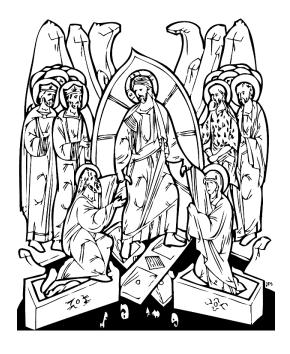


ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Great Vigil of Easter

March 31, 2024



Ministers
Rector
Deacon
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Minister of Music
Cantor
Administrative Assistant

The People of the Parish The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris The Rev. Kate Sefton Jean Farmer

> Miles McKenzie Kristina Ibarra Jun Kim

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing God's Word and celebrating God's Sacraments, we share in Christ's victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is then lit from the newly kindled fire, candles distributed to congregation are lit.

Deacon The light of Christ. People **Thanks be to God.**

THE EXSULTET

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Cantor The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

Cantor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our morning sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

THE CREATION—as told by James Weldon Johnson

please be seated

And God stepped out on space, And he looked around and said: I'm lonely— I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see Darkness covered everything, Blacker than a hundred midnights Down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on one side,
And the light stood shining on the other,
And God said: That's good!

Then God reached out and took the light in God's hands, And God rolled the light around in God's hands Until he made the sun; And God set that sun a-blazing in the heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun God gathered it up in a shining ball And flung it against the darkness, Spangling the night with the moon and stars. Then down between The darkness and the light God hurled the world; And God said: That's good!

Then God himself stepped down—
And the sun was on God's right hand,
And the moon was on God's left;
The stars were clustered about God's head,
And the earth was under God's feet.
And God walked, and where God trod
God's footsteps hollowed the valleys out
And bulged the mountains up.

Then God stopped and looked and saw
That the earth was hot and barren.
So God stepped over to the edge of the world
And God spat out the seven seas—
God batted God's eyes, and the lightnings flashed—
God clapped God's hands, and the thunders rolled—
And the waters above the earth came down,
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,
And the little red flowers blossomed,
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,
And the oak spread out his arms,
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,
And the rivers ran down to the sea;
And God smiled again,
And the rainbow appeared,
And curled itself around God's shoulder.

Then God raised God's arm and he waved God's hand Over the sea and over the land,
And God said: Bring forth! Bring forth!
And quicker than God could drop God's hand,
Fishes and fowls
And beasts and birds
Swam the rivers and the seas,
Roamed the forests and the woods,

And split the air with their wings. And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around,
And God looked around
On all that God had made.
God looked at God's sun,
And God looked at God's moon,
And God looked at God's little stars;
God looked on God's world
With all its living things,
And God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down—
On the side of a hill where God could think;
By a deep, wide river God sat down;
With God's head in God's hands,
God thought and thought,
Till God thought: I'll make me a man!

Up from the bed of the river
God scooped the clay;
And by the bank of the river
God kneeled God down;
And there the great God Almighty
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;
This great God,
Like a mammy bending over her baby,
Kneeled down in the dust
Toiling over a lump of clay
Till he shaped it in is God's own image;

Then into it God blew the breath of life, And man became a living soul.
Amen. Amen.

TEACH ME TO PRAISE YOU, O GOD—Saint Isidore of Seville

O God, great and wonderful, who has created the heavens, dwelling in their light and beauty; who has made the earth, revealing yourself in every flower that opens. Let not my eyes be blind to you, neither let my heart be dead, but teach me to praise you, even as the lark which offers her song at daybreak.

LET MY PEOPLE GO—The Exodus story as told by Archbiship Desmond Tutu

PHARAOH'S CROSS—Madeleine L'Engle

It would be easier to be an atheist; it is the simple way out. but each time I turn toward that wide and welcoming door it slams in my face, and I—like my forebears—Adam, Eve—am left outside the garden of reason and limited, chill science and the arguments of intellect.

Who is this wild cherubim who whirls the flaming sword 'twixt the door to the house of atheism and me?

