Depart

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

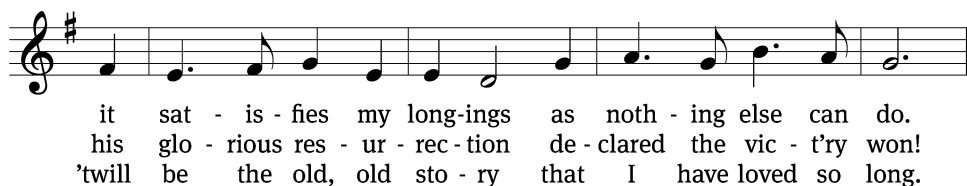
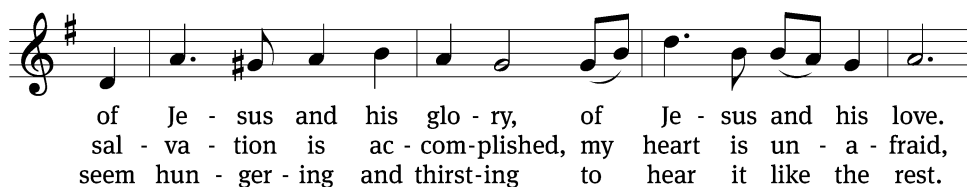
BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

CWH 746 | *I Love to Tell the Story*



Blessing

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).

Closing Hymn

In "The Story Told," which is part two of the poem "The Old, Old Story" from which this hymn is taken, Katherine Hankey briefly summarizes the whole story of the Bible, from the Fall in Genesis 3 to Christ's birth, death, and resurrection to the "scenes of glory" in Revelation. This hymn is a good reminder that the story of God and His people throughout the ages should be a focus of Christians. When we speak to others of the gospel, we must tell them "the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Text (sts. 1–3): Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835–1912, refrain
 Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835–1912
 Text and tune: Public domain

Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.