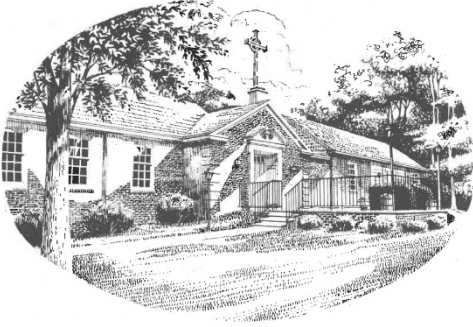


EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday
of Easter

April 28, 2024
9:30 a.m.



5521 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309
(703) 780-5077
www.epiphanylutheran.org
Rev. David A. Yocis, Pastor

WELCOME TO VISITORS

We're delighted to welcome all our guests to worship here at Epiphany. We would love to remain in contact with you! Use the welcome cards in the pew to let us know how to reach out to you; please fill one out and drop it in the offering basket.

Please visit our website www.epiphanylutheran.org and sign up to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter!

All are invited to stand as you are able when indicated by (*).

PRELUDE

Beethoven, *Sonata No. 8 in G major for Violin and Piano*

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you

and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN (ELW 379)**

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



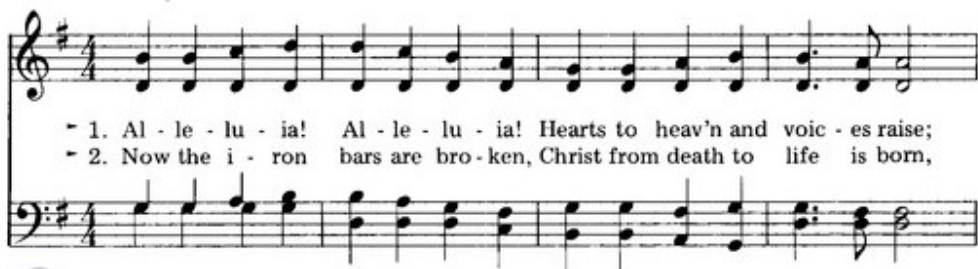
love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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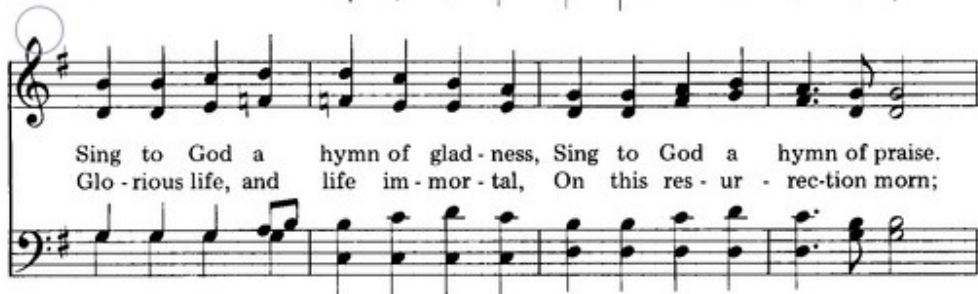
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (HWC 215)

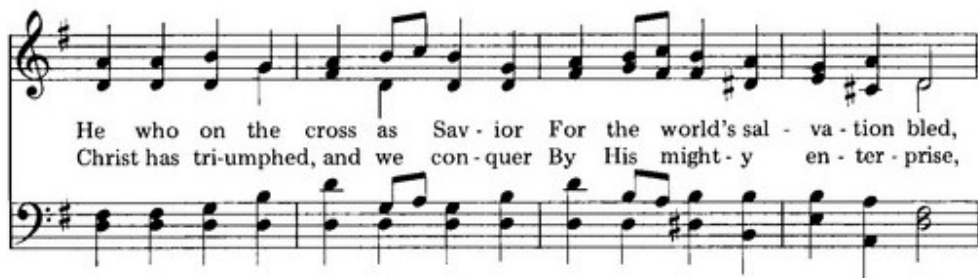
Alleluia! Alleluia!



