

Church of the Holy Cross

Alleluia, the Lord is risen indeed!



Easter Sunday

April 6, 2026

10 a.m.

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# Gathering of the People

Outside, at the church entrance, fire is kindled. The Celebrant addresses the people:

Let us pray:

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon, bearing the Candle, leads the procession into the church. This represents the Light of Christ returning after the darkness of the tomb. She pauses three times and sings

## The Light of Christ (Sung 3x)

Deacon                      People

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Deacon places the Paschal Candle in the stand.

## Easter Fanfare                      H 207 (v1&4)                      Jesus Christ is risen today

The lights in the sanctuary are turned on and candles lit in celebration of Christ's Resurrection.

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!

Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Easter Hymn*, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749, alt., desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Revised, 1950. Descant by permission of Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**People** The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**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.

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.**

## Hebrew Scriptures

Jeremiah 31:1-6

*Reader* A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

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

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 **Let Israel now proclaim, \***  
**"His mercy endures for ever."**
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 **There is a sound of exultation and victory \***  
**in the tents of the righteous:**
- 16 "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- 17 **I shall not die, but live, \***  
**and declare the works of the LORD.**
- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness; \***  
**I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD.**
- 20 "This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 **I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \***  
**and have become my salvation.**
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 **This is the LORD's doing, \***  
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## New Testament

Colossians 3:1-4

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

*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 (v1) *Alleluia, alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord*

*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.  
1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of cre - a - tion.

*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

Matthew 28:1-10

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

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

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to

Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

*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 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.**



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

As Jesus has taught us, we now pray,

**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!**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

## Fraction Anthem LEVAS 271 *Lamb of God*

Musical score for 'Lamb of God' in 6/8 time, featuring four staves of vocal melody and piano accompaniment. 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.

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

## 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 LEVAS 151 *One bread, one body*

Musical score for 'One bread, one body' in 4/4 time, featuring vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all, one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And we, though

man - y, through - out the earth, We are one

*Last time* ⊕  
bod - y in this one Lord.

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or  
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the  
3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man,  
2. works, one in the Lord  
3. grown, gath - ered to one

*D.S.*  
1. — no more. One  
2. — of all. One  
3. — for all. One

⊕ CODA  
Lord.

Words: 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; The Didache 9. Music: John B. Foley, SJ. Copyright © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music, P.O. Box 13248, Portland, OR 97213. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

## Announcements & Celebration 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

H210

*The day of resurrection*

1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,  
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;  
the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;  
From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain  
let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,  
our Christ hath 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 is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Ellacombe*, melody from *Gesangbuch..der Herzogl. Wirttembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt.; adapt. *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1863; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Cyril Winn (1884-1973). Descant by permission of Oxford University Press.

## 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.  
Have a blessed Easter Day!*

Ministers of Today's Service

Reader 1: Pam Janson  
Reader 2: Silvia Huth  
Prayer: Ann Maher  
Greeter/Usher: Leon Collins  
Zoom Host: Bekah Schulze  
Counters: Sivia Huth & Leon Collins

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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**The Easter Flowers are given to the Glory of God by:**

Given By

Anne Hamilton  
Cleda Smartt  
Cathi Peterson  
Jane Foote  
Kathy Kirby  
Sarah McGuire  
Jean Evans

In Memory of

Bill Naughton  
Enid & William Smartt  
Bill Peterson  
Sally Foote  
Pat & Bob Kirby  
Daniel & Ellen Lindon  
James Evans  
Thomas Evans  
Stephen Evans



Given By

Larry & Laura Jansen  
Art & Bev Siirila  
Katherine Housman  
Ed Happ & Shirley Chen  
Jo Quinlan  
Kate Autry  
Teri Landreth

In Thanksgiving for

Children & grandchildren  
Thanksgiving  
For this community & love of God  
Celebrating life together  
The ladies who serve on Altar Guild  
Anne Hamilton & all she does for Holy Cross  
Love & support from my Holy Cross Family