

A Service of Holy Communion for the Second Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. | April 27, 2025 | *Year C*



University Lutheran Church
66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass.
unilu.org

PRELUDE “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” [AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ] (see ELW 378) — Tune by Johann Crüger (1598–1662); setting by Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

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

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

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

A LITANY FOR EARTH DAY *Fran Pratt*

God, on this day we celebrate the gift of this planet, Earth,
which you created for us as a home:

a home for humanity,

a home for creatures,

a home for plants,

a good gift of creation.

We are truly sorry for the ways we have corrupted it.

Forgive us.

We are truly sorry for the ways we have disregarded its well-being.

Forgive us.

We are truly sorry for the ways we’ve been complicit in systems that degrade it.

Forgive us.

Help us, Oh God,

to be good stewards of your gifts to us.

Help us, Oh God,

to realize our connectedness to creation.

Help us, Oh God,
to understand our reliance upon the Earth.

Help us, Oh God,
to bring healing to the planet.

Help us, Oh God,
to make changes that benefit all creatures.

As all creation praises and glorifies you,
so we praise you.

As all creation reflects your character and beauty,
so we seek to reflect your beauty.

As all creation supports and sustains us,
so we seek to support one another.

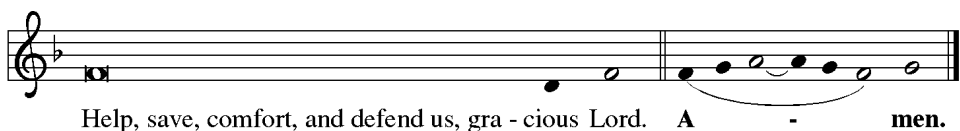
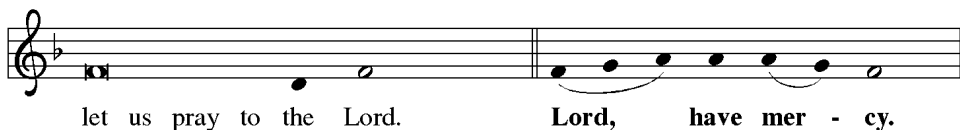
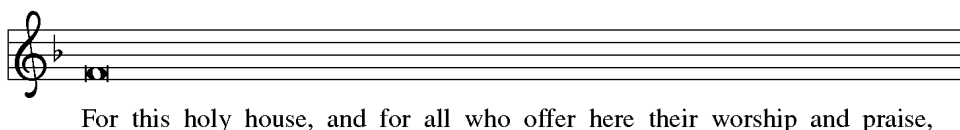
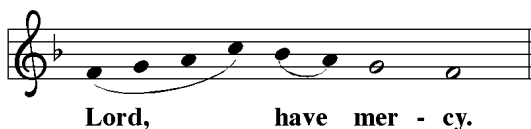
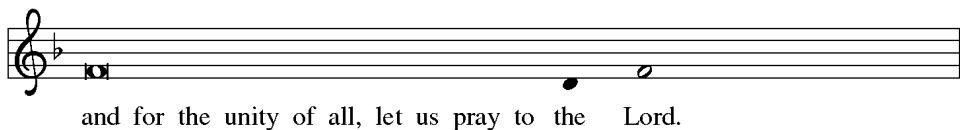
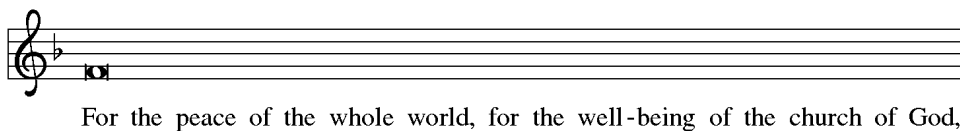
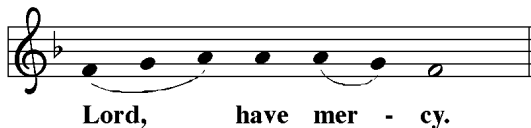
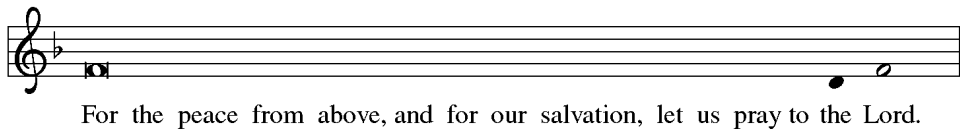
For the gracious gift and vast beauty of creation,
we give thanks. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 449 “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

