



*Sunday, April 5, 2026*  
*Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day*



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org)



## PRELUDE

Majesty

Jack Hayford

Crown Him with Many Crowns  
(DIADEMATA)

David H. Hegarty  
tune, George J. Elvey

Thine Is the Glory  
(JUDAS MACCABAEUS)

Stephen Bulla  
tune, George Frideric Handel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.*

## GATHERING

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. By our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

**We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in us and in all your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.**

*setting by Cynthia Dobrinski***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

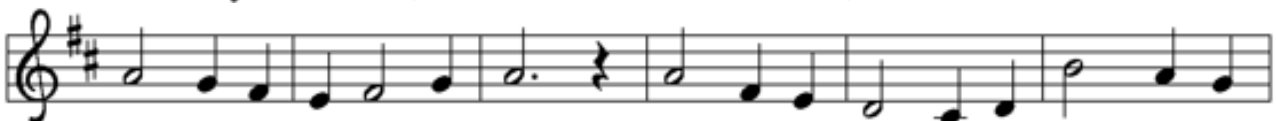
**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE***Assisting minister*

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

*All*

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



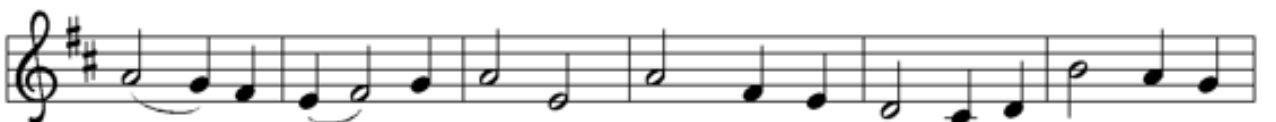
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and 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, for the Lamb who was slain



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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

#### **DISMISSAL TO WORSHIP FOR KIDS AND JOY!**

*All kids ages 3 through elementary are welcome to a special time of hearing the Word, conversation and activity! Parents can remain in the sanctuary while the kids gather in designated spaces. **Worship for Kids** (Ages 3 – Grade 2) meets across the hall from the sanctuary and **JOY!** (Grades 3 – 5) meets downstairs. Kids will return during the offering so they can participate in Communion.*

## READING: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Our prayers are always offered on behalf of the whole community.*

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

#1 Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#2 Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

#3 Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace in every place where war or conflict divides humanity, especially remembering people who are directly impacted and displaced by conflict, and humanitarian workers who provide assistance; and for our siblings in faith in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. May our partnerships remind us of your abundance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We know that all people matter in your eyes and you know their cares and concerns, their hopes and joys. We pray for those whose needs are known to us.

*We pray for those in need of healing, especially:*

- George and Nancy F, both recovering from a virus
- Terri K, recovering from a broken leg
- Wesley, grandson of Pat E, recovering from a recent health crisis
- Bob P, who remains hospitalized following surgery

Hear the names of those we raise to you in our hearts or on our voice.

*Silence for individual prayer.*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## SHARING GOD'S MEAL

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace in a way that cares for friend and neighbor. If you worship virtually, share the peace through the comments section or text.*

### OFFERING

*Thank you for your offerings that support the ongoing ministry that we share.*

*Information about supporting Bethlehem's ministry with your offerings is available in the Welcome insert in your pew rack or by visiting [blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry](http://blcfairport.org/support-our-ministry) or scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page.*



### OFFERING OF MUSIC

Christ Is Risen

(JACKSON NEW)

