

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2003 N.E. Englewood Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64118
816.452.9113

**“I am the good shepherd. I know my
own and my own know me.”**



Divine Service One
Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

Rev. Dr. Craig A. Meissner, Pastor
Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org

Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

It is appropriate to bow the head at italicized words; to bow at the waist at the italicized words in this font; to make the sign of the cross when you see ✠ printed.

Prelude

Please stand and face the procession

+ Confession and Absolution+

864 Shepherd of Tender Youth



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in
2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -
3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -
4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,
5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -
du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You
pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O
prais - es high And joy - ful sing: In - fants and



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing
did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace
mor - tal pain None calls on You in vain;
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word
all the throng, Who to the Church be - long,



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.
You so might save our race And give us life.
Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.
U - nite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt.

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Our soul waits | for the LORD;*
 he is our help | and our shield.
*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**
and to the Holy | Spirit;
*as it was in the be- | ginning,**
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alle- | luia.*
 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alle- | luia.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

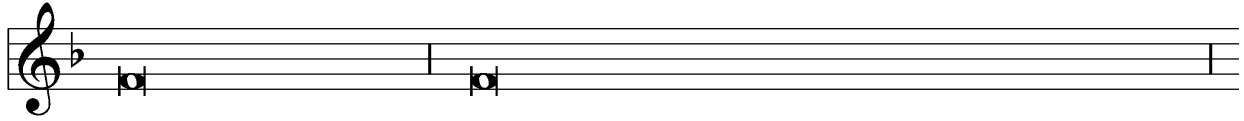
C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

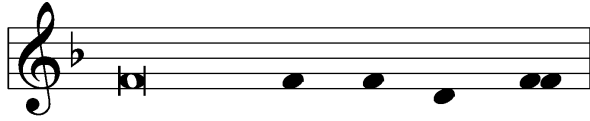
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



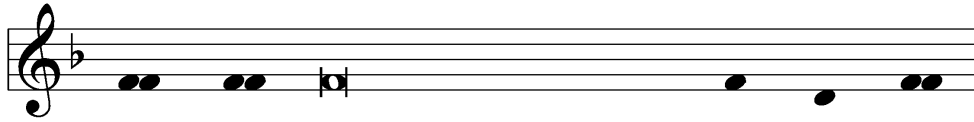
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast



C 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*



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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:21–25

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Luke 24:35b; John 10:14 (Holy Cross Choir)



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

A [The Lord] was known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 10:11–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please note the Service liturgy from this point through the Prayer of the Church follows the pattern of Divine Service III, unlike the arrangement for Divine Service I in LSB

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one *God*,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord *Jesus Christ*,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and *was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary*
and *was made man*;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

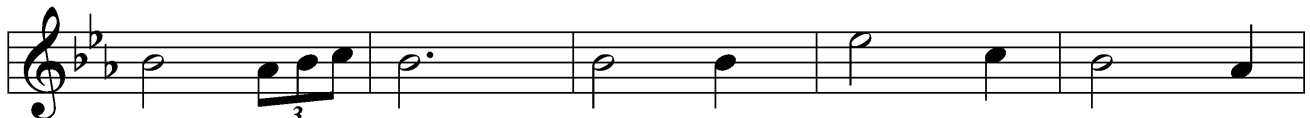
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together *is worshiped
and glorified*,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

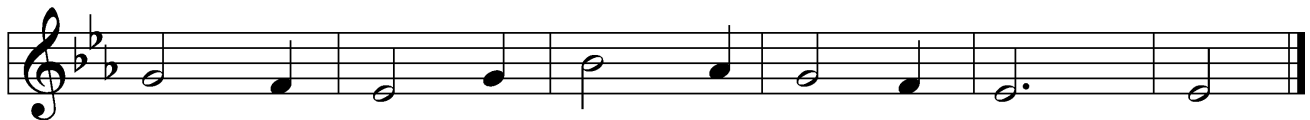
709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;

And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

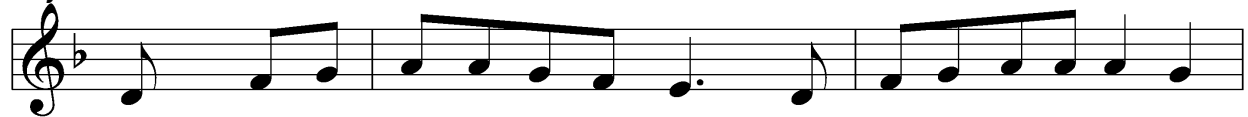
Sermon

Offering

Stand

Offertory

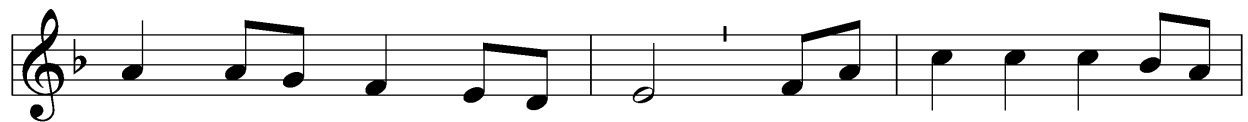
LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



