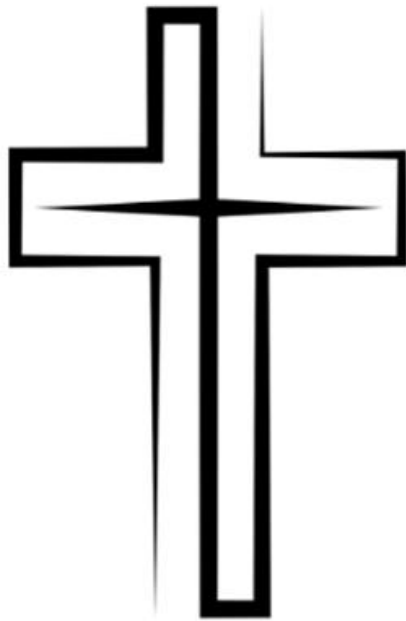


Church of the Holy Cross

Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed!



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10 a.m.

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375

248-427-1175

www.holycrossnovi.org

holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Gathering of the People

Prelude

Opening Hymn H 304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

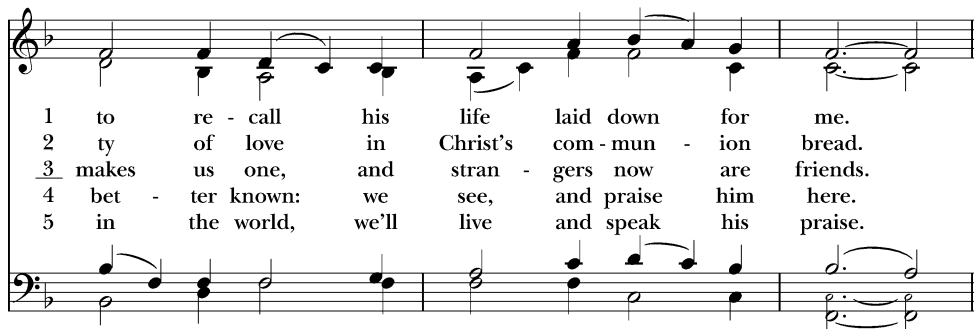
Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians meet far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

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Opening Acclamation (A New Zealand Prayer Book)

Celebrant

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Celebrant

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

People

Jesus Christ is good news for the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and liberty for those who are oppressed.

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.**

Hymn of Praise H 473 (v 3 & 4) *Lift high the cross*

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim
 till all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

the hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
 bears on the brow the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912) and Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956). Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Crucifer*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Reader A Reading from the book of Acts

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Recited responsively by whole verse. The reader leads off, and the congregation responds with the bold verses.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Reader A reading from the first letter of Peter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn H 178 (v.4) Opening Acclamation Easter

We will sing the hymn once before the gospel and once after.

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give
Praise to his Name.

3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Now we shall live for ev - er. Al - le -
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Repeat Refrain

Words: Donald Fishel (b. 1950). Copyright © 1973, The Word of God. All Rights Reserved. P.O. Box 8617, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. Music: *Alleluia No. 1*, Donald Fishel (b. 1950); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928), Charles Mallory (b. 1950) and George Mims (b. 1938). Melody Copyright © 1973, The Word of God. All Rights Reserved. P.O. Box 8617, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan Sams

Creed (by Susan Bock)

**We believe in God, the Creator,
who made the heavens and the earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's beloved Son, our brother and savior,
who was born of the Holy Spirit and the woman Mary.
He was crucified, died, and was buried,
but, on the third day, he rose from death
and returned to the heart of God
from where he reigns in eternal love.**

**He will come again to gather
the whole world home to that love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
in one healed and united Church,
in the forgiveness of all sins,
and in eternal life for us all. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (Form III)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for our search committee.
Grant them wisdom, discernment and patience as they move through this process.

We also pray for the pastor who will be joining us.
Lead the right priest to our Church and guide us as we move forward together.

We pray for our church.
Send us a tenant for the daycare space who will bless us and who we will bless and guide our vestry as we move through this process.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions aloud in the room, or typed in the chat on Zoom.

Celebrant God of new life, we give praise for the Resurrection of your Son, Jesus, and for the moments of abundant grace we have experienced which take part in your divine story. Give us mindful hearts to perceive the blessings of your love at all times and in all places. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Peace is exchanged with one another.

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn H 343 *Shepherd of souls refresh and bless*

The hymn is sung while the Deacon sets the table.

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
word of grace, in strength of which we
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

Communion Prayer (from *Enriching Our Worship 3*)

Celebrant God 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 our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus S 125 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so remembering all that was done in love: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As Jesus has taught us, we now pray,

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 271 *Lamb of God*

The image shows the musical notation for the Fraction Anthem 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Music: Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929). Copyright © 1992 Eugene W. Hancock.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Holy gifts for holy people.

The Communion of the People

No one who comes to the table seeking Christ is turned away. You may take the bread and/or the wine. If you do not wish to take either, cross your arms over your chest to signal you prefer a blessing. Our bread is gluten-free. If you are unable to get to the altar, let the usher know and the priest will come to those who need at the end.

The words of distribution are:

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

Communion Music VF 89 *We gather at your table Lord*

1 We gath - er at your ta - ble, Lord: we hum - bly lift our
 2 We share this meal and we are fed. Such bas - ic gifts be -
 3 God, pour your Spi - rit on us all, and on these gifts that
 4 From north and south, from west and east, now rec - on - ciled, we

hearts to you! Here all are wel - comed, all re - stored, and
 come your sign: we see you bro - ken in the bread; we
 we re - ceive; for in Christ's pre - sence we re - call his
 ga - ther near; we taste your king - dom's ban - quet feast, so

For canon only

all are giv - en work to do.
 know your love in com - mon wine.
 life and death, and so be - lieve.
 find - ing strength to serve you here.

Announcements & Blessing of Life Events

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People together say

**God of abundance,
 you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Easter Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
 Whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us,
 Strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world.
 May the wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God,
 Bless you and those you love and pray for this day and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn H 708 *Savior like a shepherd lead us*

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
 2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Words: *Hymns for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt. Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody, from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792.

Going into the World

Deacon Let us go forth in the power of the Resurrection. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

Postlude

*This brings the worship to a close.
All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.*

Ministers of Today's Service

Reader 1: Bruce Hinkle

Reader 2: Bev Sirilla

Prayer: **Volunteer Needed**

Greeter/Usher: Zean Smart

Zoom Host: Bruce Hinkle

Counters: Pam Hinkle & Bev Sirilla

Altar Guild

Joanne Quinlan, Carole Abshier, Gael Grossman,
Anne Hamilton, Katherine Housman, Kathie Kirby,
Cathi Peterson

Sunday School Teachers

Teri Landreth, Renee Brennan, Pimam Manzi,
Ashlie Price

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry

Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth

Music Director: Kate Autry

Sexton: Katie Forbing

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