**April 16th, 2023 Second Sunday of Easter – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023-SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on April 16th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship April 16th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09)

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+17789072071,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**+17806660144,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada  
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHrnL3MpQ**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHrnL3MpQ) **………………………………**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 16, 2023:**

**Here are the YouTube links for the Holy Week and Easter Services:**

**Maundy Thursday:** [**https://youtu.be/6bAucmN9Pjs**](https://youtu.be/6bAucmN9Pjs)

**Good Friday:** [**https://youtu.be/QETjSv1LpOc**](https://youtu.be/QETjSv1LpOc)

**Easter Sunday:** [**https://youtu.be/XFUuWO7jh4I**](https://youtu.be/XFUuWO7jh4I)

**……………………….**

**PASTORAL VISITS**: Pastor Laura Sauder is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

**…………………………….**

**Bible Study will be in the Art Room on Mondays at 3:00PM.**

**Please join us – all are welcome!**

1. **…………………………..**

You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter’s, Preston. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.

**1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**

**Send an email to or** [**alexblack@sympatico.ca**](mailto:alexblack@sympatico.ca) **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**

**………………………………**

**Greenhorizons BigYellowBag - Give & Grow Program**

This fundraiser is open to all and enables each one of us to raise funds for St. Peters. If you don’t have a lawn or garden, you can still help by spreading the word to your neighbours, friends and relatives.

Each time that an order is placed at Greenhorizons Sod at 519.653.7494 for a **BigYellowBag** of soil using the **code SPLCC23** you will save $5.00, and the church will receive $10.00.

Spread the word, and the soil!​

**……………………………..**

**Yard Sale -** **Tentative dates are July 7 and 8, 2023**. We’re looking for good, gently used, clean items of all kinds, and clothing. Please – no very large mirrors, no complete dining room suites, no large old television sets. If you’re unsure of whether what you have is suitable or not, leave a message at the church office. So – start your spring clear out and think of St. Peter’s. We’d love to re-purpose your goods and make a new owner happy. Items may be dropped off at church; just let us know when we can meet with you.

**…………………………………**

1. **Addison’s Women’s Choir – 40th Anniversary Concert**
2. **Here’s to Song**
3. **Saturday, May 6, 2023**
4. Special Guests: Siobhan Kerr, Harpist,
5. Cambridge Male Chorus, AWC Alumni & Past
6. Marantha Christian Reformed Church, 94 Elgin Street, South, Cambridge
7. Tickets: Adults $15.00 (under 12 free)
8. **To place an order, please telephone Barbara Berg at 519-653-0885, or by email at** [**bergsnest@bell.net**](mailto:bergsnest@bell.net)

**…………………………..**

**Bridges VBS 2023 Knights of North Castle** - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God’s power! Application Forms are located in the narthex or by calling the church office at 519-653-4721. Dates: July 10-14, 2023, 9:00am – 4:00 pm Children who are between the ages of 5 and 11 (as of December 31, 2023). Registration fee of $125/participant (including lunch & snacks) is due upon registration. Please make cheques payable to Bridges VBS (please note child’s name on cheque, post-dated cheques will not be accepted). As this camp is running at cost, tax receipts will not be issued and registration fees are non-refundable. Registration closes June 1st, or when spaces are filled. Location: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church (317 Franklin St. N, Kitchener). We are extremely grateful to St. Luke's for hosting us and can't wait to be in this great space. This week long VBS is run solely by volunteers, both youth and adult. There are many volunteer opportunities that cover a wide range of skill, as well as a variety of time commitments. [bridgesvbs.weebly.com](http://bridgesvbs.weebly.com/)

**……………………………….**

1. **The flowers on the altar have been placed by Don & Louann Brethauer in celebration of their 45th wedding Anniversary which took place yesterday on April 15th.**
2. **…………………………….**