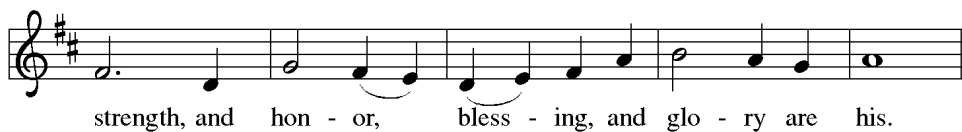
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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



HYMN OF PRAISE





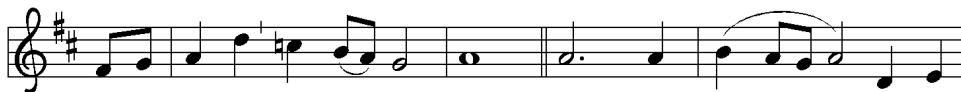
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, your mercy is over all your works, and in the web of life each creature has its role and place. We praise you for ocelot and owl, cactus and kelp, lichen and whale; we honor you for whirlwind and lava, tide and topsoil, cliff and marsh. Give us hearts and minds eager to care for your planet, humility to recognize all creatures as your beloved ones, justice to share the resources of the earth with all its inhabitants, and love not limited by our ignorance. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who unifies what is far off and what is near, and in whom, by grace and the working of your Holy Spirit, all things hold together. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 5:27–32

A reading from Acts.

²⁷When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted this Jesus to be Leader and Savior at God’s right hand to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey God.”

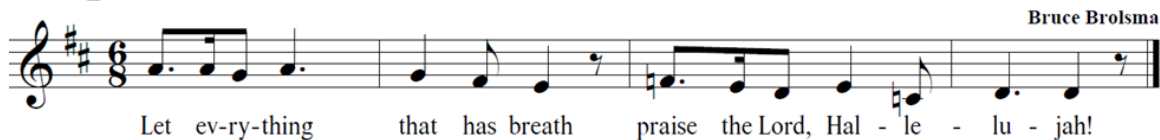
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 150

The congregation sings all the psalm verses, and also sings this response at the beginning and when indicated below.

Response



Verse



¹Hallelujah! Praise God in the | holy temple;
praise God in the | mighty firmament.

²Praise God for | mighty acts;
praise God for ex- | ceeding greatness. **Response**

³Praise God with | trumpet sound;
praise God with | lyre and harp.

⁴Praise God with tambou- | rine and dance;
praise God with | strings and pipe.

⁵Praise God with re- | sounding cymbals;
praise God with loud | clanging cymbals.

⁶Let everything | that has breath
praise the LORD. | Hallelujah! **Response**

SECOND READING Revelation 1:4–8

A reading from Revelation.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before God's throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the rulers of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a dominion, priests serving his God and Father, to Jesus Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the LORD God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 20:19–31

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

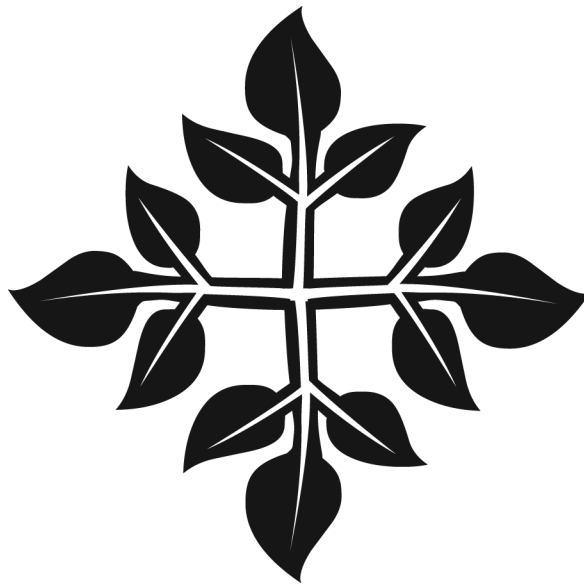
³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Barbara Rossing* (prerecorded)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 375 “Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen”
(*iAlehuya! Cristo resucitó*)



NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made human; who, for our sake,
was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
suffered death and was buried;
on the third day rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
who will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead;
and whose 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who 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

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the worship space. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

or

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God!

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Can You Feel the Seasons Turning” — *All Creation Sings* 1065; text: Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953); tune: LLANSANNAN, Welsh melody; arranged by Lorraine Fitzmaurice (b. 1990)

Can you feel the seasons turning, winds and waves grown wild and strange? Can you feel creation groaning, fearful of the coming change: icecaps melting, oceans rising, homes and habitations lost? Can you feel the seasons turning? Can you count the bitter cost?

Can you hear the creatures crying—lynx and otter, wolf and whale? Can you hear the Spirit sighing as her children grieve and fail? Nature’s poor, the first to suffer, pay the price of human greed. Can you hear the creatures crying, begging us to stop and heed?

