

NOW WE KNOW

AS WE GATHER

Now we know the end of the story. In John's vision in the Epistle, heaven will be like an eternal wedding feast. All of us in the Church have been made presentable by Christ, the Bridegroom. Unlike the disciples, who in today's Gospel still had to experience their Lord's absence from Good Friday through Easter morning, we can be confident that no one can take our joy from us. Now we know that because He has paid the price on the cross, the Bridegroom will freely make all things new. In place of torrents of tears will be the spring of the water of life. When we receive His body and blood in the Sacrament, it is a foretaste of the feast to come, and we cannot wait to enjoy the rest of the eternal celebration!

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

#644 *sts. 1-5*



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more  
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*John 16:20; Revelation 21:6*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** God's grace knows no bounds! Through the sacrifice of His Son, the Bridegroom of the Church, He makes us His holy bride. Anticipating the heavenly wedding feast, let us seek God's grace now and call on Him for forgiveness and mercy.

- C** Almighty God, have mercy on us, for we cannot help ourselves. Forgive us all that we have done in the past, give us grace in this present time, and lead us to serve You and love one another in the future and on into the eternity You have promised.

- P** Jesus promised the disciples, "Your sorrow will turn into joy," and He promises "the spring of the water of life without payment." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** Amen.

## WORD

### KYRIE

- C** Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*LSB 204*



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
 You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
 Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
 In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
 O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.
- C** **Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## FIRST READING

*Acts 11:1–18*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house.

<sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Revelation 21:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

*Romans 6:9; John 14:23*

**P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.

**C** **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 13:31–35*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’”

<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY “AT THE LAMB’S HIGH FEAST WE SING” #633** *sts. 1–2, 4, 7–8*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal  
7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -  
△ 8 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give, Sav - ior,



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love  
lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
by whose death we live, Spir - it, guide through all our days:



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!  
New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Three in One, Your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.

Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice

Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

**CREED**

*Nicene Creed*

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray to God on behalf of the Church and all people in their various needs.

You told Peter, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” Remember those people on the margins of society, O Lord; provide caring people and institutions, open doors of opportunity, and free them from the results of their past poor decisions. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Peter and the others recognized that they could not “stand in God’s way.” Guide the Church’s clergy and lay leaders here and around the world to seek Your will, Lord Jesus, working together creatively to find new ways to spread the Gospel in accord with Your will. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy Lord, in John’s vision You proclaimed, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Graciously work through the talents and knowledge of meteorologists, naturalists, engineers, and visionaries as they seek to find ways to renew the health of this planet. Grant that seedtime and harvest, sun and rain produce bountiful harvests that we all rejoice in Your many blessings. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Lord over all, as You foretold, often we “will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice,” so we see injustice, oppression, constant warfare, and unrest in many nations. Raise up wise leaders intent on serving their citizens, police and first responders focused on maintaining the peace, and armed forces determined to reestablish calm. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Gracious Savior, by the faith given us by the Holy Spirit, we look forward to the wedding feast of the Lamb, who will end mourning, crying, and pain. Before we enter that time of rejoicing, we bring the petitions of people near and dear to us as they call out in sorrow, through tears and enduring pain, *especially Hedy, Jean, Kathleen, Ray, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Jean, Jen, John, Leah, Rod, and Kris.* As fits Your gracious plans, give them peace, joy, and relief. Bridegroom of the Church, in Your mercy.

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting that You have heard us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

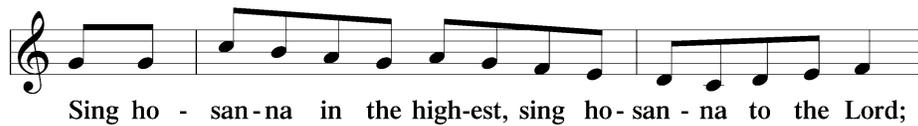
LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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  
forever and ever. Amen.

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN “YOUR TABLE I APPROACH”

#628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;  
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.  
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.  
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
Text and tune: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray.  
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood.
- C** **Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN “LOVE IN CHRIST IS STRONG AND LIVING”

#706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.  
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.  
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

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