**Menno Singers and artistic director Brandon Leis** present our Spring Concert **– ‘a light exists in spring...In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect.’** at St Jacobs Mennonite Church (1310 King St. N, St Jacobs) on Saturday, May 6 at 7:30pm. $25 Adults. $5 Children/Students.Tickets available on-line or at the door (cash or credit)  [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)

**……………………………………**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: Bonnie Berg**

**Land Acknowledgement:**

A:With thankful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live and worship here at St Peter’s is the treaty land of the Six Nations, comprising in part the territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral Peoples. This land is covered by treaties such as the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Two Row Wampum Treaty and the Haldimand Treaty of 1784. As we continue to learn more about the truth of our shared history, we desire to grow in Peace, Friendship and Respect, leading ultimately to true reconciliation.

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 363 ‘Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain’**

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain

of triumphant gladness!

God has brought forth Israel

into joy from sadness,

loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke

Jacob's sons and daughters;

led them with unmoistened foot

through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today:

Christ has burst his prison,

and from three days' sleep in death

as a sun has risen.

All the winter of our sins,

long and dark, is flying

from the Light to whom we give

laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright

with the day of splendor,

with the royal feast of feasts

comes its joy to render;

comes to glad Jerusalem*,*

who with true affection

welcomes in unwearied strain

Jesus' resurrection!

4 Neither could the gates of death,

nor the tomb's dark portal,

nor the watchers, nor the seal

hold you as a mortal:

but today, among your own,

you appear, bestowing

your deep peace, which evermore

passes human knowing.

5 Alleluia! now we cry

to our Lord immortal,

who triumphant burst the bars

of the tomb's dark portal;

Alleluia! with the Son

God the Father praising;

Alleluia! yet again

to the Spirit raising.

*(Title:**Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain; Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Public Domain*

*Music:* *Johann Horn, 1490-1547; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie: ELW # 155 ‘Kyrie’**

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

*(Title:**Kyrie; Text: Public Domain; Music:* *Russian Orthodox Traditional; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayer of the Day*:***

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.\****

**Psalm: Psalm 16**

Protect me, O God, for I take ref- **|** uge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good a- **|** bove all other.”

All my delight is in the godly that are **|** in the land,

upon those who are noble a- **|** mong the people.

But those who run after **|** other gods

shall have their troubles **|** multiplied.

I will not pour out drink offerings **|** to such gods,

never take their names up- **|** on my lips.

O Lord, you are my portion **|** and my cup;

it is you who up- **|** hold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a **|** pleasant land;

indeed, I have a **|** rich inheritance.

I will bless the Lord who **|** gives me counsel;

my heart teaches me night **|** after night.

I have set the Lord al- **|** ways before me;

because God is at my right hand, I shall **|** not be shaken.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- **|** it rejoices;

my body also shall **|** rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me **|** to the grave,

nor let your holy one **|** see the pit.

You will show me the **|** path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- **|** evermore.\*

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**Lesson Introduction: *(Pastor Laura)***

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

1st Peter is a letter that was written to a community that was experiencing suffering because of their faith. It’s not clear exactly what kind of suffering it was. Given the time and place, it could have been state sanctioned persecution or perhaps being ostracized and rejected by friends and family. No matter the cause, these are folks in need of encouragement.

These words are encouragement for us too. For whether it’s suffering or worry or uncertainty about our future; we too need to be reminded of the hope we have because of Christ’s victory over death. And it’s our prayer, that in our times of struggle or fear, that this promise will ignite our hope and renew our faith. Let us listen to the word…

**The Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God’s power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if it’s necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire. Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you’ve never seen him, you love him. Even though you don’t see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.  *(CEB)*

Word of God, Word of Life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.****\**

**Message for All Ages: *(Pastor Laura)***

**Gospel Acclamation: ACSSetting 12 *(page 33)***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.\*

**The Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn’t with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We’ve seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won’t believe.”