Sometimes in the groping dark of my not knowing
I am exhausted with the struggle to believe in you, O God.
Your ways are not our ways. Your ways are extraordinary.
You sent evil angels to the Egyptians and killed;
you killed countless babes in order that Pharoah,
whose heart was hardened by you (that worries me, Lord)
might be slow to let the Hebrew children go.
You turned back the waters of the Red Sea
and your Chosen People went through on dry land
and the Egyptians were drowned, men with wives and children,
young men with mothers and fathers (your ways are not our ways)
and there was much rejoicing at all this death,
and the angels laughed and sang, and you stopped them, saying,
"How can you sing when my children are drowning?"

When your people reached Mount Sinai you warned Moises not to let any of them near you lest you break forth on them with death in your hand.

You are Love, and you command us to love, and yet you yourself turn men's hearts to evil, and you wipe our nations with one sweep of the hand—the Amorites and the Hittites and the Peruzzites—gone, all gone. It seems that any means will do, and yet—all these things are but stories told about you by fallen man, part of the story (your ways are not our ways) but not the whole story. You are our author, and we try to listen and set down what you say, but we suffer from faulty hearing and loss of language and we get the words wrong.

Listen: you came to us as one of us and lived with us and died for us and descended into hell for us and burst out into life for us:

Do you now hold Pharoah in your arms?

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISIAIAH (43:16-21)

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (55:1-11)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

MORNING IN A NEW LAND—Mary Oliver

In trees still dripping night some nameless birds Woke, shook out their arrowy wings, and sang, Slowly, like finches sifting through a dream. The pink sun fell, like glass, into the fields. Two chestnuts, and a dapple gray, Their shoulders wet with light, their dark hair streaming, Climbed the hill. The last mist fell away,

And under the trees, beyond time's brittle drift, I stood like Adam in his lonely garden On that first morning, shaken out of sleep, Rubbing his eyes, listening, parting the leaves, Like tissue on some vast, incredible gift.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL (36:24-28)

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

THE WILD ROSE—Wendell Berry

Sometimes hidden from me in daily custom and in ritual, so that I live by you unaware as by the beating of my heart,

suddenly you flare in my sight, a wild rose blooming at the edge of thicket, grace and light where yesterday was only shade,

and once more I am blessed, choosing again what I chose before.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

please stand

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in God's holy catholic Church.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment

to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

Presider	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the
Presider	will you continue in the aposties teaching and reliowship, in the

breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help. People

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, Presider

repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help. People

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? Presider

I will, with God's help. People

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as

yourself?

People I will, with God's help. Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the

dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

AT THE EUCHARIST

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

THE SUN—Judah al-Harizi

Look: the sun has spread its wings over the earth to dispel the darkness.

Like a great tree, with its roots in heaven, and its branches reaching down to the earth.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

God unlimited by mortal fear or tomb's cold grip: in the lingering dark give us grace to know your life triumphant your love undimmed in the face of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead. **Amen.**

TOWARD THE BOSOM OF THE NEWLY RISING SUN—Tujin Pak

Behold the sun. Behold the sun blaze fire as it rises. Let us walk on the fresh fragrant grass when the sun rises over the hill. Let us take the dazzling path at dawn toward the sun.

Be gone, Darkness. Be gone, Darkness that moans like a beast. Be gone, like beasts, herding onto the cliff. Onto the cliff, sunlight loaded on your back.

Behold those mountain flowers giving a pungent smell. Behold those green leaves of trees fluttering as if they dance. Listen to the melodies of birds, to the song of the waters that meander through they valleys. The sound that the whole mountain makes as it wakes again to receive the light.

The grass sound the grass makes on its leaves.
The leaf sound the trees make on their leaves.
The fish sound the minnow-like silver fish make.
As they mill around in schools in the clear water.
The stone sound the stones make as they are tossed down.

The measuring worms on the branches and the slugs on the bottom. Cheered, I shout "yahoy ho," baptized in the sun.

Low and faint but withering in unison rings the songbird of all things green in the mountain. Of all living things in the mountain.

Mountain, green mountain with leaves of trees fluttering.