words, Brian Wren  
music, William P. Rowan

The Chancel Choir

### OFFERTORY



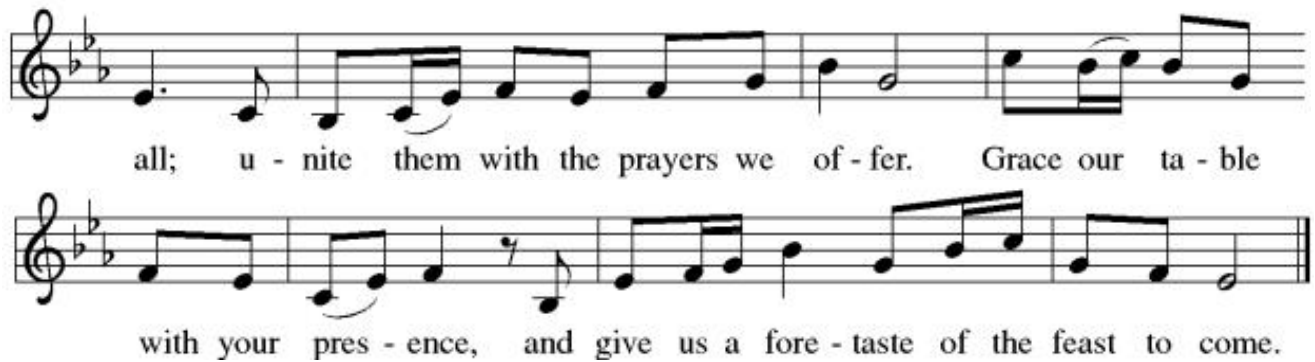
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,

**in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

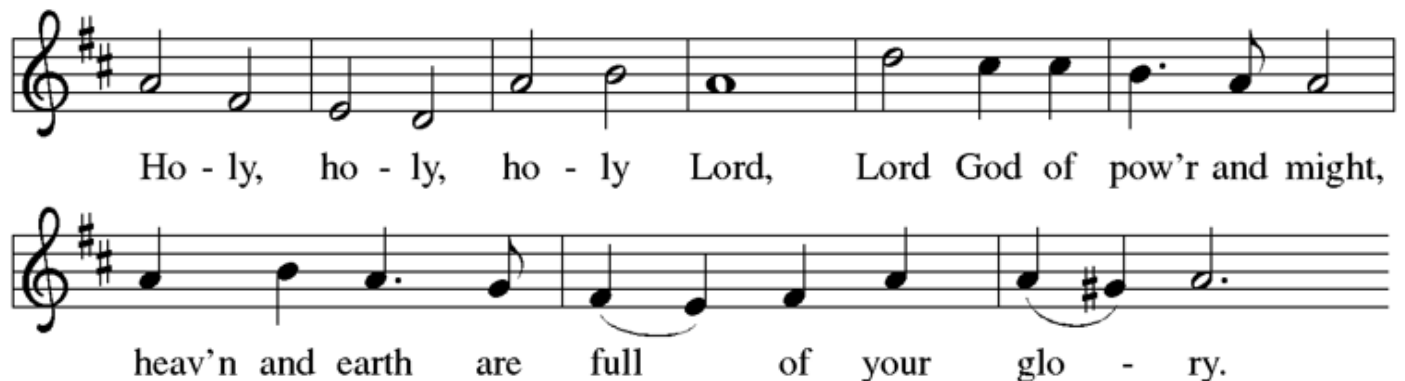
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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, 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 he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may be the Body of Christ, who have died and have been raised to new life, to serve you in love without fear, in the power of your Holy Spirit and the strength of eternal life. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

United in baptism, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Our communion bread is gluten-free, unless noted by the pastor. Grape juice is available; indicate your need to the communion assistant.*