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.  *(CEB)*

The Gospel of the Lord.***C: Praise to you, O Christ***

**Sermon**

**John 20:19-31**

Whenever I hear this story, I can’t help but feel sorry for Thomas. Poor Thomas whose only fault was being late for the party. Or who maybe had been there but had to leave early to go help someone out. Or was there an errand that needed to be run? And Thomas just drew the short straw. Wouldn’t that be the worst! You’re out there risking your safety while everyone else is hidden away – and then they get to see Jesus first!

The gospel writer doesn’t tell us why Thomas wasn’t there. And maybe the reason why isn’t important. The point is, Thomas wasn’t with the rest of the disciples, and so he misses out on the big event. And not only does he miss out, but he becomes forever remembered by centuries of Christians as ‘doubting Thomas.’ The one who needed to see before he would believe. Thomas gets such a bad rap, but I wonder, is it really fair? I mean, the other disciples don’t give Thomas a hard time when he refuses to believe without seeing the same evidence they got to see. And he’s still with them a whole week later. They haven’t kicked him out because he expressed doubts about Jesus’ resurrection. It doesn’t sound like Thomas is being excluded or sat in a corner. He’s still just there, hanging out, one of the gang.

There was a time (and this is still true in some churches) when asking questions (especially tough questions) was a big no-no. The very idea of doubting or questioning something in the Bible or something the pastor said was simply unthinkable. There was a time when you could be called out or humiliated if you said the wrong thing or asked the wrong question. But the Bible can be a difficult book to make sense of at times. It’s not always easy to figure out how to translate these ancient stories to our present times. And don’t get me started on all the contradictions in there! And pastors most certainly don’t have all the answers. And I’d be suspicious of any who claim they do!

The truth is, the more we learn about our faith, the more questions we have. And rather than being a sign of unfaithfulness, questions are actually signs of a living faith. Doubts and questions mean that we take what we do here seriously; that all this means something to us; that we want to understand God and understand our faith more deeply. That we don’t want to just take things at face value, but we really want to have a sense of what they mean for us, in our own life.

If Thomas had been criticised or ostracised or shamed when he first expressed his doubts that Jesus had really appeared to his disciples, I don’t think he would have still been around a whole week later to see Jesus when he comes a second time. But he wasn’t shamed, and so he was around. Thomas was kept as part of the community of disciples – he was still accepted as part of the group even though he didn’t yet believe – and because of that inclusion, he was able to find faith again. Because Jesus comes again to the disciples, and this time to Thomas is there. And without hesitation, Jesus gives Thomas what he needed in order to believe.

The disciples couldn’t create faith in Thomas – they couldn’t force him to believe that Jesus was really alive again – only Jesus could do that. But the disciples played an important part in Thomas’ journey of faith because their acceptance and welcome of Thomas helped create the opportunity for Jesus to come and create faith in Thomas.

After giving Thomas the “proof” he needed to believe, Jesus goes on to say: “Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.” And it’s this phrase that’s given Thomas the bad rap over the years. It feels like Jesus is making a comparison or judgment against Thomas. But I think these words are meant more for us and less for Thomas. The risen Jesus couldn’t do for everyone what he did for Thomas. We are the ones who are asked to believe without seeing. Unlike Thomas, we don’t get to touch and see Jesus’ wounds for ourselves. We don’t get to meet the risen Christ face to face as he did. We have no choice but to believe without seeing. And that’s not always an easy thing to do.

It’s a precious gift, to be able to fully trust in God; to have a faith that never wavers. Most of us aren’t lucky enough to have that kind of faith – at least not all of the time. Most of us have moments and seasons in life when we find it hard to have faith. When life makes it hard to trust in God’s goodness and the promise of the resurrection.

Thomas’s story reminds us to be gentle with others (and with ourselves) in times of doubt and questioning.

