

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

ELW HC Setting Two



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

ELW p. 94

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

GATHERING SONG

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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

ELW p. 120

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the
Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen, amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 122

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and
glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all
creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb
forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was
slain has begun his reign. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDRENS TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

Like a Rock

Linnea Good

Like a Rock, like a rock, God is under our feet
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center

of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the LORD.

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

I will call on the name of the LORD.

¹²How shall I repay the LORD

for all the good things God has done for me?

13 I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

15 Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

**16 O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant,
the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.**

**17 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

I will call on the name of the LORD.

18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

**19 in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

I will call on the name of the LORD.

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. **20** He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. **21** Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the

heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 124

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

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

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON by Pastor David

The gospel for today always delights and disturbs me. It delights me to think of the Risen Christ who comes alongside the perplexed and grieving disciples on their way to Emmaus. The God who accompanies us in grief

and despair, patiently unfolds Scripture stories from the earliest history of God's people to the more recent prophetic writings – from the exodus to the exile. Using the culture-forming paradigms of Israel and the familiar sacred texts this stranger on the road is able to tie a thread from the traditional faith of Israel to the breakthrough revelation of God in Jesus. It is exciting, inspiring, and formative. The disciples couldn't get enough and begged the stranger to stay with them.

My delight grows when I hear how they shared a meal and he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. It was in that moment that their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Memories of the time Jesus fed the five thousand on a remote wilderness hillside flooded their minds. They recalled stories of the intimate meal Jesus had with his disciples on the night in which he was betrayed. The stunning moment when these travelers of Emmaus recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread is a powerful metaphor for our own divine encounter with Jesus at the communion table. They looked at each other in astonishment and said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

YES. What a delight that this strange encounter ended with their recognition of the Risen Christ. Their hearts burned within, and their excitement propelled them to rush back to the other disciples in Jerusalem, seven miles away, even though the hour was late.

At the same time there are unanswered questions in this story that cause some dismay. Like when Jesus came up beside them on their walk, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. What kept their eyes from seeing? I know it can be hard to recognize someone when you see them in a completely different context than you are used to. Maybe they were so dejected they just never looked up and saw his face. What keeps us

from recognizing Jesus when he is clearly walking among us and opening the scriptures to us? Some translations suggest that God prevented them from seeing Jesus. Was it just about divine timing, revealing him in just the right moment? How did the disciples who had spent time with Jesus now not recognize him? Shock and grief do strange things to our perceptions, but this lack of recognition is mind boggling. It raises questions about our own blinding set of expectations that limit our vision, perhaps because of personal bias or immature faith.

These travelers did not expect to see the Risen Christ. In fact, Cleopas and company had already concluded that Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth who did incredible miracles and was a mighty teacher, highly regarded by both God and people was simply NOT the Messiah he had claimed to be. They had placed such high hopes in Jesus, whom they expected to bring salvation to Israel. But they had to conclude that they were mistaken since his mission failed. It ended when the chief priests and religious leaders handed him over to the Roman government and they crucified him. To quote Greg Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary, "If Jesus was the messiah, he wasn't very good at it." By that, he means that the people's expectations of the messiah were not met. The Romans remained in charge and the poor still needed good news. (workingpreacher.com)

How is it that during the hour or two that they walked with Jesus on the road, listening to his teaching, his identity never became apparent. Only when they sat down for supper did they see him for who he was. Perhaps it was his familiar way of blessing the meal or the way he broke the bread and passed it. In that instant of recognition, he disappeared. If anyone described an event like this today, we would say it was surreal. And by that, I mean exactly what the dictionary says: a fantastic experience

having the disorienting, hallucinatory quality of a dream. It was the kind of moment that requires a pinch to verify it is not a dream.

The surreal experience of that moment led to some concrete conclusions about God's plan of salvation for us. Indeed, Jesus as Messiah did not meet the expectations of the nation. He was not the kind of saviour envisioned. But once the Easter news began to sink in, and the disciples corroborated their resurrection sightings, the implications became clear. Peter proclaimed with bold confidence, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36)

What was initially seen as a failure became a great victory. The resurrection caused an important shift in values and expectations. Peter's letter describes the transformation the Risen Christ sparked for the community. *¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God."* (1 Peter 1)

Old ways have given way to a new vision. God is among us as the risen saviour. The social and political problems continue, but God's call to the community and to individual members of it is strong. Our souls are revived by the Spirit of Christ through baptism. We have met Jesus in the breaking of bread as a community. We have caught a glimpse of the divine in our neighbour. Our eyes have been opened to see beyond the short-term goals of human ambitions. God recruits us to the long commitment of living in the new realm of God's love. It challenges our

values and changes our behaviour. It impresses on us those words of the Lord's Prayer, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We are living in that realm now.

As Peter's letter continues, ²²*Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.* ²³*You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.* (1 Peter 1)

Along with the first century disciples we are transformed by our encounter with the Risen Christ. And if that encounter seems distant or remote, we remember the words Jesus spoke to Thomas in last week's gospel. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Encountering Jesus does not always come with instant recognition. We can't always see clearly because we are often busy looking for something else.

The disciples expected a liberating king, a new ruler to free them from the oppressive occupation of the Roman Empire. Modern Christians also express some unique perceptions of what the Christ can do for believers. Some expect political dominion and control. Having influence on the laws of the nation and the mores of the culture seems important to some Christians. Some expect a God who guarantees success in love and work. The idea that we are blessed if we have wealth or if circumstances work out in our favour might prevent us from seeing the God who walks with us in our grief and accompanies those who suffer.

These religious expectations can cause us to miss Jesus when he walks beside us, bearing witness to the truth. Aligning our image of messiah with a narrow theological perspective or moral stance is a way to shut him

out of our experience. One thing the resurrection teaches us is that Jesus comes to us in ways that shatter our expectations and undermine traditional assumptions about correct ways to believe or practice religion or politics.

Jesus opens our hearts to receive a stranger and entertain new ways of thinking, seeing and being. These are pathways to seeing Jesus today. And even when he appears, our recognition may be as slow the disciples on the road. But then, whether real or surreal, we will know Christ has come leaving our hearts burning for justice, turning toward peace, yearning for love. These are evidence of God's realm in our world. The Risen Christ offers blessings far deeper than the ones we imagine or envision. And we are truly blessed when we see Christ in the ordinary journeys of life, and hard experiences we endure and the gracious hospitality we share. In our delight and our dismay, the Risen Christ comes to us.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising

ELW 374

- 1 Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

- 2 When we are walking, doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.

3 Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers, when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

4 Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.

CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread
and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we

meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick *especially Melanie, Bob, Keith, Christa, Sandy, Ray, Jeremiah, Kerra, Donna, Mike and all whom we name in silence or aloud . . .*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, the Spirit of all the living, bless *Avery, Oscar, Candice, Edith and Marie* on their birthdays this week as well as *Peter & Kathleen Nisse* on their anniversaries. Grant them your grace and care as they rejoice in your faithfulness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 129

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.

PREFACE

ELW p. 130

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p. 130

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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 banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 135

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Loaves Were Broken

ACS 966

- 1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.
*By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

- 2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken In a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light.

*By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"

*By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.

*By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

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

BENEDICTION

The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the
power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Touch That Soothes and Heals

ACS 939

- 1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurting,
hands that break a loaf of bread;
steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:
"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

- 2 Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,
give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there.
"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

- 3 Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least.
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased.
"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

- 4 Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal,
feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal.
"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.