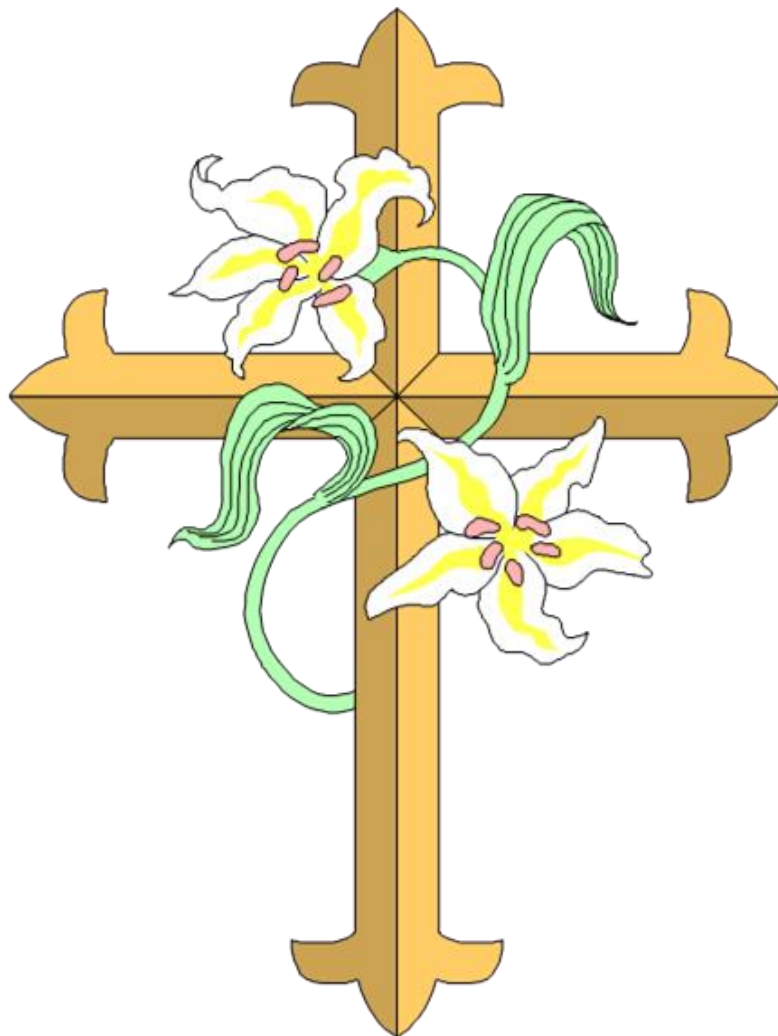


# The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist



*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*April 28, 2024  
9:00 AM*

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
W. Columbia, Texas  
(979) 345-3456  
[www.stmaryswestcolumbia.com](http://www.stmaryswestcolumbia.com)

**The Rev. Paul B. Wehner, Interim Rector**

**We welcome all friends and visitors to worship with us this morning. St. Mary's is "The Mustard Seed Church," where out of a small number, great things will grow for the glory of God.**

**If you would like to receive more information about life within our community, please fill out a Visitor's Card in the pew rack in front of you so that we may get in touch with you this week. You can hand the card to the priest or usher as you leave or leave it in your pew.**

## **Ministers of the Service**

Celebrant/Preacher

The Rev. Paul Wehner

Chalice Bearer

Mary Stewart

Crucifer

Abigail Roddy

Lector

Wendy Hankins

Prayers of the People

Colleen Matocha

Music

Grace Culbreath

Ushers

Buck Barnes, Dick McGuire

Altar Guild

Ouida Thomas, Wendy Hankins

Technical Support

Amber Prater, Jay Wiggins

**Rev. Paul Wehner is our Interim Rector during the current transition time. He will be in the church office on Tuesdays from 8:30 – 5:00, or can meet at other times by appointment. Please do not hesitate to drop in or to call and schedule a time to meet and talk or pray with Fr. Paul. Call the church office or his cell phone: 409-766-0088.**

# Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Prelude

Grace Culbreath, Organ

Opening Prayer

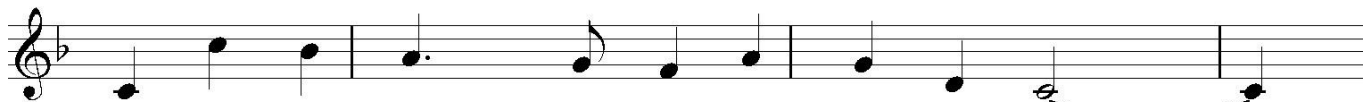
Processional Hymn

*We know that Christ is raised*

Hymn #296



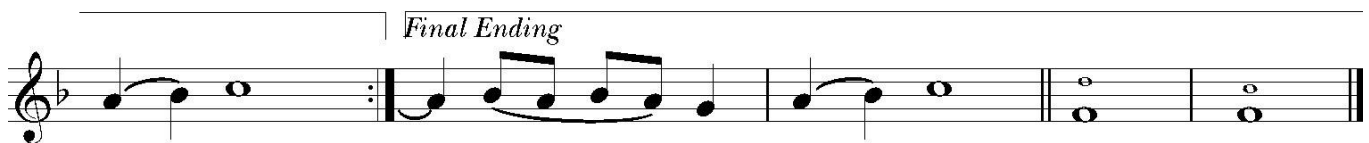
We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.\_\_\_\_\_  
We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.\_\_\_\_\_  
The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.\_\_\_\_\_  
A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows.\_\_\_\_\_



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold;\_\_\_\_\_  
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life.\_\_\_\_\_  
The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God.\_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood.\_\_\_\_\_



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.\_\_\_\_\_  
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.\_\_\_\_\_  
Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.\_\_\_\_\_  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:\_\_\_\_\_



lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People     The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Children two years old through 5th grade are invited to follow the cross to Sunday School. They will return during the Peace.

**Song of Praise**

PASCHA NOSTRUM

**Hymn tune #287**



1 God's Pas - chal Lamb is sa - cri - ficed for us;  
2 Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain;  
3 In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead:



1 There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast;  
2 death has no more do - min - ion o - ver him;  
3 though Adam's sin had doomed all flesh to die,



1 For - saking sin, we share the bread of truth.  
2 Through him we die to sin and live to God.  
3 in Christ's new life shall all be made a - live.



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

## **The Collect of the Day (standing)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons** *The people sit.*

Our first reading is from Acts (8:26-40)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 22:24-30**

Deus, Deus meus

BCP p. 612

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \***

**"May your heart live for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

Our second reading is from the First Letter of John (4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

**People**      **Thanks be to God.**

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
 2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
 3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
 one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-  
 ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
 guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

*Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John. (15:1-8)

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Paul Wehner

**The Nicene Creed** *(standing)*

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

**Easter Prayers of the People** *(standing)*

*Leader* That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* That Christ as head of the Church will bless our Bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our bishops; Paul, our priest; and the people of St. Mary's Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**



*Leader* That he will bless and guide those who are celebrating their birthdays; and those who are celebrating their anniversaries; that they will be strengthened and encouraged for the years ahead, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* That he will defend and protect all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad, especially Ricky Wallace, Luis Cassells, Aidan Vrazel, Ben Rowland, Josef Gottlieb, and Benjamin Kelley, and that by his power, wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* That he may reveal the light of his presence to those who are in danger, sorrow, sickness, or any kind of trouble, especially Donna, Mary, Mike, Marglet, Anne, Ouida, Bonnie, John, Doris, Vicki, Cody, Keri, Carol, Donnie, Susan, Nancy, Cathy, Arlien, Darla, Veronica, Jane, Linda, Hayden, Bobbie, Liz, Connie, Bill, Joe, Megan, David, the family of Katherine Miller, Rick, Debbie, and those we now name silently or aloud . . . . . ; that they may be comforted and strengthened in the love of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* We remember those who have died, especially Katherine Miller and those we now name silently or aloud . . . . . , and pray for their eternal blessing. We also give thanks for all the blessings of this life; offering our praise and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Leader* That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, enabling us to bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**People** **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Priest* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

**People** **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Risen Christ.*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

## **The Holy Communion**

### **THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Grace Culbreath

*The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

### **THE DOXOLOGY Hymn # 380 vs 3**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 361)

*The people remain standing*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord..**

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

**People** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

**Hymn #S-125**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed 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 people are invited to remain standing in witness of the Resurrection.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

BCP p. 364

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**All that desire a closer relationship with Jesus Christ are invited to the table.**

*Please proceed down the center aisle to the Communion rail, where you may stand or kneel. The priest will put a wafer in your hand. If you desire wine, you may sip from the cup or lightly dip your wafer in the wine. If you prefer to receive only the bread or a blessing, so indicate by crossing your arms over your chest at the appropriate time. If you desire to receive Communion in your pew, please tell one of the ushers. The ministers will be pleased to bring the bread and wine to you.*

