



# **Second Sunday of Easter**

Service of the Word

April 16, 2023 | 8:00 & 10:30 AM



**All are welcome at Saint John's** regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

**Children are welcome.** We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

**To assist you during worship:** Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

**Offerings:** St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

**Assisted Listening:** To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST\_JOHNS\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



## **Ministers: The People of Saint John's**

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

## Prayer Before Worship

God of signs and wonders, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior. Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in Christ's name. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1*

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**ELW** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

**ACS** *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

**PRELUDE** Elegy

C.H.H. Parry

## WELCOME

*Please stand.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed and restored as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in these waters we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture every living thing. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN ELW 363 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:  
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 380 Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

*Verses 1 & 5*



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con-quer-or, has gone,  
Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:14a, 22–32

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

***The reader concludes:*** The word of the Lord. ***The assembly responds:*** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:24-29

1 This is the day the Lord hath made; the hours are  
 2 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, to Da - vid's  
 3 Blest be the Lord, who comes in power with mes - sag -  
 4 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains the church on

all God's own. Let heaven re - joice; let  
 ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -  
 es of grace, who comes in this ac -  
 earth can raise! The high - est heavens in

earth be glad, and praise sur - round the throne.  
 scend and bring sal - va - tion from the throne.  
 cept - ed hour to save our sin - ful race.  
 which God reigns shall now re - sound with praise.

## SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.



God, who raised Jesus from  
the dead, will give new  
life to our own mortal  
bodies through his Spirit  
living in us.



Please stand.

## GOSPEL PROCESSION



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



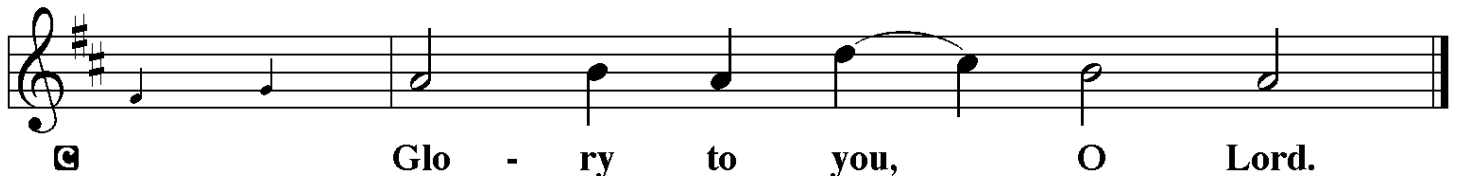
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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V. O Lord open our hearts to listen to the words of your Son.

## GOSPEL John 20:19–31

The Holy Gospel according to John.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

Deacon Linda Walker

*Please stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 635 We Walk by Faith**

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near, and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

**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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In joy and hope let us pray to the Lord.

That our risen Savior may fill us and all the Church with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

That war and famine may cease through all the world and that those who lack food, work, or shelter may be provided for we pray. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

That God would be present with the sick, the suffering, and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them. We commend all whom we name now. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

That God would send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon us, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection and be a congregation enlivened by the Spirit's power. Bless our evangelism work and our partner congregations, St. Stephan's Grace, Newark and Bethlehem, New Orleans. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

That all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day. God of life, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you have delivered us from the power of sin and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

### GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org](http://www.stjohnssummit.org) or scan this code.*



**8:00 AM OFFERING MUSIC** Improvisation

Christopher Harlow-Jennings

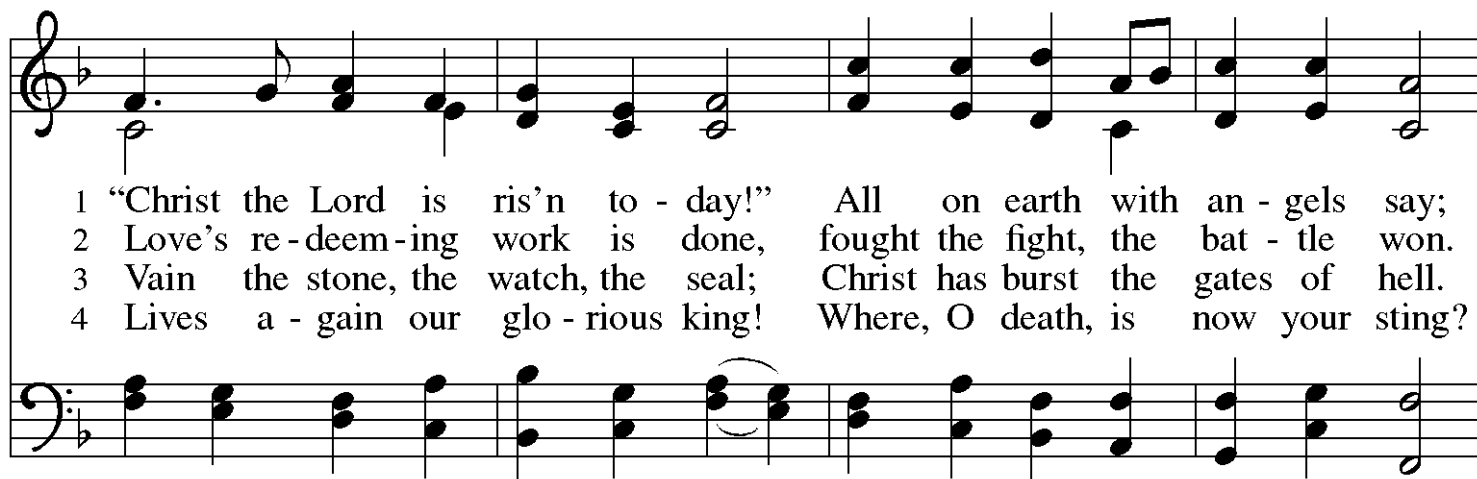
**10:30 AM OFFERING MUSIC** This Joyful Eastertide