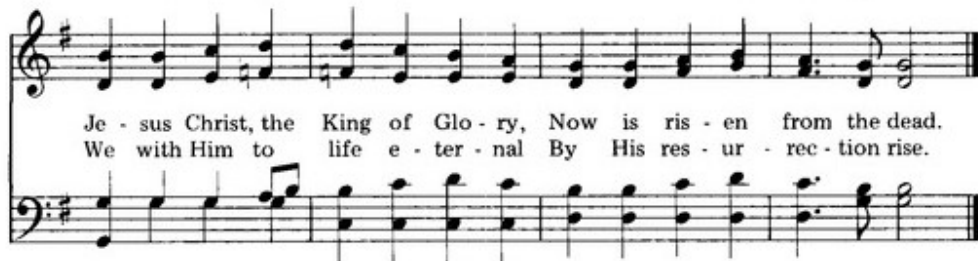
- 1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise;
- 2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, On this res - ur - rec - tion morn;



He who on the cross as Sav - ior For the world's sal - va - tion bled,
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By His might - y en - ter - prise,



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
We with Him to life e - ter - nal By His res - ur - rec - tion rise.

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine
apart from whom we cannot live.
Nourish our life in his resurrection,
that we may bear the fruit of love
and know the fullness of your joy,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING (Acts 8:26-40)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." (Is. 53:7-8.)

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE (Psalm 22:25-31)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the
LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied.**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts
live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow down in worship;

**all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the LORD.**

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹**They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"**

SECOND READING (1 John 4:7-21)

A reading from the first letter of John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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.

¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Tune: Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Easter people, raise your voices,
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices,
Heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.
2. Fear of death no more can stop us
From our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to
Triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.
3. Every day to us is Easter,
With its resurrection song.
When in trouble, move the faster,
To the God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heav'nly throngs.

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***GOSPEL** (John 15:1-8)

A reading from the gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴“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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



***HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW #449)**

We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 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 Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



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



Hal - le - lu - jah!

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

All may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you," or using similar words. For health reasons, please do not feel obligated to shake hands with others outside your immediate family – consider a reverent bow towards others, with your hand over your heart.

TABLE

OFFERING

Since Covid, we do not pass an offering plate. If you wish, you may leave an offering in the plate on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Offerings may also be made electronically at our web site www.epiphanylutheran.org.

Blessed are you, O God,
ruler of heaven and earth.
Day by day you shower us with blessings.
As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for you have sent your Son as the Savior of the world
and your Spirit to graft us into the vine of life.
You created the universe and everything in it,
and revealed your perfect love
in your commitment to your people
and your care for the poor and afflicted.
Through your prophets you promised a righteous servant
who would suffer humiliation and injustice
and, like a sheep to the slaughter, have his life taken away.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
 we have seen your promises fulfilled,
 and through his resurrection,
 he has broken the power of death to hold the righteous.
 In his perfect love, our fear is cast out,
 and now, like branches of a vine,
 we live in him and draw our life from him,
 that we might bear much fruit to your glory.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who proclaimed good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

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

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

COMMUNION

Jesus placed no restrictions on who was invited to his table, and so neither do we. All baptized persons who wish to share in the sacrament are welcome to do so. If you are unable to come forward, please notify the host and communion will be brought to you.

Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,
that we may show your glory to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

Go now, and love one another, because love is from God.
Proclaim God's salvation to every generation.
Remain in Jesus Christ,
and like branches of a vine, draw your life from him.
And may God the vine grower tend you and make you fruitful;
May † Christ Jesus abide in you and give you life;
And may the Holy Spirit cast out all fear and fill you with
God's love.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN (ELW #452)**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

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Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord.

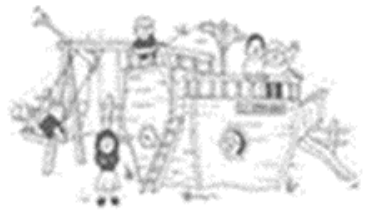
Thanks be to God.

EPIPHANY WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Epiphany Weekday School offers half-
day programs for ages 2½ through
PreKindergarten with extended
day options.

Registration for the 2024-25 school
year is underway.

For more information, please call (703)
780-3852 or visit
www.epiphanyweekdayschool.org.



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