

Church  
of the   
Holy  
Comforter

**April 4, 2021**

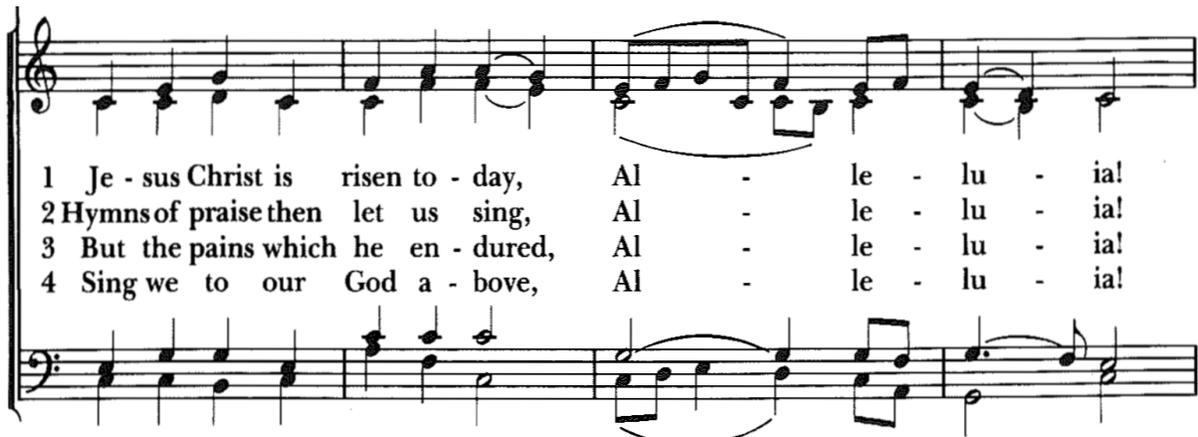
**The Sunday of the Resurrection  
Easter Day**

