



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Port Townsend, Washington

## The Feast of the Resurrection

Christ  
is  
Risen!



**Services of Holy Eucharist**  
**March 31, 2024**  
**8:00 & 10:30 am**

### **Welcome!**

Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on life's journey,  
please enter and receive God's blessing.



If you are unfamiliar with worship in the Episcopal tradition,  
simply relax and let the congregation help carry you in worship



God's peace be with you this day and always.

## Prelude Music

St. Magnus

Quentin Thomas

## The Flowering of the Cross

*After the Choir and Celebrant have processed, you are invited to come forward and place flowers in the Resurrection Cross. (An explanation is on Page 17.)*

## Processional

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hymn #207

*Descant*

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!

**Celebrant:** Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

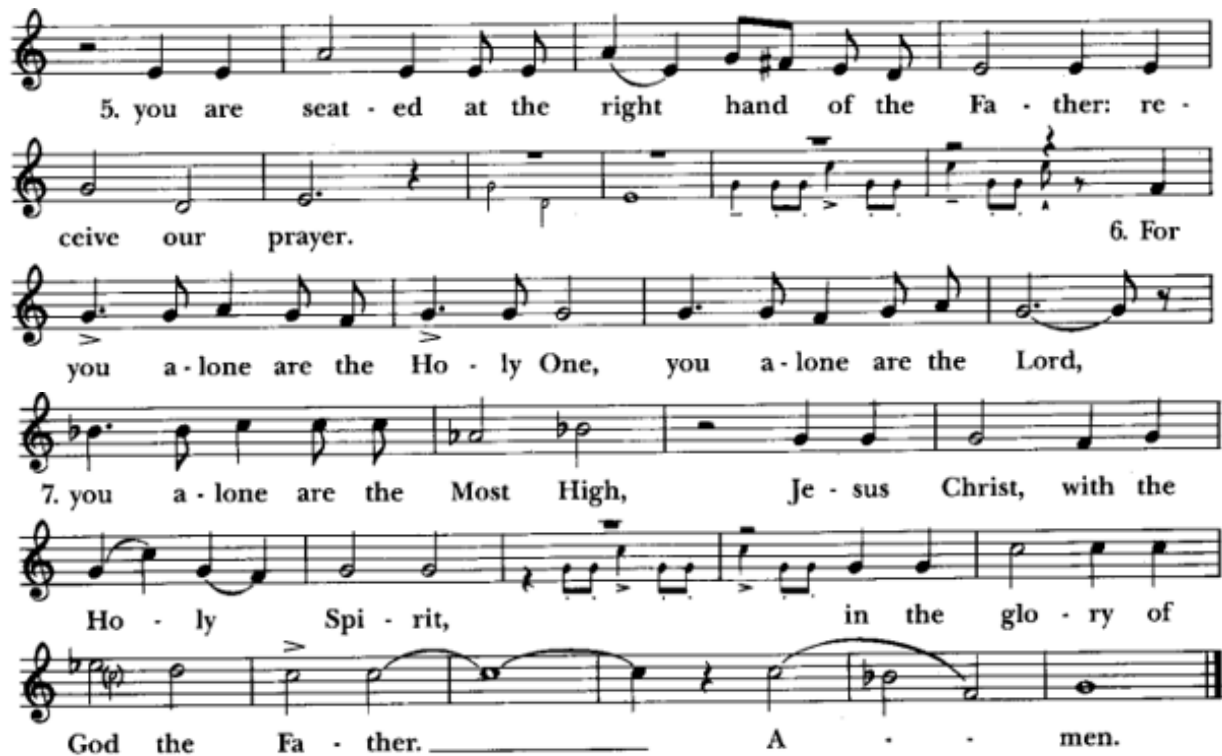
### The Collect for Purity

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.**

### The Gloria

S-278

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



### The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord 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.**

### First Lesson Isaiah 25:6-9

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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

- 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.

## Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43

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."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

### **John 20:1-18**

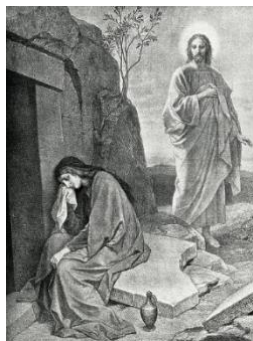
Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

The Rt. Rev. Scott Hayashi



# The Nicene Creed

1. We be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that  
 2. We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -  
 3. We be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and  
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied- True Life there had tru - ly  
 in one church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for  
 died. We be - lieve that on the third day Christ was  
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of  
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God's  
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.  
 last - ing. This the faith that We have claimed.

