

Ascension Lutheran Church In Person & Livestream Worship  
April 18- 9:15am

*Welcome! A few pointers for those at home to make this worship service meaningful:*

- *Set the space. Clear a table of everything except the screen, a Bible, and the candle.*
- *Join us as for communion this morning. Have your bread and wine or grape juice ready.*
- *Thank you for supporting the ministry of Ascension. You can give online at [www.ascensioncos.org/give](http://www.ascensioncos.org/give) or mail a check to:*

*Ascension Lutheran Church  
2505 N Circle Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909*

*If you have prayer requests or concerns, visit [ascensioncos.org](http://ascensioncos.org) or call 719-634-1694*

**Prelude**                    **“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” arr. by Phillip Keveren**

**Announcements**

**Confession**

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.*

**Amen.**

*Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.*

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

*God of grace and glory,*

**you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, we confess that we are still plagued by doubt and fear. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us, changing our lives and making us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Forgiveness**

## Gathering Hymn

## Alleluia! Sing To Jesus (392)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,  
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the  
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -  
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful  
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -  
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus  
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our  
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

## Greeting

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*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.**

## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

and for the u - ni - ty 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.

## Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*

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

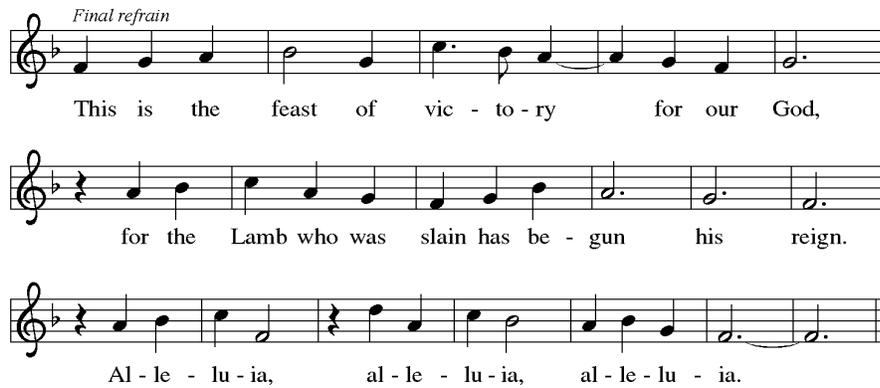
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

*O God,*

**we give you thanks for the faithful witnesses who have gone before us. Help us be full of faith and filled with the Holy Spirit so that we boldly live out our callings in this time and place. Keep in us a vision of Jesus living and reigning with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever more. Amen**

### Special Music

**"Ave Verum Corpus" by W.A. Mozart  
 Megan Miller, cello & Sylvia Holt, piano**

### Reading: Acts 6:1-11 and 7:1-2a, 51-60

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.’ What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, ‘We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’

Then the high priest asked him, ‘Are these things so?’ And Stephen replied:

‘Brothers and fathers, listen to me... ‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you

have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

### + Gospel Acclamation



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

### Gospel Reading: Luke 21:10-13

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke.*

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

#### Praise to you, O Christ.

### Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Dan Holt

## Hymn of the Day

## O God of Light (507)



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

## + Easter Creed

**This is the good news which we received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day and that he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve and to many faithful witnesses. We believe he is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

## Prayers

*Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of those in need, and the life of all creation.*

*(a brief silence)*

## After each petition:

*Lord in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*Those remembered in prayer this week ...*

*Beth Ayen, Brad Buhler, Sonny Campbell, Andrea Gallant, Elaine Glover, Bev Godec, Steve Hast, Steve Gulliksen, Pam Landry, Daniela Mannerberg, Michael Noble Jr, Carlos Quiles, Rick Rogers, Jeff Sebben, Cassie Shaffer, Cathy Stanley, Matthew Stannard, Ilene Steinkruger, Wanda Wade, Lucille Walker, Christel Walter, Dee Yocum, all our men and women serving overseas, especially Anthony Calderon, and all others we lift up to you at this time.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

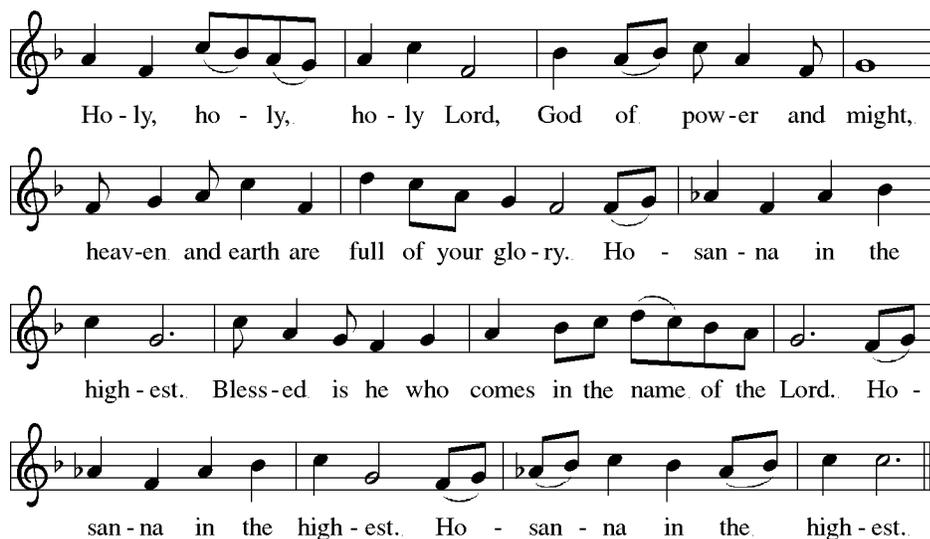
*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## The Preface to the Sanctus