*Welcome to the Church of the Holy Comforter*

Opening Hymn

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

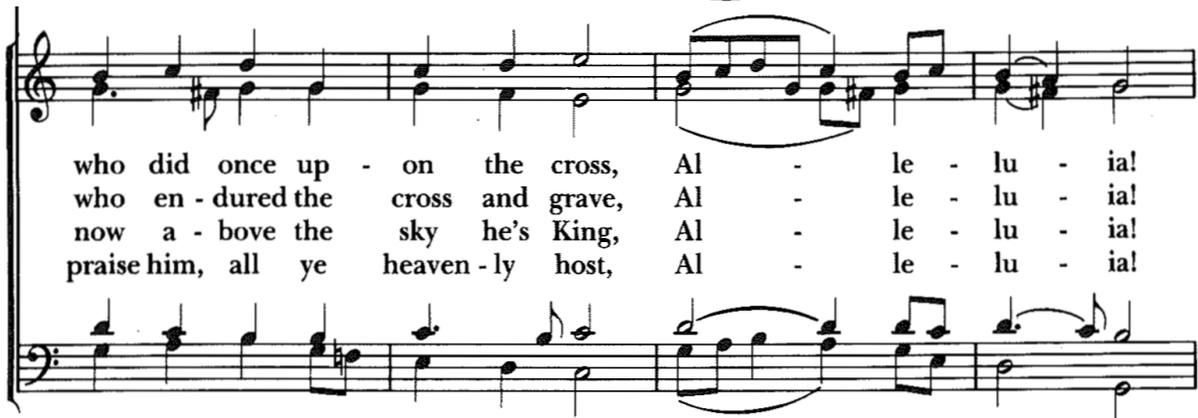
Soloist Bennett Wright



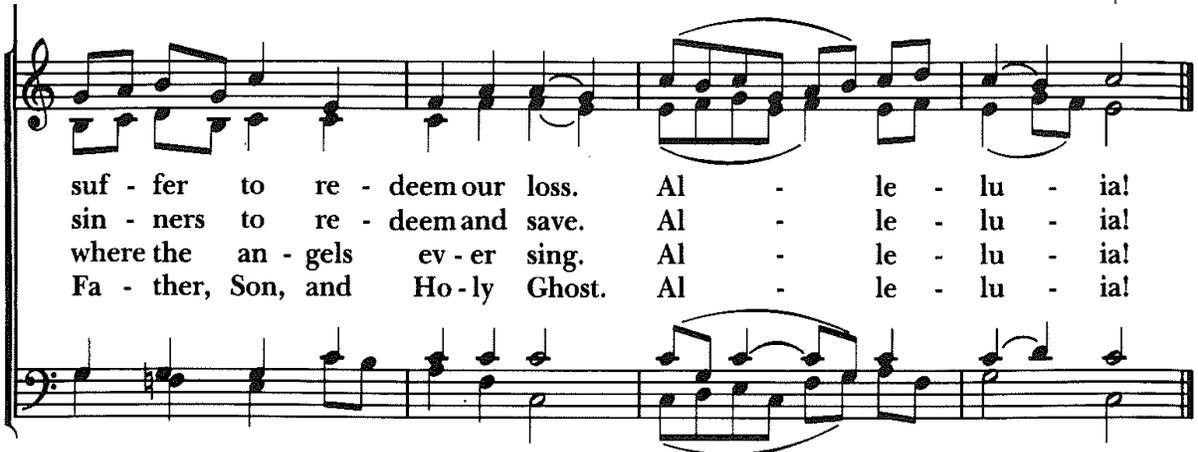
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love, Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## The Word of God

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ has risen.

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

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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

## The First Lesson

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

### Introduction to the Lesson

*The prophet envisions the coming of the day of the Lord. At a magnificent event, to which all are invited, death will be utterly destroyed.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
“His mercy endures for ever.”

The Lord is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”

I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
he who is righteous may enter.”

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Introduction to the Lesson**

*Peter had believed that the salvation offered through Christ comes only to the Jews. Finally, he realizes that the good news is meant for all people, and that God's grace is available to everyone.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

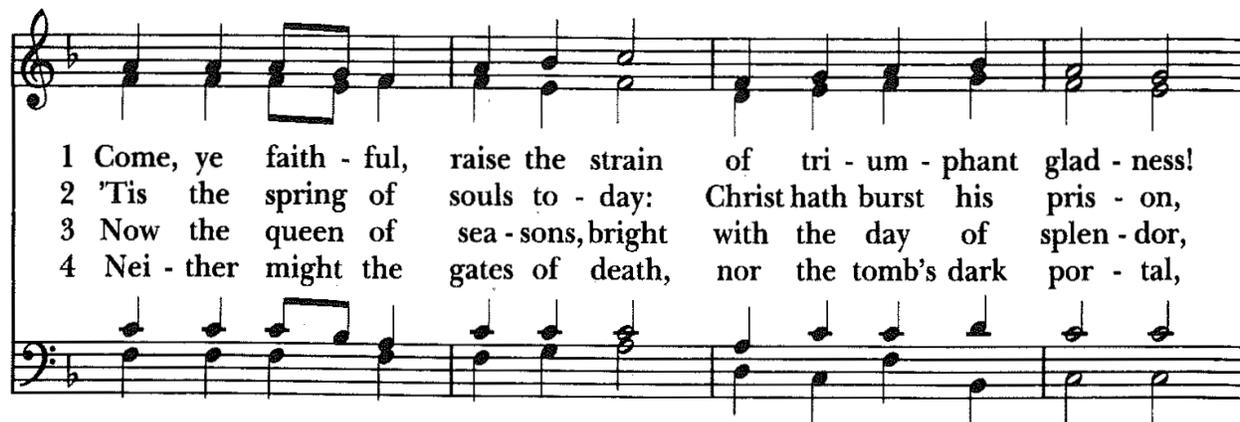
The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God*