## The Prayers of the People

*This litany has been adapted from Margaret McGee's version that was first used in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day services, April 3-4, 2010, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Townsend, WA*

God of the bright morning star, God of darkness banished,

**We praise you and we worship you!**

Sing aloud, O you peoples, rejoice and exult with all your hearts! Christ is risen!

**The tomb stands empty!**

We look for our Redeemer among the living.

**Jesus Christ is alive and among us today.**

We pray for all faithful people — for every human soul that turns to God in longing and in love. Today and every day, pull us out of our graves and into your life.

**The tomb stands empty.**

We pray for the nations of the earth — for those in authority, and for those under authority. Come from the four winds, O Breath of Life. In all places, may your love shatter the grip of violence and war. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine that your peace will strengthen, comfort, and prevail.

**The tomb stands empty.**

We pray for this world, our garden home — for the rain and the snow, the seed and the sprout — for the birthing room and the last place of rest — for every new creation.

**The tomb stands empty.**

We pray for those who are sick or suffering — for anyone who needs extra help just now. We pray especially for those named here today, aloud and in our hearts...

Living God, renew them in Your love.

**The tomb stands empty.**

We pray for those who have died, and for all who mourn. We pray especially for those named here today, aloud and in our hearts...

Eternal One, bring them home and gather them in.

**The tomb stands empty.**

We look for our Beloved among the living.

**Jesus Christ is alive and among us today.**

We give thanks that life has triumphed over death as we lift up the joys, sorrows, challenges and delights that have been named here today

We look for our Creator among the living.

**Jesus Christ is alive and with us today.**

Loving God, in this period of transition, look with favor on your faith community at St. Paul's. Guide and protect those who uphold our parish life in worship, fellowship, pastoral care, and service. Grant to the people of St. Paul's the vision to continue on the path you have set for us, that we may love one and other as you have loved us, and that through this love we may open our hearts, minds, and actions in service to the world.

Holy One, even before we call, you answer; while we are yet speaking, you hear. We offer up these prayers in the name of the Risen Christ — our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.

**Amen.**



## The Peace

**Celebrant:** May the peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## Birthday Blessing

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Anniversary Prayer

God of tenderness and strength, you brought the paths of these people together and led them to this day. May your blessings continue through good times, through times of struggle and through change. Bless their home, their partings and their meetings. Make them worthy of each other's best, tender with each other's dreams, and trusting in your love through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Prayer for Travel

*--adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (Church of Ireland)*

God be with you in every pass, Jesus be with you on every hill,  
Spirit be with you on every stream, headland and ridge and lawn;  
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow; each lying down, each rising up,  
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,  
Each step of the journey you go – God be with you.

## Offertory Sentence

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Your gifts are greatly appreciated.*

*On-line giving is always an option. You will find the "Give to St. Paul's" button  
at the top of the St. Paul's website homepage: [www.stpaulspt.org](http://www.stpaulspt.org)*