It is indeed right ... and join their unending hymn:

### The Sanctus



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

## The Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

*Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.*

*Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.*

*Praise to you for leading your people safely through the sea and wilderness to the land of milk and honey.*

*Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.*

*Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.*

*Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.*

**Praise to you, O God. Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed ...

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.*

**Amen.**

## The 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. 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.**

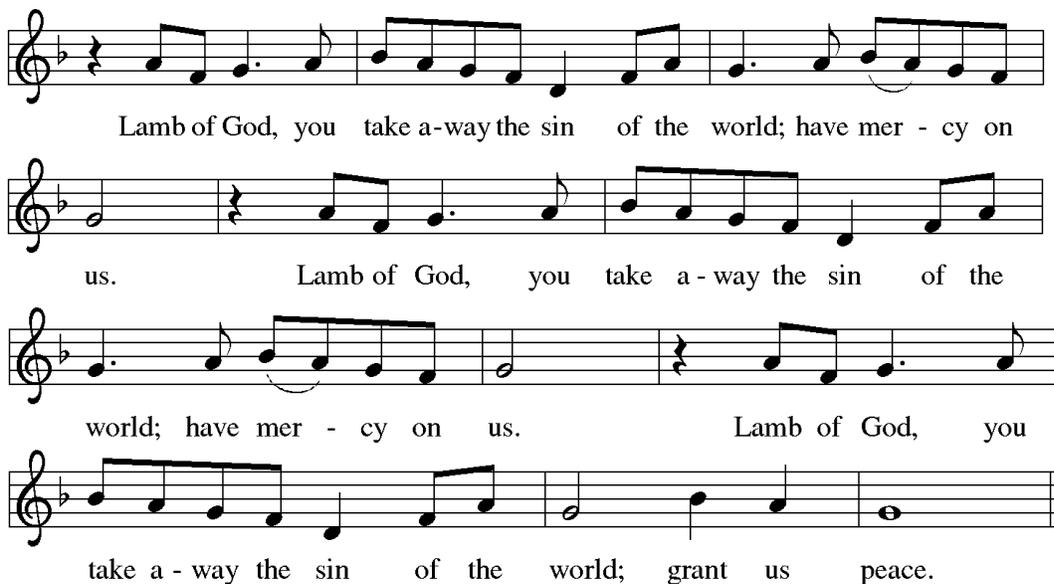
## Invitation to Communion

*For those worshipping at home, we encourage you to have your bread and wine/grape juice ready. When the pastor says "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you", eat and drink trusting that this is God's free gift of grace for you. If you are worshipping with others, one may give the bread and wine to the rest offering those same words. All are welcome to the Lord's table.*

*For those worshipping in the sanctuary, come forward to receive bread and wine, following the directions of the pastors and ushers, maintaining 6 feet between families. You will grab a piece of bread and cup of wine from the table, hearing the promise from the pastor. Remove your mask to eat and drink, and then please put your mask back on. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available.*

*God's love and this meal are for all, including children. If your children are not ready to receive, they may receive a simple blessing such as "May the Lord bless you and keep you."*

## Lamb of God



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.

## The Communion Blessing

**Amen.**

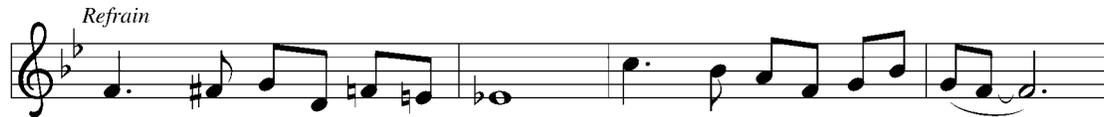
## Prayer after Communion

*Living God,*

**you have greeted us in our brokenness and nourished us with the body of Christ, broken for us. Risen to new life with you, send us now to bear your healing love into the wounded world, in the name of our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee (697)



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

## Benediction

Amen.

## Sending

*Go in peace, serve the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "The strife is o'er, the battle done" by G.Palestrina, arr. by Cindy Berry

*Thank you to Karen and Sid Rubinow for the altar flowers in celebration of their anniversary.*

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