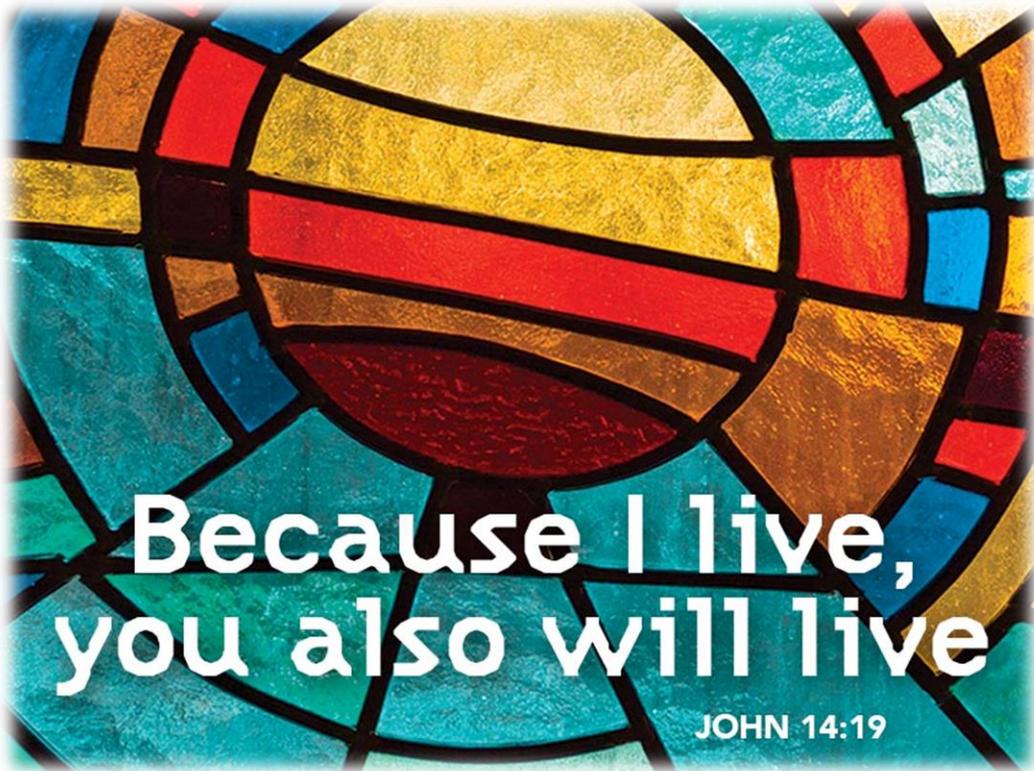




SERVICE OF THE WORD – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17, 2020

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

VERSE

E F#m E/G# A E/G# E/B B



1. How deep the Fa - thers love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure that
 2. Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: No gifts, no powr, no wis - dom. But

3 E F#m E/G# A E/G# B E F#m E/G# A



He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss. The
 -shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held _ Him there un -
 I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from His _ re - ward? I

6 E/G# C#m B E F#m E/G# A



Fa - ther turns His face a - way as wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring
 -til it was ac - com - plished; His dy - ing breath has brought me life. I
 can - not give an an - swer. But this I know with all my heart: His