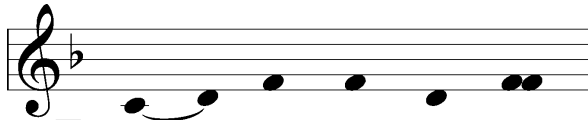
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Prayer of the Church

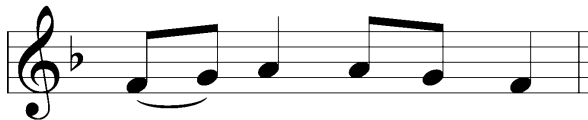
+ Service of the Sacrament+

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



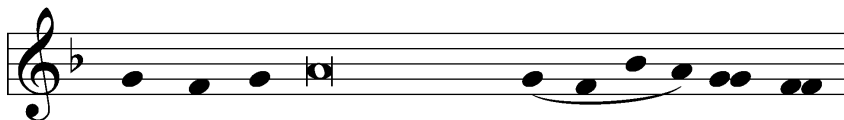
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for

the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161 (Sung)

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.*

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He ✝ who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but ✠ deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *“Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: *“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

Pax Domini

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

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. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

741 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall
 3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am
 liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
 wak - en. He will bring me where He is;
 ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,
 tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern
 Rests up - on the hope here giv - en, Though the
 Shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
 Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er; E - ven
 That from death I shall a - wak - en With my



night of death be fraught Still with man-y an anx - ious thought.
fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?
death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.
Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.

- 5 Glorified, I shall anew
With this flesh then be enshrouded;
In this body I shall view
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;
In this flesh I then shall see
Jesus Christ eternally.
- 6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.
- 7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave
And at death no longer tremble;
He, the Lord, who came to save
Will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet,
Treading death beneath their feet.
- 8 O, then, draw away your hearts
From all pleasures base and hollow;
Strive to share what He imparts
While you here His footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–79; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



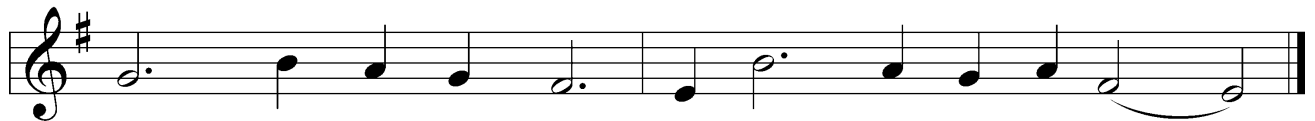
1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some - times faints, His seem - ing
Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Jacob Fabricius, 1593–1654; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: German, 1534, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens -
2 No son of man could con - quer death, Such ru - in sin
3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, His peo - ple to
4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife When life and death



es giv - en; But now at God's right hand He stands
 had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
 de - liv - er; De - stroy - ing sin, He took the crown
 con - tend - ed; The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,



And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 And there - fore death had brought us In - to bond - age
 From death's pale brow for - ev - er: Stripped of pow'r, no
 The reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture



joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 from of old And ev - er grew more strong and bold
 more it reigns; An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
 plain - ly saith That death is swal - lowed up by death,



Loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 And held us as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursèd tree—
 So strong His love—to save us.
 See, His blood now marks our door;
 Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival
 To which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is Himself the joy of all,

The sun that warms and lights us.
Now His grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended.
Alleluia!

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other!
Alleluia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

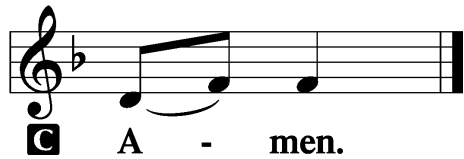
LSB 165 (Sung)

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

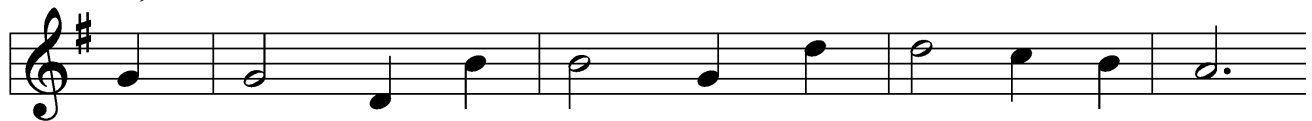
LSB 166

P *The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

C **Amen.**

Please face the procession, returning after it passes

480 He's Risen, He's Risen



1 He's ris - en, He's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;
2 The foe was tri - um - phant when on Cal - va - ry
3 But short was their tri - umph; the Sav - ior a - rose,
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
△ 5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



He o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate, true Word.
The Lord of cre - a - tion was nailed to the tree.
And death, hell, and Sa - tan He van - quished, His foes.
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.
Pro - claim the blest tid - ings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song
 In Sa - tan's do - main did the hosts shout and jeer,
 The con - quer - ing Lord lifts His ban - ner on high;
 For all our trans - gres - sions His blood does a - tone;
 Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



And earth, sea, and moun - tain their prais - es pro - long.
 For Je - sus was slain, whom the e - vil ones fear.
 He lives, yes, He lives, and will nev - er - more die.
 Re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are His own.
 With Fa - ther and Spir - it He ev - er shall reign.

Text: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87, abr.; tr. Anna M. Meyer, 1867–1941, alt.

Tune: C. F. W. Walther, 1811–87

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