When the sun leaps and radiates My ears open at your fresh sounds;

My eyes brighten at your fresh light. Blood circulates afresh.

The whole body tingles as if to soar into the air. I feel light as a bird,
As I walk onto the green morning road,
Walk toward the bosom of the newly rising sun.



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GOSPEL READING John 20:1-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me

where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris please be seated

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

You are invited to pass the peace distanced and respectfully.

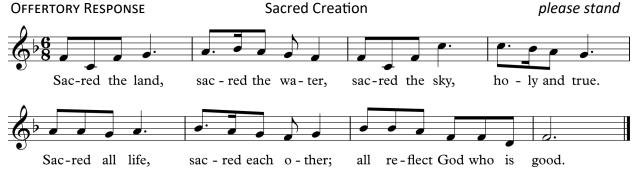
The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Mourning into Dancing please be seated

Refrain:

You've turned my mourning into dancing again, You've lifted my sorrows! I can't stay silent, I must sing for Your joy has come!

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ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing,





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Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

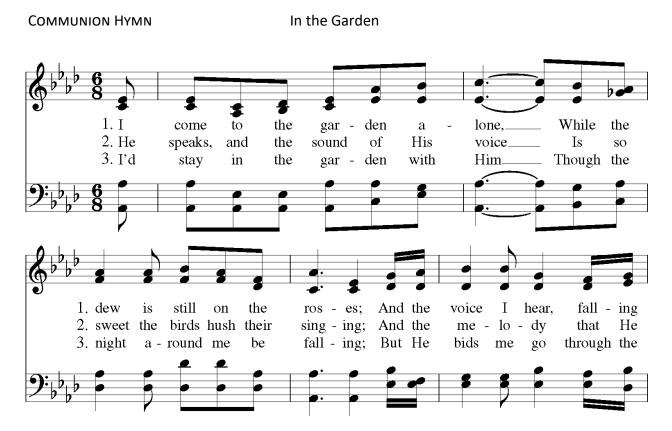
Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

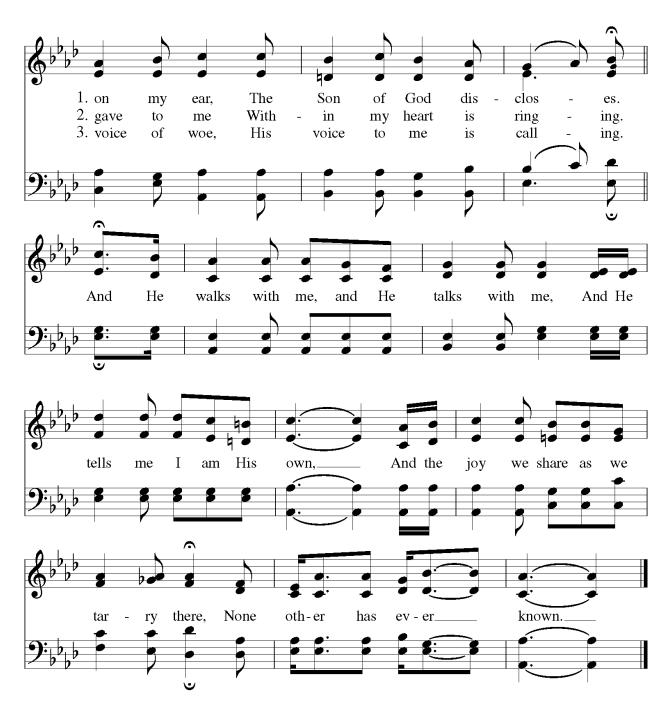
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Presider Wherever you are on your journey of faith,

People You are welcome at this table.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. You are invited to come forward when the ushers indicate. Please extend your hands together to receive the bread. Our bread is gluten free. To receive the chalice, please help guide it to your lips. We are no longer intincting (dipping the bread). If you do not wish to receive the chalice, cross your arms and the chalice bearer will still say the words but not expect you to sip. If you prefer not to receive either bread or wine and would like a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.





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Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

BLESSING

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL

Morning has broken

please stand

Music on following page

DISMISSAL

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.



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