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these or similar words.*

*The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]*

*The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

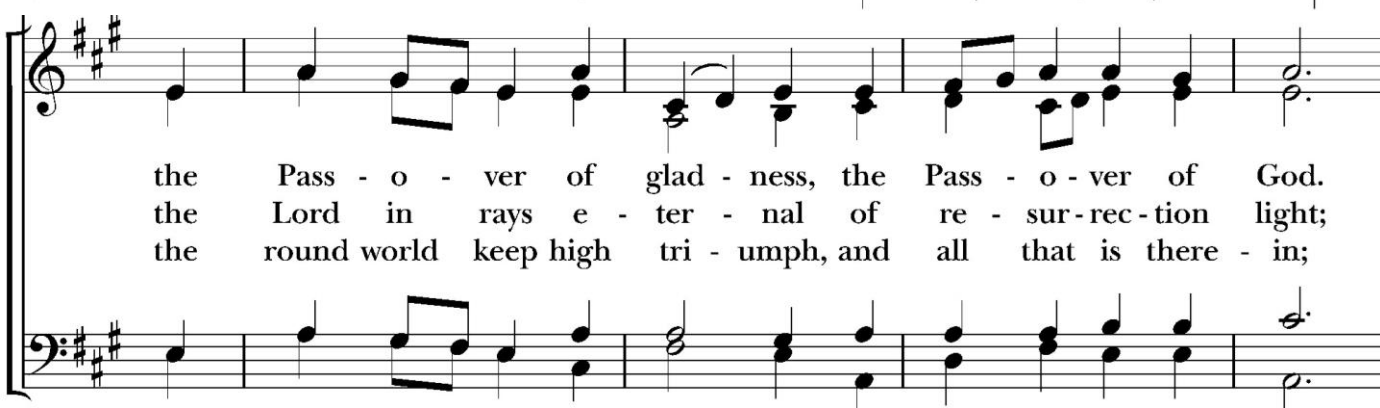
**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Easter Blessing:**

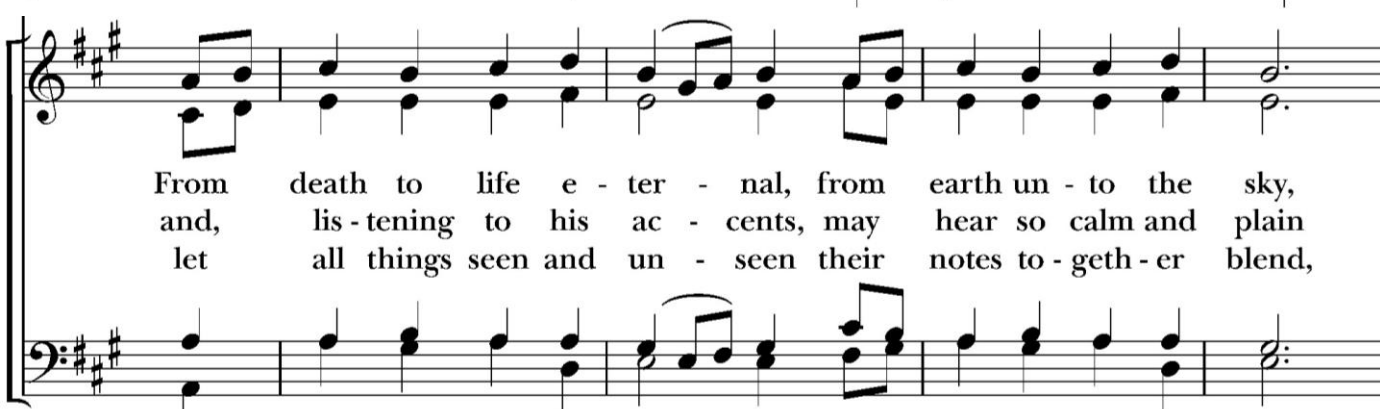
May Almighty God, who redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his love. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**