Can you feel the seasons turning? Storm clouds gather in the skies. All around us signs of warning bid us open frightened eyes. Called by God to serve as stewards till the earth’s garden greens and thrives, can we learn in time to listen? Can we turn and change our lives?

To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may visit givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church or scan the QR code here:



Many people in our community already give online. Visit unilu.org/giving/ if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 WINTHROP ST, CAMBRIDGE MA 02138 (there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail).

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

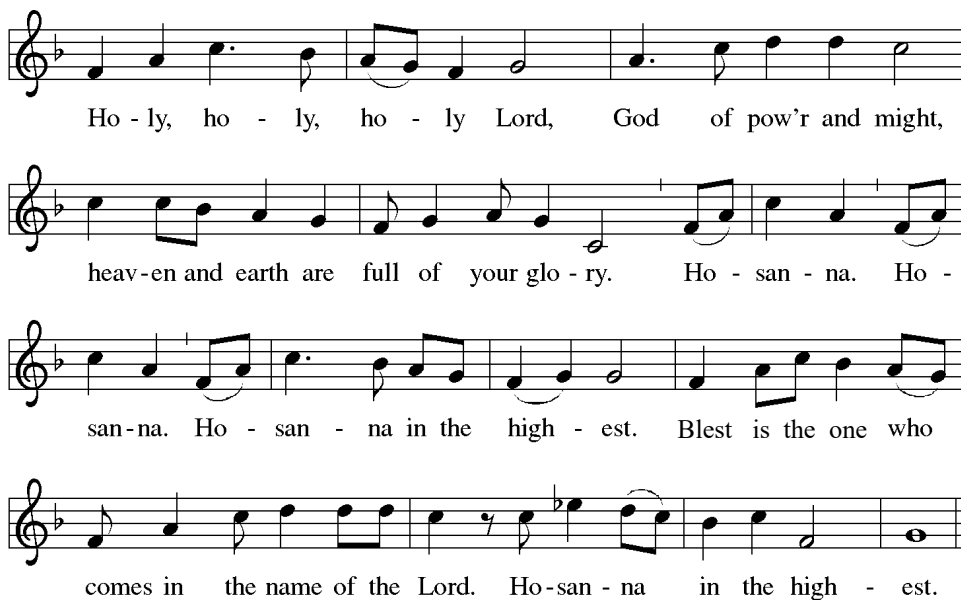
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

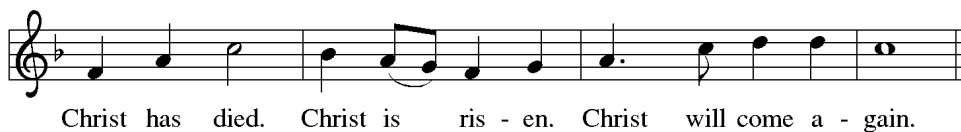
. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The thanksgiving may conclude:



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as “Abba,” Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray:

**God our Mother, God 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 forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ACS 939 “Touch That Soothes and Heals”

(See *My Hands and Feet*)

ELW 388 “Be Not Afraid”

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 869 “We Have Seen the Lord”
(*Nimemwona Bwana*)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” [O FILII ET FILIAE] (see ELW 386) — French tune (15th century); setting by Bruce Brolsma (b. 1948)

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: Imogene Stulken; *Assisting Minister:* Susan Worst; *Reader:* Laura Tracey; *Intercessor:* Mary Pederson Metelmann; *Musicians:* Stephen Ai, Imogene Stulken, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and the UniLu Choir; *Hospitality:* Ann Ferentz and Chris Pollari.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:

Cheri Agaskar — UniLu member
Ellen Bartlett — sister of Gail Bucher
Margrit Betke — UniLu member
Lorraine and Roland Blanchard — friends of Gail Bucher
Ed Bucher — UniLu member
Alice Conway — sister of Karin Kutrieb
Solveig Ericson — UniLu member
Bob Flannery — UniLu member
Barbara Frank — mother-in-law of Anne Howarth
George Gordon — UniLu member
Nancy Gould — UniLu member
Family and friends mourning the death of Vera Ryen Gregg
Charles Jaferian — grandson of Nancy Gould
Jorge G. Miranda — friend of Ricardo A. Pulgar
Karen Nichols — UniLu member
Duncan McCoy Norton — son of Megan McCoy
Anne Minton — colleague of Imogene Stulken
The Ralston-Lamb family — UniLu members
Jeanette Searson — sister of Imogene Stulken
Judy Steele — sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

(revised 4/23/2025)

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik, *Ministry Intern*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Hanqi Zhang, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston — and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*