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ORDER OF WORSHIP

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

APRIL 21, 2024

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.

MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

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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  
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

*Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the*

*Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!*

#### **Key:**

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

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### **Prelude**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

*Stand*

## 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -  
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,  
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter  
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less  
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I  
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me  
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my  
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.  
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.  
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-90, alt.  
 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 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!**

## Confession & Absolution

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May He Who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the Day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

P I am the good shepherd.

C **I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

- P He restores my soul.  
**C He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**  
 P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
**C your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
 P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**C you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**  
 P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**C and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**  
 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 I am the good shepherd.  
**C I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

- P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray... Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading

*Acts 4:1–12*

*Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.*

A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 4.

As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1 John 3:16–24*

*Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.*

A The Epistle is from 1 John, chapter 3.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.**



*Jesus prays for and about His disciples.*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Apostles' Creed

- C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at  
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He  
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon - John 10:11-18, "I Am the Good Shepherd"

*"...I am the good shepherd.*

*I know my own and my own know me,  
 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;  
 and I lay down my life for the sheep..."*

**John 10:14-15**

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

- P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... Shepherd of Israel, in Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have sought out Your sheep and gathered us into Your flock. Keep us always in Your fold, and guard us from every wolf and snare. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Heavenly Father, You alone gather us as Your sheep and send faithful shepherds to us. Call all who have wandered from Your flock, and bless the faithful shepherds who gather them through the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Heavenly Father, Your Son has called us to love our brothers. Turn us in love toward the neighbors closest to us, especially within our own homes, that we may daily show our confidence in God by deed and truth, laying down our lives as Christ first did for us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Eternal Lord, through the Paschal Lamb You have wrought peace between man and God. By Your gift of good government, grant peace and good days also to our citizens and between the nations of the world, that we and all our neighbors may lead quiet lives in godly contentment. Be with President Biden and Governor Youngkin as they carry out their duties. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Heavenly Father, by the firstfruits of Christ's life from the dead, You secured forgiveness for our troubled consciences. Bless also with temporal health and well-being those who suffer among us, *especially*... Grant them aid in this moment and, even more so, true, immortal health in the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- (additional petitions may be offered.)*
- P Lord God, out of Your fatherly goodness You have remembered us poor, miserable sinners and given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd — not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death and the devil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that even as this Shepherd knows us and helps in every affliction, we also may know Him, trust Him, seek help and comfort in Him, heartily obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Offering

## Voluntary

Stand

### 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "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!"

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!

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

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

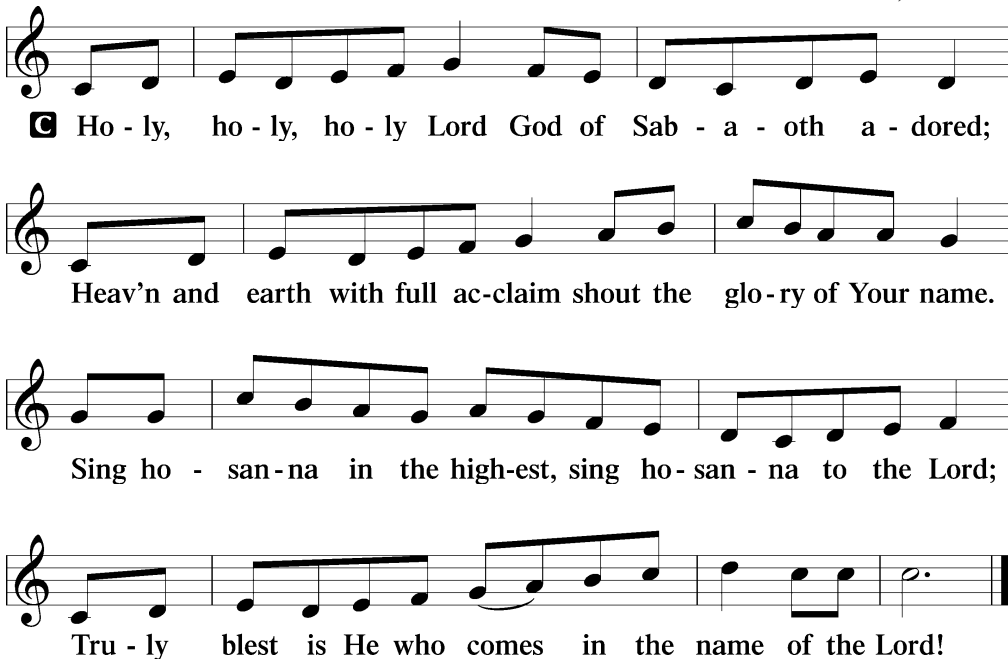
- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

- P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in Jesus Christ You have shown Your saving power and Your great compassion. In amazing love, He sacrificed Himself and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His unending love leads Him to intercede for us as, aided by the Holy Spirit, He brings our cares to Your throne of grace. Grant that we may live in humility, honoring our Savior in all that we do and rejoicing that we are granted a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and praise You with thankful hearts.  
C **Amen.**

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## 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

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

John 1:29



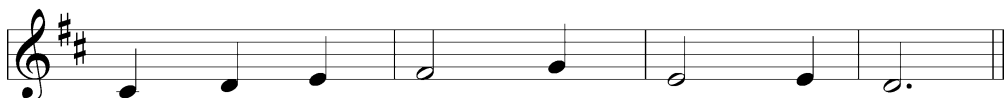
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*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.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart T in peace.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



## Post-Communion Collect

- 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 **Amen.**

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1*

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P Go in peace.
- C **Serve the Lord!**

## 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
 2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
 sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -  
 let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly  
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.  
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68

Text and tune: Public domain

# Postlude

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## Acknowledgments

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Service, 2024-04-21, Easter 4- DS4.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.