**The Mission of Holy Comforter**

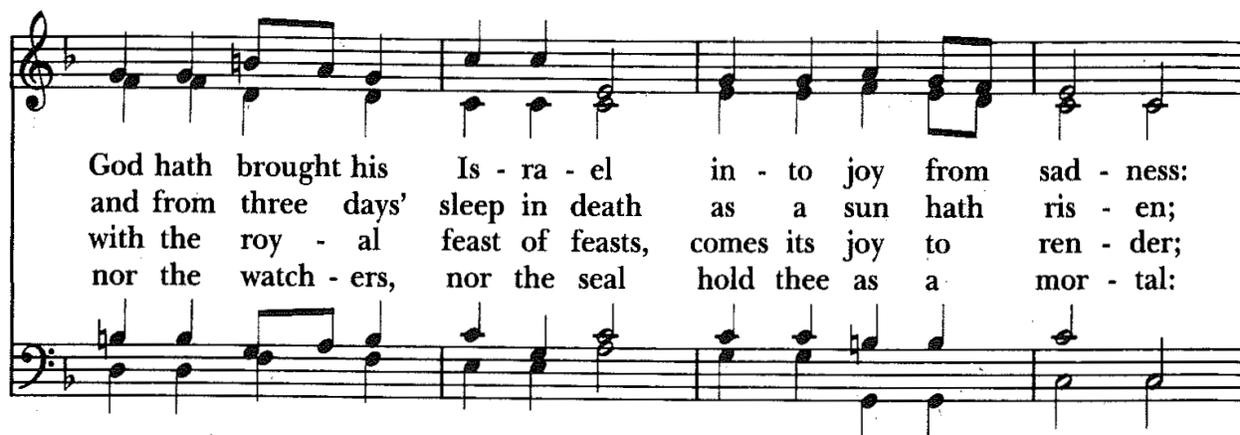
**Love God, Love Others**

**Serve God, Serve Others**

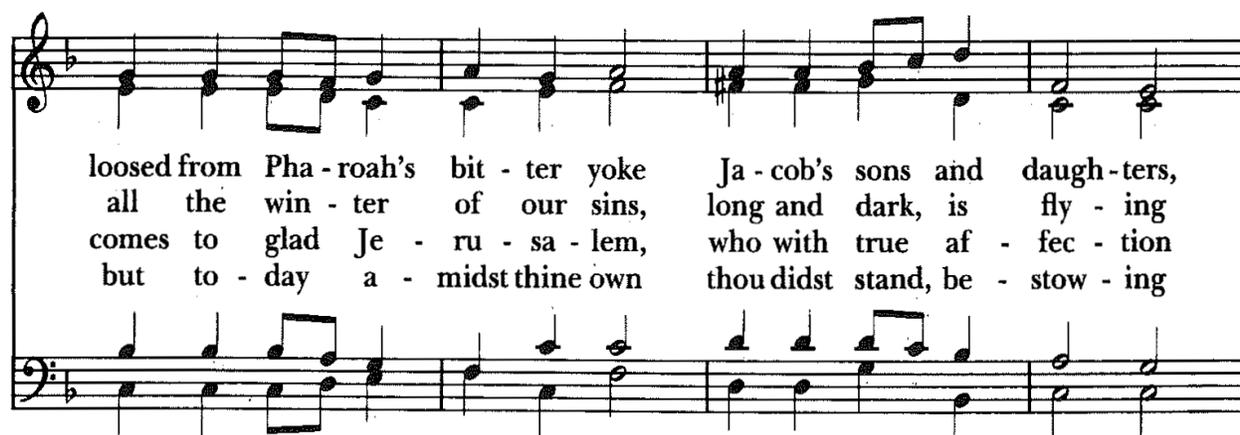
Soloist Bennett Wright



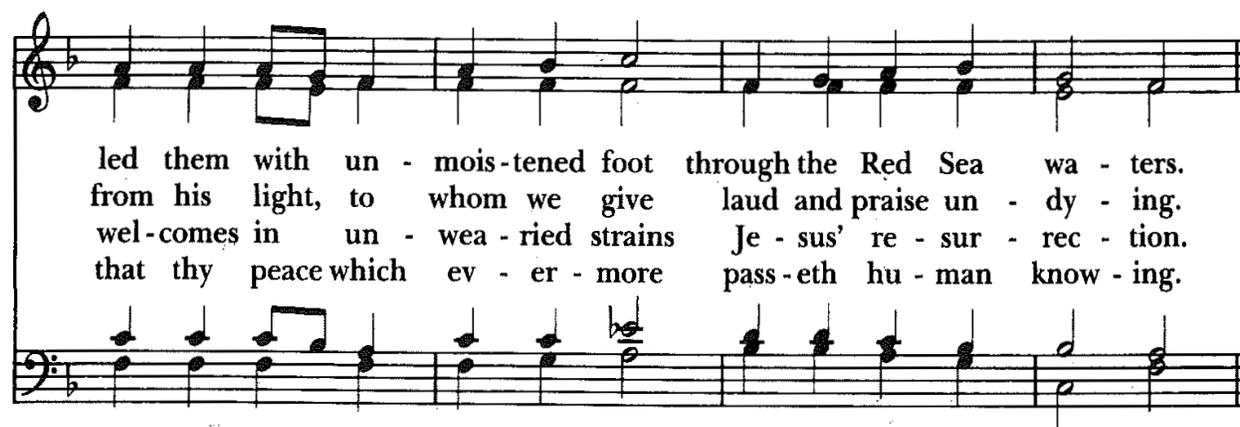
1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pris - on,  
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,