## Offertory Anthem

Magdalena

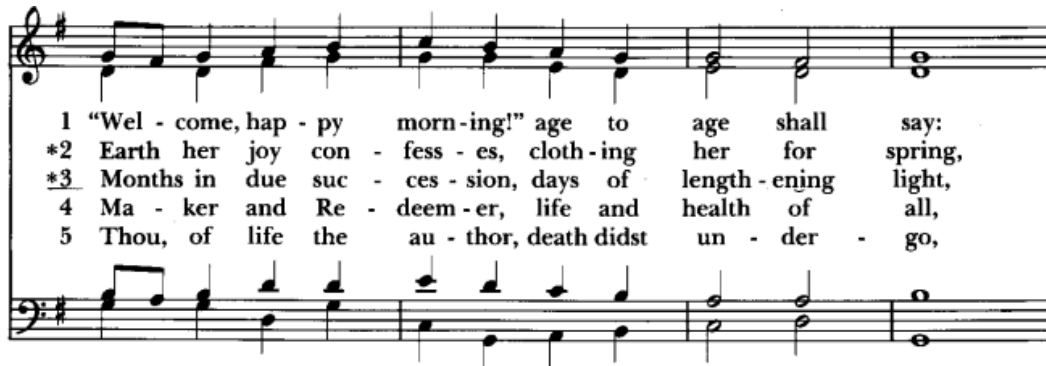
Johannes Brahms, Op. 22, No. 6



## Offertory Hymn

## Welcome Happy Morning

## Hymn #179



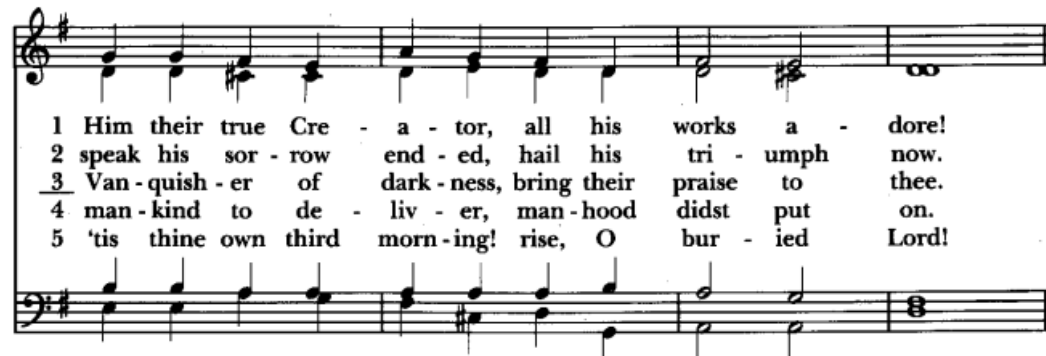
1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn-ing!" age to age shall say:  
 \*2 Earth her joy con - fess - es, cloth - ing her for spring,  
 \*3 Months in due suc - ces - sion, days of length - ening light,  
 4 Ma - ker and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,  
 5 Thou, of life the au - thor, death didst un - der - go,



1 hell to - day is van - quished, heaven is won to - day!  
 2 all fresh gifts re - turned with her re - turn - ing King:  
 3 hours and pass - ing mo - ments praise thee in their flight.  
 4 thou from heaven be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,  
 5 tread the path of dark - ness, sav - ing strength to show;



1 Lo! the dead is liv - ing, God for ev - er - more!  
 2 bloom in ev - ery mea - dow, leaves on ev - ery bough,  
 3 Bright-ness of the morn - ing, sky and fields and sea,  
 4 of the Fa - ther's God - head true and on - ly Son,  
 5 come then, true and faith - ful, now ful - fill thy word,



1 Him their true Cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore!  
 2 speak his sor - row end - ed, hail his tri - umph now.  
 3 Van - quish - er of dark - ness, bring their praise to thee.  
 4 man - kind to de - liv - er, man - hood didst put on.  
 5 'tis thine own third morn - ing! rise, O bur - ied Lord!

*Refrain*


"Wel - come, hap - py morn-ing!" age to age shall say.

## The Liturgy of the Table

### The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharist Prayer 2, *Enriching our Worship*

*All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.*

**Celebrant:** God be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.



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 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

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. —

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

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. —

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Paul and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## The 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,  
     for ever and ever. Amen.



## The Breaking of the Bread

### The Fraction Anthem

S-151

*Cantor*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor*  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

*All*  
keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Sharing the Feast

**Notes about receiving Communion:** *The usher will direct you forward. You may ingest the bread when it is handed to you. The cup will be offered. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms across your chest and the words "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation" will be offered while the cup is held in front of you. If you would not like to receive bread or wine, but would like a blessing, cross your arms across your chest when in front of the priest. Please do not dip bread into the wine.*

### Communion Anthem

O Sacrum Convivium

Arlen Clarke

*"O sacred banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion is recalled, the spirit is filled with grace; and the promise of future glory is given to us, alleluia."*

### Communion Hymns

Now the green blade riseth

Hymn #204

1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had 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 nev - er he would wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain,  
thy 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:  
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*  
Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring-eth green.

## Lo, the winter's past

1. Lo, the win - ter's past. For the rain is  
 2. Beau - ti - ful and fair, like a gar - den,  
 3. Love is strong as death— yes, and strong - er

gone, the flow'rs ap - pear. Time of sing - ing  
 our Be - lov - ed's face: clus - tered hen - na,  
 yet, its frets of fire floods of wa - ters

has be - gun: lark and tur - tle - dove.  
 Shar - on's rose, ra - diant to our eyes.  
 can - not drown, nei - ther quench its flame.