## THE COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **HYMNS FOR COMMUNION**

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486

*sung 2 times*

Now the Green Blade Rises

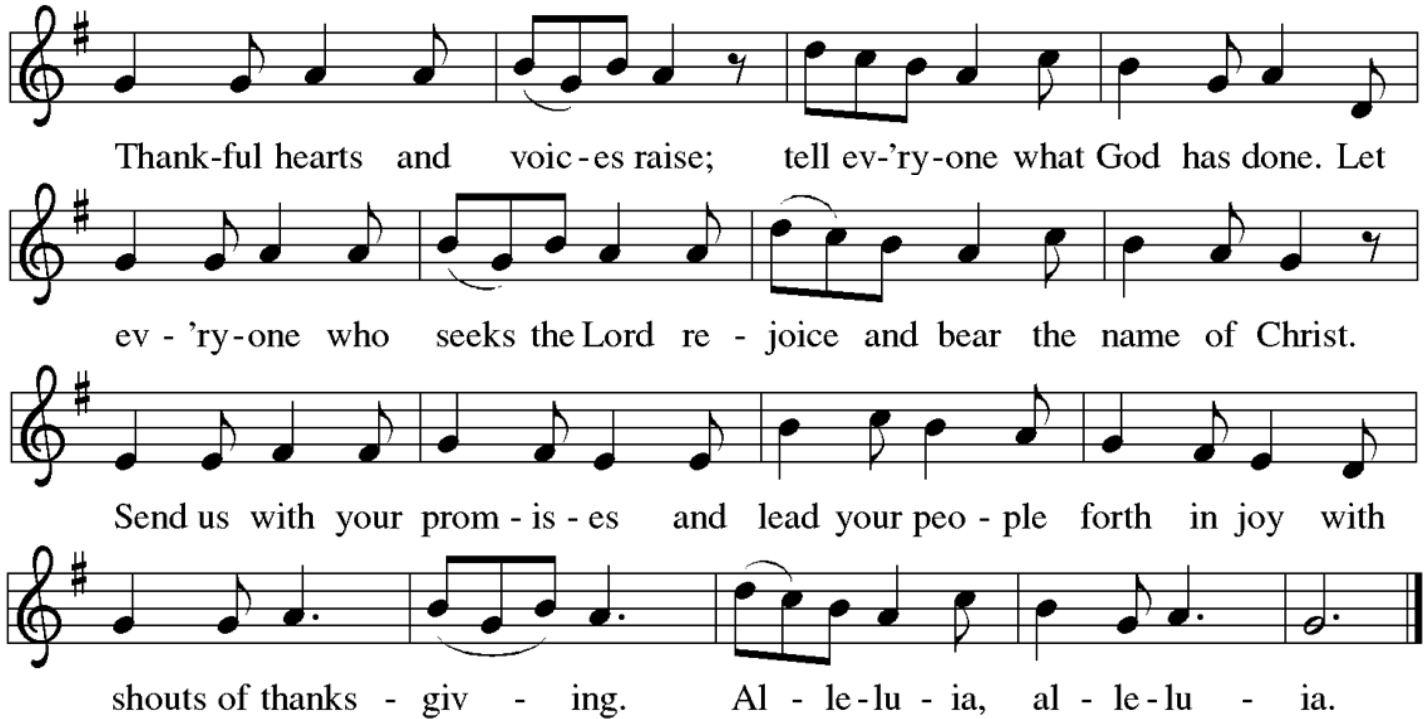
ELW 379

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## LEAVING TO SERVE

## BENEDICTION

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise † bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

*setting by John A. Behnke*

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Fanfare-Rondeau on “Victory”

(The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done – ELW 366)

Brenda Portman  
tune, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

## **BLC Pastors**

The Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman and The Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson, co-Pastors

## **BLC Musicians**

Raelynn Clare, Music Director and Organist

Chrisanne Gates, Chancel Choir Director

Rich Towsley, Director of The Folk Group and BLC Dulcimers

### **Additional musical leadership provided by:**

The Chancel Bells

Percussion: Dave Wideman

Piano: Michael Koncilja, Susan DePasquale

Organ: Chrisanne Gates, Susan DePasquale

Flute: Sue Cardinal

Trumpet: Richard DePasquale

Violin: Jane Morale

**Thank you** to all those who participated in worship this Sunday! Want to learn more about what roles are needed in worship or sign-up for a pre-scheduled role? Talk with one of the pastors following worship or send an email to [volunteersupport@blcfairport.org](mailto:volunteersupport@blcfairport.org) and we'll follow up!

**Communicate with us:** Share more about who you are, request further information, or leave a prayer request or comment through our website - <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/> - scroll down the page to request or share information.

**What's happening at BLC this week?** Visit the Calendar of Events at [www.blcfairport.org](http://www.blcfairport.org). Zoom links for virtual meetings are also found there. If you would like to schedule a meeting or event, please email the church office at [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org) or visit <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/>

**Church office hours:** Sandy Squires holds office hours on Wednesdays from 9-1 and is responsive to phone and email Monday through Friday during usual business hours. Please communicate your needs through the church office by phone (585) 223-0634 or by email [office@blcfairport.org](mailto:office@blcfairport.org). Our co-Pastors are available Sunday – Thursday and on-call for emergencies. Contact them directly to schedule an appointment either by calling the church office or emailing [pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.hoffman@blcfairport.org) or [pastor.amy@blcfairport.org](mailto:pastor.amy@blcfairport.org)

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“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”, Lutheran Book of Worship, Text and music © 1978 Augsburg Fortress

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”, Music: Ronald A. Nelson, Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Music

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“Crown Him with Many Crowns”, Tune: George J. Elvey – DIADEMATA, Arranger: David H. Hegarty, © 1975, Lorenz Publishing Co.

