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ORDER OF WORSHIP

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

APRIL 14, 2024

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.

MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

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*LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD*

## Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor  
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director  
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist  
Mr. Eric Burcham, Guest Organist  
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

### A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing.

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



#### **As We Gather**

*Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing*

*as he writes: “For the Lord comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!*

#### **Key:**

- D – Stand
- P – Pastor
- A – Assistant/Reader
- C – Congregation

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

*Stand*

## 478 The Day of Resurrection



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,  
 △ 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, All praise to God the Son,



The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.  
 The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
 Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.  
 All praise to God the Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,  
 And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;  
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the throne



Our Christ has 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 has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!  
 And hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry As - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

*Mt. 28:19b; [Mt. 18:20]*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
 C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
 C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Opening Sentences**     *Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C **He has put all things under His feet.**

**Confession and Absolution**

*[Heb. 10:22], Ps. 124:8, Ps. 32:5*

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b*

- P In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
C **at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
- P I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
C **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**
- P O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
C **and you have healed me.**
- P O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
C **you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**
- P Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
C **and give thanks to his holy name.**
- P For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.  
C **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- P **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
C **at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*

- P O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**
- P O Christ,  
C **have mercy.**
- P O Lord,  
C **have mercy.**

## 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 1-4, 7



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal  
 7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - umphant go  
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love  
 lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.  
 Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivanceice  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

*Easter 3*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

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

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

*Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.*

A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 3.

While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1-7

*We are God's children now.*

A The Epistle is from 1 John, chapter 3.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Choral Anthem

*Stand*

## Gradual

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C **[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

P He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

C **he has put all things under his feet.**



*The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

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

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

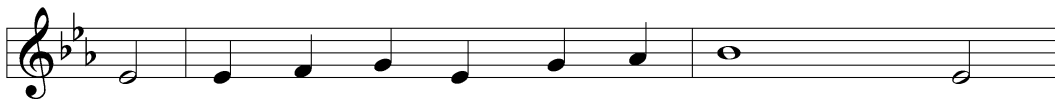
**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for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

*Sit*

## Children's Message

*All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.*

## 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -  
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set  
 △ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!  
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!  
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer  
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and  
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us  
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 life And by His pres - ence stills all  
 day That by our lives we tru - ly  
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"  
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln  
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 Tune: Public domain

Sermon - Luke 24:36-49, "Clothed in Power"

*"And behold, I am sending  
the promise of my Father upon you.  
But stay in the city until you are clothed  
with power from on high."  
Luke 24:49*

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the nations of the world, and especially for President Biden and Governor Youngkin, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are sick or hurting, *especially...*, those who grieve, *especially...*, the unemployed and underemployed, the shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*(additional petitions may be offered.)*

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*  
**Offering**

**Voluntary**

*Stand*

**488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word**

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled  
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.  
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -  
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.  
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,  
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first five staves contain the lyrics, and the sixth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface & Proper Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

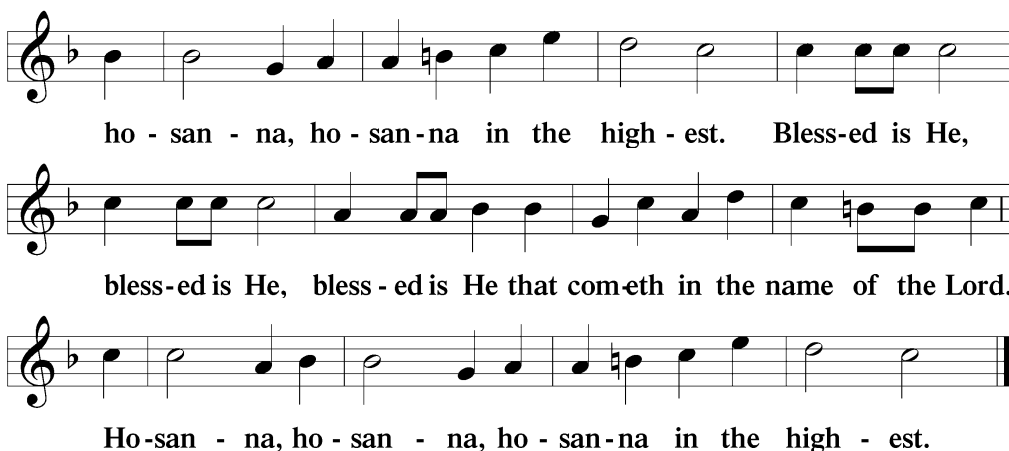
*Holy, Holy, Holy*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

- P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
 C **Our Father who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be Thy name,  
 Thy kingdom come,  
 Thy will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven;  
 give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For Thine is the kingdom  
 and the power and the glory  
 forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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

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

## Pax Domini

*Peace of the Lord*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**A** - men.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. **A** - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

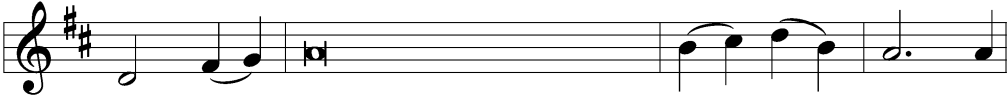
**Amen.**



Stand

Nunc Dimittis

*Lord, Now Dismiss Your Servant*



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



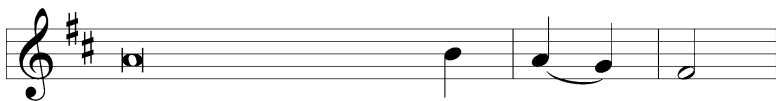
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray...We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation

*2 Timothy 4:22*

P The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{T}$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Service Dismissal

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P Go in peace.  
C **Serve the Lord!**

## 725 Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958  
Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden  
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## Postlude

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### Acknowledgments

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Service, 2024-04-14, Easter 3- DS3.docx

Alleluia!  
Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!



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A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation  
By Grace...  
Through Faith...  
Revealed in Scripture...  
Alone.