Rise, then, come a - way, as the vines burst  
 Hon - ey, milk, and wine fill our cups with  
 Burn - ing still through tears, dia - mond pri - sms

in - to blos - som here, rich with fra - grance,  
 o - ver - flow - ing grace, feed our souls where  
 for our hearts' de - sire, spread an arc - ing

drenched with sun, shim - mer - ing with God's love.  
 God be - stows ban - quets of love's sur - prise.  
 rain - bow crown 'round the Be - lov - ed's name.

**Sending forth the Lay Eucharistic Visitors** *(Please stand as you are able.)*

**Celebrant:** In the name of God, we send you forth bearing the gifts and promise of Christ's presence among his people, and we pray for those to whom you go. May they share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**People:** **As we have been fed, now feed others in Christ's name.**

**Celebrant:** May the blessing of God go before you as you travel. May the blessing of Jesus stand beside you as you minister. May the blessings of the Holy Spirit empower all that you do.

**People:** **Our prayers are with you: go in peace.**

## Prayer after Communion

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 Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children of God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior, bless you in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

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

## Recessional

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Hymn #199

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-raoh'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.

## Dismissal

## Postlude

Noel nouvelet/Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. Mark Sedio

Erstanden ist der Heilige Christ

J.S. Bach

*You are invited to enjoy the gift of postlude music and then greet your friends afterwards.*

**For those attending the 8:00 service, please consider leaving your bulletin so it can be used again for the 10:30 service. Thank you!**

*You are invited to Fellowship time in the Parish Hall following the service.*

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of  
Helen & George Gunn, Helen, and Mary by Helen Gunn.



### **Lilies are given in Loving Memory of:**

Nancy Smee by Patti Barrett

My Mother by Dawn Spencer

Our Parents Ruth Gibson Dean, John Dean, and Helen and Stanley Garrett

Robert & Ethelyn Kell, Barbara Mac Cord, Mick Cabarrus, Helen, Ruff & Toby

Pauline Hedges Davis by John Davis

Barbara Learned by Minette Sicard



### **Lilies are given in Thanksgiving for:**

God's Glorious Creation by Beth Cahape

St. Paul's Episcopal Church by Sharon Robinson

### **Lilies are given by:**

Dale Nienow and Becky Brown-Nienow

This Sunday, we welcome again The Rt. Rev. Scott Hayashi as our celebrant. Born in Tacoma, he was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1984 and served in congregations in Washington, Utah, and California before becoming Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Chicago. In 2010, he became Bishop of the Diocese of Utah. He is now retired and lives in Port Ludlow. We are pleased to have you with us, Bishop Hayashi!



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### Worship Team

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rt. Rev. Scott Hayashi
Music Director	Jennifer Pipia
Lectors - 8:00 am 10:30 am	Tracy Garrett Nancy Budd-Garvan, Brian MacKenzie
Eucharistic Minister - 8:00 am 10:30 am	Margaret McGee Nancy Budd Garvan
Choir - 8:00 & 10:30 am	Karen Barrows Malcolm Hepworth Sydney Keegan Richard McGuffin Mary Munford David & Laurie Neuenschwander Phina Pipia Lee Singer Sheila Witte
Technical Support	Beth Cahape
Ushers - 8:00 am 10:30 am	Bill Lowry Meg Crosby/Dwight Nicholson
Altar Guild	Team 1
Bread Baker	Peggy St. Clair
Coffee Hour	Vestry

On Easter Sunday morning some Episcopal, Lutheran, and other Protestant churches incorporate a folk ceremony called “The Flowering of the Cross” into their worship service. Members of the congregation bring flowers or greenery to church. A bare wooden cross, dotted with pin holes, covered with chicken wire or strung with vines stands in the church. At some point before, during or after the service worshipers are invited to approach the barren cross and twine a flower around one of the wires or vines, or to place a blossom in one of the pinholes. The congregation continues to decorate the cross until flowers cover it completely.

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. Covered with fresh, living flowers, the cross serves not only as an emblem of Jesus' resurrection but also of the continuing presence of Christ among today's Christians. In another variation of this ceremony worshipers cover the cross with homemade butterflies, another symbol of new life.