Charles Wood

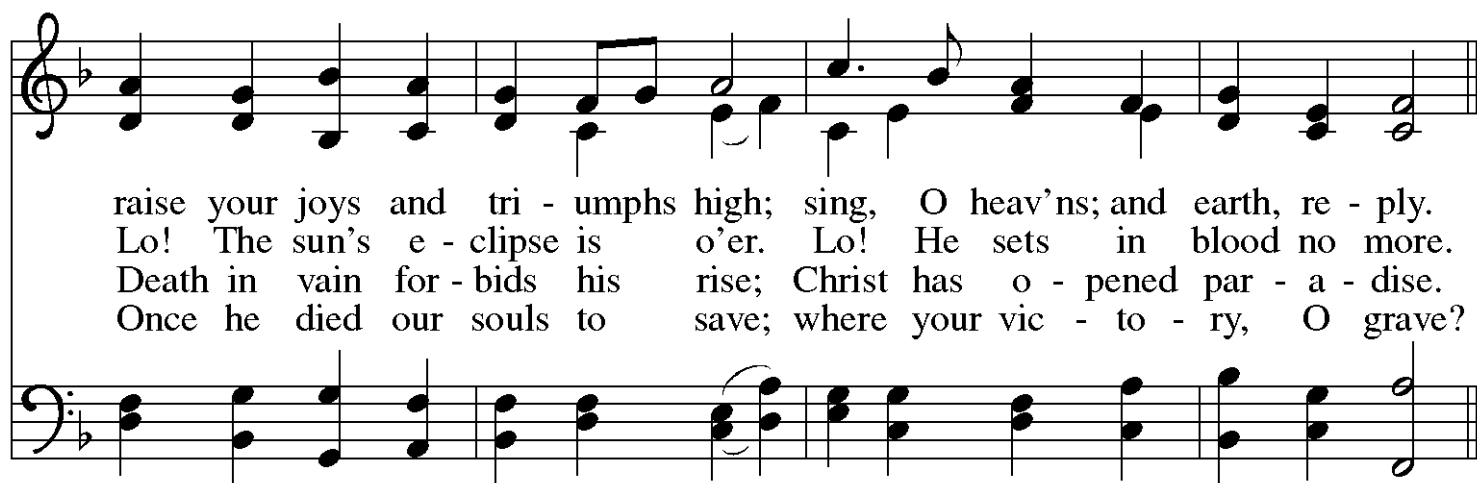
Alleluia!  
CHRIST,  
having  
risen from  
the dead,  
dies now  
no more +  
death shall  
no longer  
have  
dominion  
over him

*Please stand.*

**OFFERING HYMN** ELW 373 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;  
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.  
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.  
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.  
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.  
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
Music: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS, Pierre de Corbeil, d. 1222, arr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Arr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, *Ps. 92:5*  
proclaiming freedom from captivity, *Exod. 5:1*  
becoming the song of your people. *Ps. 118:4*

We praise you, O God, for your Word.

**We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your Word is made flesh among us: with Mary in the garden, you call us by name. *John 20:16*

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe. *John 20:17*

With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice. *John 10:16*

Your Word names our death and our life: *John 5:24*

a seed that falls into the earth and dies, *John 12:24*

rain and snow that come down from heaven to water the earth, *Isa. 55:10*

a vine in which we abide. *John 15:5*

Through your Word, you appoint us to bear fruit, fruit that will last. *John 15:16*

We bless you, O God, for your Word.

**We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things. *Luke 24:48*

Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. *John 20:22*

Open our minds to understand the scriptures. *Luke 24:45*

Give us wisdom to declare what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life. *1 John 1:1*

Fill us with strength to love, not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action. *1 John 3:18*

With every creature in heaven and on earth

and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, *Rev. 5:13*

we join in the hymn of all creation, as

we thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word.

**We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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 forever. Amen.**

### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Christ, who in rising from the dead has defeated death, bringing us new life and a new future, fill us with all joy and hope in believing; and the blessing of God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 376 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 naught 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

*Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** Toccata

Percy Fletcher

**April 16, 2023**

**Today's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God.

**We welcome** Deacon Linda Walker as our guest preacher today.

**If you made dedications for Easter Flowers**, please remember to send in your donation. Recommended donation is \$25-50. Please include "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

**Bethlehem Build Lent Collection.** Our partner congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans, is building the 2<sup>nd</sup> affordable house on their property. Our Council has challenged us to raise \$25,000 between now and Easter and we can match dollar for dollar up to \$6,000 to support this project. Give online or by check, **payable to St. John's**, "Bethlehem Build" in the memo line. Please see the weekly email for an update on what we have collected so far.

**Faith, Hope & Love: Building Safer & More Welcoming Congregations for LGBTQ+ Youth Workshop, Saturday, April 22** at Abiding Presence, 2220 Pennington Rd, Ewing Township, NJ from **8:45 AM - 3:30 PM**. The day will include three workshop slots filled with topics surrounding youth, parent resources, advocacy, LGBTQ+ 101, and mental health. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Suggested donation of \$20/attendee or \$40/family (3 or more members of the same family). Registration link can be found in the weekly email.

**We are hiring a Livestream Coordinator** for Sunday services from 7:45–Noon including religious holidays. Approximately 5 hours a week. Experience with livestream and audio equipment. Open to high school and college students with TV production experience. Please contact Linda Mesenbrink at [Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net](mailto:Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net) or 973-202-2773.



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**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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