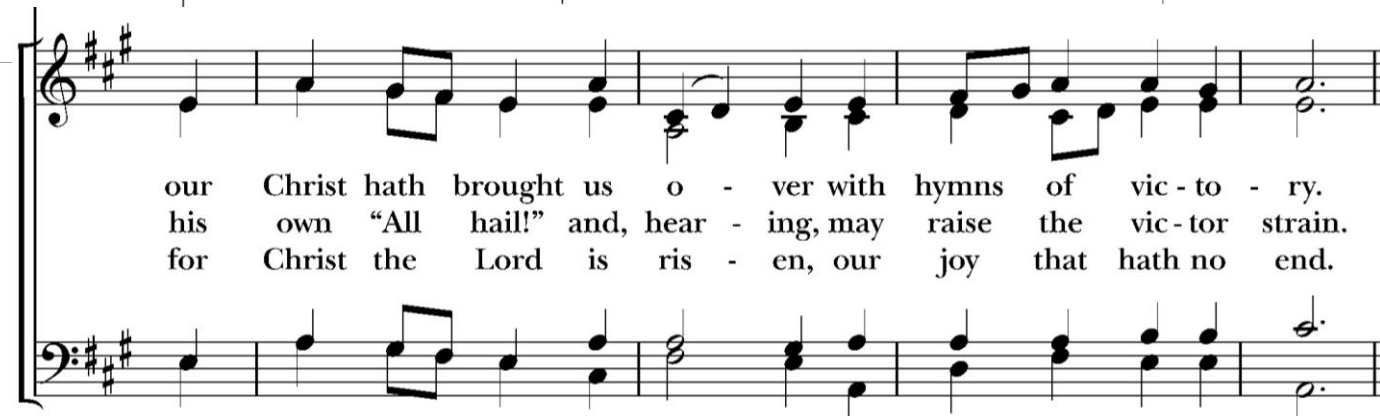
1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
 2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;  
 the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
 and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain  
 let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,



our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

## The Dismissal

*Priest* Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ.

**People** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



**The flowers on the altar  
this Sunday are given  
to the Glory of God,  
in memory of Neil Thomas  
by Quida Thomas,  
and in memory of  
Brooke Roddy Denbow  
by Donna and Dan Roddy.**

## **2024 FLOWER SIGN UP**

The forms to sign up for 2024 flower offerings are in the Narthex. Please stop by and sign up to honor or celebrate special days in your life. The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance.

For more information, contact the church office. (979-345-3456)

## **Prayers**

Prayers for Healing: Donna, Mary, Mike, Marglet, Anne, Ouida, Bonnie, John, Doris, Vicki, Cody, Keri, Carol, Donnie, Susan, Nancy, Cathy, Arlien, Darla, Veronica, Jane, Linda, Hayden, Bobbie, Liz, Connie, Bill, Joe, Megan, David, the family of Katherine Miller, Rick, and Debbie.

Prayers for the Departed: Katherine Miller

Prayers for our men and women in the Armed Forces: Ricky Wallace, Luis Cassells, Aidan Vrazel, Ben Rowland, Josef Gottlieb, and Benjamin Kelley

Prayers for birthdays:

Prayers for anniversaries:

Prayers for the Members of our Search Committee: Jackie Walker (chair), AJ Mikel, Colleen Matocha, Tracy Lane, Jennifer Schill, Bill Olson, and Shyanne Roddy

## **Announcements**

1. We welcome all visitors to our worship service. If you need anything, the ushers will be happy to assist you. Please join us after the service for hospitality and fellowship.
2. The children's Sunday School will be during the service with them leaving the sanctuary during the Song of Praise and returning during the Peace.
3. Adult and Youth Sunday School will be after hospitality at 10:30 a.m.
4. Thank you for all who helped with the San Jacinto Festival.
5. Next Sunday, May 5th, is Graduation Sunday when we will honor our high school senior, Reesie Cantrell.
6. Our next parish dinner is Wednesday, May 15th, at 5:30 p.m. The Brotherhood will be providing Kitty Nash Ranch Casserole, green beans, salad, rolls, peach cobbler, cherry cobbler, ice cream, tea, coffee, and water. Mark your calendar for this great meal and wonderful fellowship.

7. We will honor the six dedicated military personnel on our prayer list on Armed Forces Day, May 18th, the day the United States honors those who are currently serving in one of the 5 branches of the military. Gift cards and letters will be sent to them, with our prayers, in appreciation of their service and sacrifices. Donations for the gift cards will be accepted from April 7th to May 12th. You can place donations in the offering plate on Sundays using the envelopes in the Narthex, bring or mail your donation to the church office, or donate through PayPal on our website. Notes thanking them and their families for their service would also be appreciated.
8. From April 1st to June 30th, St. Mary's will be providing cake mixes and icing tubs to the Meals on Wheels program at the Senior Citizen Center. Each week, we will donate 4 cake mixes and 2 tubs of icing. There will be containers in the Narthex and Parish Hall for your donations. Each cake made takes 2 mixes and one icing tub.
9. In the Narthex and Parish Hall, there is a pamphlet about "The Very First Grande Texas Family Reunion" at Camp Allen.

**Retreat Rates:** Hotel Lodging \$210 per room, 4 person max

**Program/Meals:** \$152 per person (kids age 2 and under are free)

*Bishop Doyle is providing each family with a \$100 discount on registration*

10. Camp Allen is now taking reservations for Summer Camp for children and youth. Visit [campallen.org](http://campallen.org) to view available sessions and make your reservations. The church pays two-thirds of the camp fee.