And Thomas’ story gives us a model for being an Easter community. Like those disciples, to strive to be a community where love and inclusion are valued more highly than just believing all the “right” things. A place where there is space to share our doubts and ask our questions. Because it’s this posture of love and welcome that creates space for deep and authentic faith to blossom and grow.

Faith doesn’t always come easily. And when that’s the case, we can take heart that we are in good company. We can trust that, as with Thomas, Jesus will meet us where we are with the gift of the Holy Spirit, renewing our faith once again. AMEN

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 386 ‘O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing’ *(verses 2, 5-8, omitting the Alleluias)***

2 That Easter morn, at break of day,

the faithful women went their way

to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,

that they had seen the risen Lord,

he doubted the disciples' word.

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,

and look upon my hands, my feet;

not faithless, but believing be."

7 No longer Thomas then denied;

he saw the feet, the hands, the side;

"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.

8 How blest are they who have not seen,

and yet whose faith has constant been,

for they eternal life shall win.

*(Title: O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing; Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; Public Domain; Music:* *French tune, 15th cent.; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Installation of Leaders in the Congregation**

[Dave, Jennie, Heide, Alex, Lorre, Donna, Lynda, and Barb], you have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for your willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that you will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. *(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

As ones who have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation:

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices

to which you have been *elected*? If so, please respond saying, “I will, and I ask God to help me.”

*Response:*

***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,

and will you share in the mutual ministry

that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so, please respond saying, “We will, and we ask God to help us.”

***C: We will, and we ask God to help us.***

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,

that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following Mary Magdalene at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Give each one of us a spirit of peace and a heart that burns for justice, that our lives might reflect your love. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief (Especially we pray for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Maya, Karen, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Lena, Brian, John, Anne, Pastor Neil, Robin, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts….. ). Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

Gracious God, as you have called workers to varied tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called these servants – Dave, Jennie, Heide, Alex, Lorre, Donna, Lynda, and Barb – to serve on our congregational council. Grant them joy and a spirit of bold trust, that their work may stir up each of us to a life of fruitful service. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.***

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

Angels said it to startled shepherds,

Jesus said it to frightened followers,

And now these words which come from heaven

are shared to make us whole and make us one.

Peace be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

Our worship continues with the offering of our gifts.

**Offering**

**Offertory Music: ACS # 1067 ‘For the Wholeness of the Earth’**

1 We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it rising in you?

2 We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it spinning in you?

3 Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.

Can you feel it rising in you?

*(Title: For the Wholeness of the Earth; Text & Music: Bret Hesla, b. 1957; © 2017 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread

reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine

pour us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.\***

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

1. **Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ *(page 36) (sung)***

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Preface…’ *(Easter)***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 12: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 36 )***

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow’r and God of might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he died,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s good gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: Choir Anthem: ‘When A Song’**

*(Title: When A Song; Text & Music: Text: John Wesley Oldham; Music Bradley Moggach, ©* [*bbmoggach@gmail.com*](mailto:bbmoggach@gmail.com)*; ; All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

**ELW # 388 ‘Be Not Afraid’**

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy!

Christ is risen, alleluia!

*(Title: Be Not Afraid; Text & Music: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community Text © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Gracious God,

in you we live and move and have our being.

With your word and this meal of grace,

you have nourished our life together.

Strengthen us to show your love

and serve the world in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community, Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. )Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Blessing:**

The God of all,

who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit

to live in the new creation. Amen.\*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 635 ‘We Walk by Faith’**

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;

with gracious words draw near,

O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:

"My peace be with you here."

2 We may not touch your hands and side,

nor follow where you trod;

but in your promise we rejoice,

and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;

and may our faith abound

to call on you when you are near

and seek where you are found:

4 For you, O resurrected Lord,

are found in means divine:

beneath the water and the word,

beneath the bread and wine.

5 And when our life of faith is done,

in realms of clearer light

we may behold you as you are,

with full and endless sight.

*(Title: We Walk by Faith; Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C: Thanks be to God.\***

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