“Thine Is the Glory”, Tune: George Frideric Handel - JUDAS MACCABAEUS, Arranger: Stephen Bulla, © 2001, Curnow Music Press, Inc.

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”, Words: Charles Wesley, Setting: Cynthia Dobrinski (ASCAP), © 1995 Agape (adm. Hope Publishing Company)

“Christ Is Risen”, Text: Brian Wren, Tune: William P. Rowan - JACKSON NEW, Music: William P. Rowan

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“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”, Text: Paul Z. Strodach, Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Setting: John A. Behnke (ASCAP), © 2011 Bimamwood Publications (adm. MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

“Fanfare-Rondeau on Victory”, Tune: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina – VICOTRY, Setting: Brenda Portman

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***We give thanks for the Easter flowers and contributions supporting ELCA  
World Hunger honoring:***

Pastor Amy, Pastor Hoffman and my BLC family by Julie Owen  
Toni Thompson from your LYLAS  
Loved ones by Sandy Goehle  
Family and friends by Joanne Swanson  
Our family by GerryAnn & Wayne Westcott  
Kathy Forney  
Our Family by Marjorie Yaeger  
Our Grandchildren by Sandy Joyce  
Our Grandchildren by Ruth & Jeff Hedin

***We give thanks for the Easter flowers and contributions supporting ELCA  
World Hunger in memory of:***

Elmer & Alice Yeakel and Sandy Gates by Andy Gates  
Dick & Penny Merges by Julie & Dave Merges  
Michele by Donna Berner  
Our Parents by Jim & Kathy Moragne  
Bob Lohr by Judy Lohr  
Irene and Robert Kiesow by Joan Kiesow  
Dr. Paul Moczarski by Dave and Sandy Moczarski  
Babe & Ginnie Wacenske by Karen Tyler  
Ardis Vokes and Marge Messner by Koosje Jeanotte  
Frank and Anna Steuerwald by Nancy Fehse  
Erich, Connie and Greg Helbig by Nancy Fehse  
Jenn Chandler by Deborah Cheek  
Leonard Calztoni, Olaf and Janet Erickson by Linnea & Scott Erickson  
Our Family by Marjorie Yaeger  
James Peterson by Amy and Hans Walter-Peterson  
Steven French by Carolyn French  
Erna Fairbrother and Sally Drum by Lisa Wholley

*We regret any errors or omissions.*

## Hidden with Christ

Easter turns the world upside down. It defies our expectations with hiddenness and bluntness: Mary does not recognize the resurrected Jesus (John 20:14), the good news is heralded by an earthquake and terrifying angels and is brought to the women of the church first, rather than to the Twelve (Matt. 28:1-10). The radical reversals prophesied in scripture and revealed in Christ's life and ministry culminate in the good news we proclaim today: Christ, through death, has triumphed over death. "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone" (Ps. 118:22).

Easter offers the mystical possibility of transformation in every moment. In this season, what is dying and what is being born? For our communities? For our families? For our world? What is breaking open like a seed to die (John 12:24) so that new life might thrive?

The theme is framed candidly in Colossians: "You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). In the season of Easter, we are invited to allow old husks to fall away so that Christ's new life may emerge. This part of the resurrection story is strange, unsettling. We are invited, after all, to share fully in Christ's death as well as his resurrection (Rom. 6:5; 2 Cor. 4:10-11). Terrifying, but in the mystery of the Holy Spirit's work in us, we receive it as hope (1 Peter 1:3).

On this Easter day, we are honest about how God is stirring us to transformation, and we may be called to faithfully lament the letting go. Almost simultaneously, as we embody Christ's resurrection in the present, we celebrate it with great joy (Matt. 28:8). In our desire to be hidden in Christ's abundant life (John 10:10), we can even name seasons of suffering as Christ's resurrection emerging (Phil. 3:10).