God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:  
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;  
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;  
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:



loosed from Pha - roah's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.  
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.

**Introduction to the Lesson**

*Mary Magdalene, a witness to the crucifixion, now discovers that the tomb where Jesus lay is empty. When the Lord greets her by name, she recognizes that he is risen from the dead.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:  
*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## **Prayers of the People**

Our Lord lives, for death has no more power over him. And so we, God's holy church, proclaim the resurrection, saying, Christ has risen!

*The Lord has risen indeed.*

God of life, in gratitude and great joy, we thank you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. We especially give thanks for (*Intercessions of thanksgiving offered here*). On this day, give us hope, for Christ has risen!

*The Lord has risen indeed!*

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen!

*The Lord has risen indeed!*

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all our brothers and sisters, that death may have no more power over us. We especially pray for those in need of healing (*Intercessions of healing offered here*) For Christ is risen!

*The Lord is risen indeed!*

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears (*Intercessions for the departed offered here*). For Christ is risen!

*The Lord is risen indeed!*

May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world. For Christ is risen!

*The Lord has risen indeed!*

Celebrant: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

*(The Confession is omitted during the Easter season.)*

## **The Peace**

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

## Offertory Hymn

*Rejoice, O my spirit*

Soloist Bennett Wright

Rejoice, O my spirit, be comforted now, From Death, by thy Saviour,  
redeemed art thou, redeemed art thou.

The fury of Hell and of Satan is past,  
No more his dark shadows can Death o'er us cast.  
Against all defiance thus shall I stand fast,  
Against all defiance thus shall I stand fast, thus shall I stand fast.

Rejoice, O my spirit, and sing with full heart,  
To worship thy Saviour, redeemed thou art, redeemed thou art.  
Now glory is filling the whole world with light,  
The sun is full risen, there is no more night,  
For God is among us in pow'r and in might, for God is among us in pow'r and in might, in  
pow'r and in might.

## **The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A** *Also found on page 361 in The Book of Common Prayer*

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

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

*Sanctus is said:*

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins, Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: *Christ has died.*  
*Christ is risen.*  
*Christ will come again.*

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

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

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The celebrant receives communion.*  
*The people receive after the dismissal.*

## **The Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant and People: *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **The Blessing and the Dismissal**

Celebrant: Now go forth to live boldly, as if death has no power over you, because it does not. Always remember how short life is and how little time we have to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

## **Recessional**

*Alleluia! The Strife is O'er*

Recessional

Alleluia! The Strife is O'er

Soloist Bennett Wright

*Antiphon*

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

*Ped.*

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

## Serving Today

Preacher/Celebrant	The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Robert Spessert
Reader	Teresa Pinheiro
Altar Guild	Karen Sheppard
Ushers	Kirk Redding
Vestry Person of the Day	Pam Vanscoy
Live Streaming	Steven Ricks
Musicians	Brad Green Bennett Wright

### *Staff*

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Pastor  
Vivian Vaiden, Church Administrator  
Lara Fort, Financial Secretary  
Cheryl Spessert, Children's Ministry Director  
Dr. Brad Green, Music Director

### *Vestry*

Fred Hoogland, Dave Blake, Jr. Warden (Class of 2022)  
Mallory Halterman, Bill Liebel (Class of 2023)  
Tab Carter, Pam Vanscoy (Class of 2024)

Mailing Address: 473 Fury's Ferry Rd., Martinez, GA 30907  
Telephone: (706) 210-1133 / Fax: (706) 210-4515  
Web: [holycomforterchurch.org](http://holycomforterchurch.org)