

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.*

*This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.*

*We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.*

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL**

## *The Third Sunday of Easter*

**APRIL 14, 2024**

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, risen Christ,

For these waters where you make us new,

**Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us

in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,

like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.**

Clothe us with mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

**Cleanse our hearts.**

**Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN ELW #377 ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain* Jesus is risen and we shall arise.

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, giving the glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit and fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent; death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

### GREETING

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.**

### KYRIE

**Congregation:**

Leader:

*Refrain* S184

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity all;  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

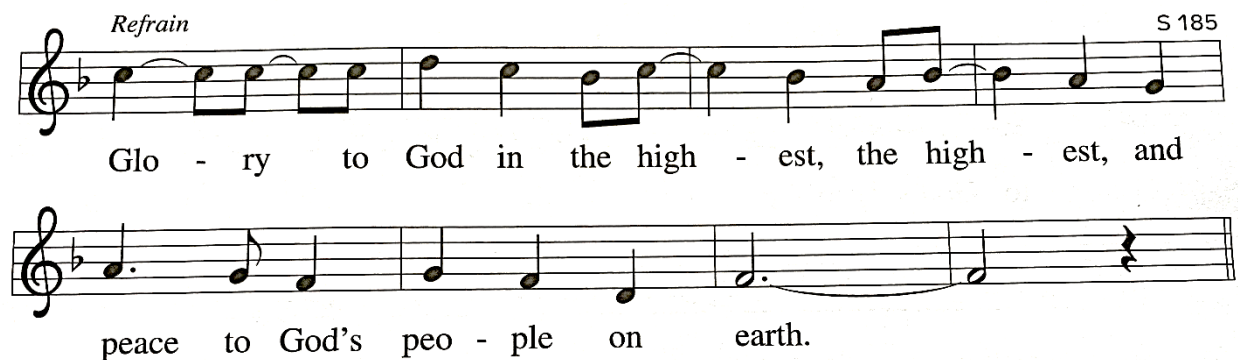
For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
For life and for love, for our work and our play  
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives in the water and the word;  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
Let us pray to the Lord. Let us pray to the lord. **Refrain**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Congregation:

*Refrain* S 185



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

### Leader:

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen. **Refrain x 2**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be  
your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to  
the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

ACTS 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

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

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, defender of my cause;

**You set me free when I was in distress.**

**Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.**

You mortals, how long will my dishonour my glory;

**how long will you love illusions, and seek after lies?**

know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;

**the Lord will hear me when I call.**

Tremble, then, and do not sin;

**speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Offer the appointed sacrifices,

**and put your trust in the Lord.**

Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”

**Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**

You have put gladness in my heart,

**more than when grain and wine abound.**

In peace I will lie down and sleep;

**for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

## 1 JOHN 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

LUKE 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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

SERMON

**HYMN: ELW # 469 BY YOUR HAND YOU FEED YOUR PEOPLE**

**By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread.**

**For these gifts we did not labour, by your grace we have been fed.**

*Refrain*

**Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life out-poured,  
Given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.**

**In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace.**

**Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain***

**Send us now with faithful courage to the hungry, lost bereaved.**

**In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: *Refrain***

## **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 truly human.**

**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 INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life.

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

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life.

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

O God our Saviour, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. Call all hearts and imaginations to works of compassion and healing. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, South Sudan, Israel, Palestine, and all places where hatred and violence rules.

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

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty and are in need of healing. Today we remember especially all we name before you.....

*pause*

Assure them of your promises.

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

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to share in beloved community.

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

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn.

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

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

*The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life*



## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,

out of silence and emptiness you created the heavens and the earth.

The oceans sing your praise. The rivers chant your glory.

Out of Abraham and Sarah's dead end, you made promises,

you granted laughter,

you brought forth descendants to continue your story.

Out of the deathly power of oppression and slavery you liberated your people and blessed them with water, bread, wine.

Out of their lifeless wandering from your justice and mercy

you sent them prophets who sang poems that serenaded them back to you.

In your great compassion for every tribe and nation, you sent Jesus,

to bring everyone out of the tomb of hatred and sin

and into the life of your love.

He fully embodied your compassion,

lifting up the poor, raising up the lowly,

forgiving the sinner, suffering and dying

so that no one need suffer injustice and fear any more.

Out of the death of his own tomb,

you raised him up so your story of love will not end.

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.

Together with one voice, we celebrate the paschal mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit to fill us with the joy of the resurrection.

Grant us hope beyond our comprehension.

Bless these gifts of bread and wine,

so that the endless life and love of Jesus may dwell in us,

and flow from us through acts of love for our neighbours.

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,

we give you more praise than we can utter,

as we await that great day when the feast of your love has no walls,

no exceptions, no end,

when we gather with Christ, by the Spirit, and know life in you:

love that cannot die,

love that enlivens our weary bones,

love that exceeds every hope and dream,

love, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

**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.**

**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words*

*"the body of Christ given for you"      "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN: ELW # 547 SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended.**

**Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.**

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Ethan Kwan*