8 E/G# B

1, 2.	3.
E A/C# E/B E A ²	E

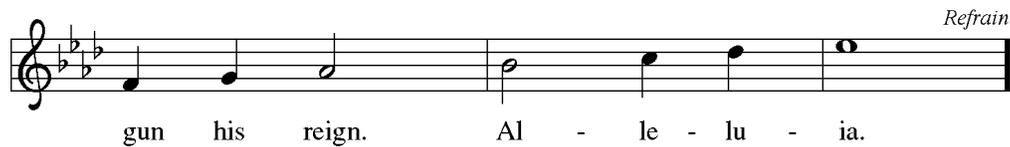
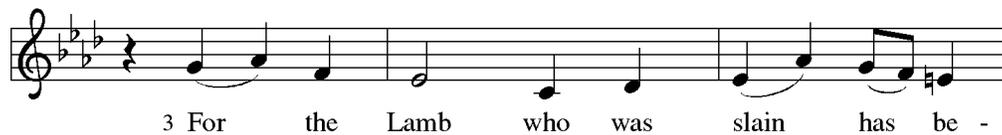
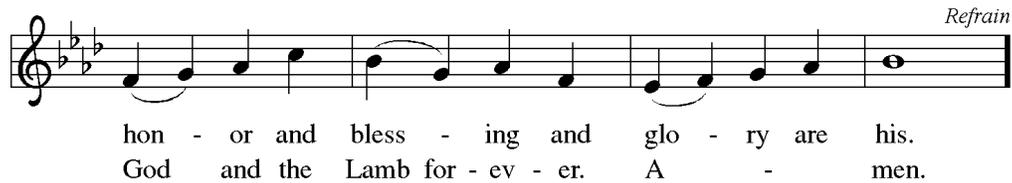
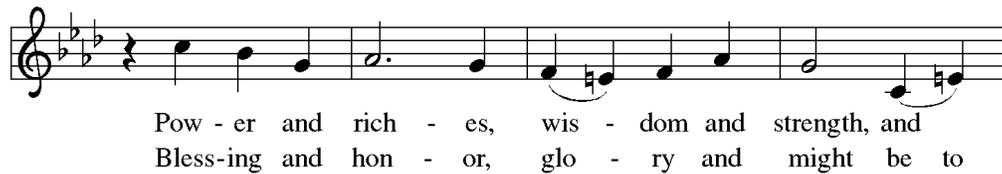
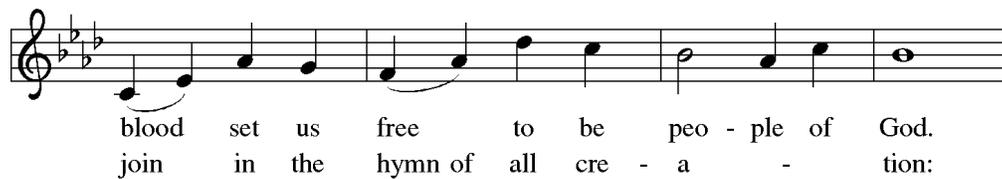
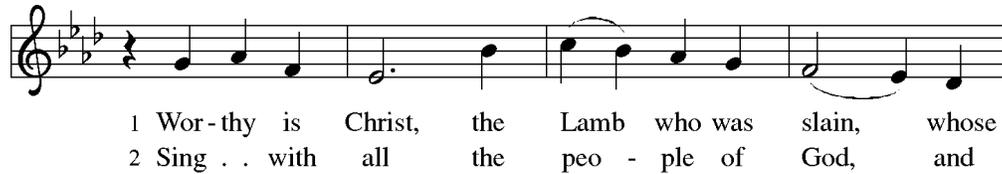
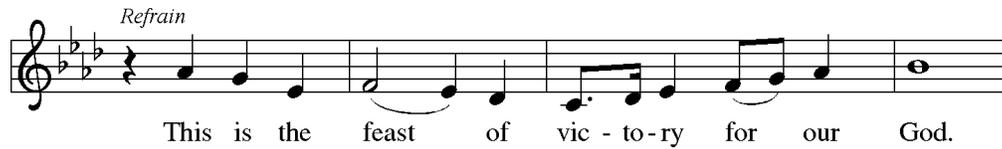


man - y sons to glo - ry. 2. Be - som.
 know that it is fin - ished. 3. I
 wounds have paid my ran -

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.

"This Is the Feast"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray together. **Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows -**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;**

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:8-22

A reading from 1st Peter.

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called - that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For "Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹ And Baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

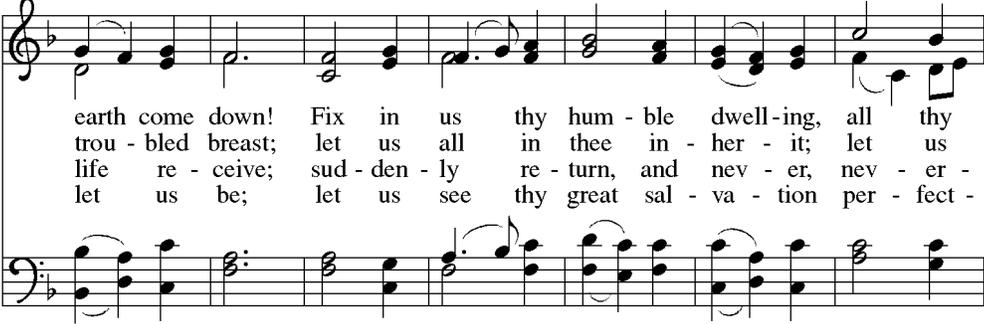
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Gregg Hoffman



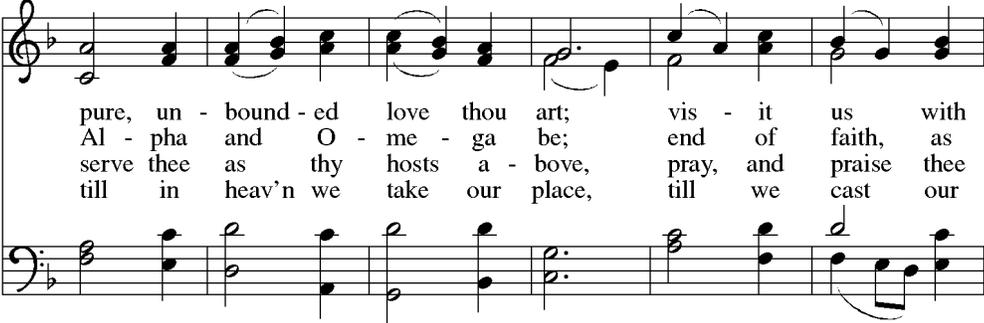
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped 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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and all bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children. Bring your justice to the nations, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Make us attentive to these things in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially for Emily, Kathy, Eric, Ellen, Doug, Mike, Ralph, Kim, Buck, Pauline, Mary, Darice, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, Steven, and Susan. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us the courage to follow your will in the world today, wherever it would have us go. In all our decision-making, may we begin and end with the ultimate goal of being faithful to you. May we not lose sight of your path, particularly when it appears difficult. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your Kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us. Unite us with them around the throne of grace, that we may rejoice together in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, Almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

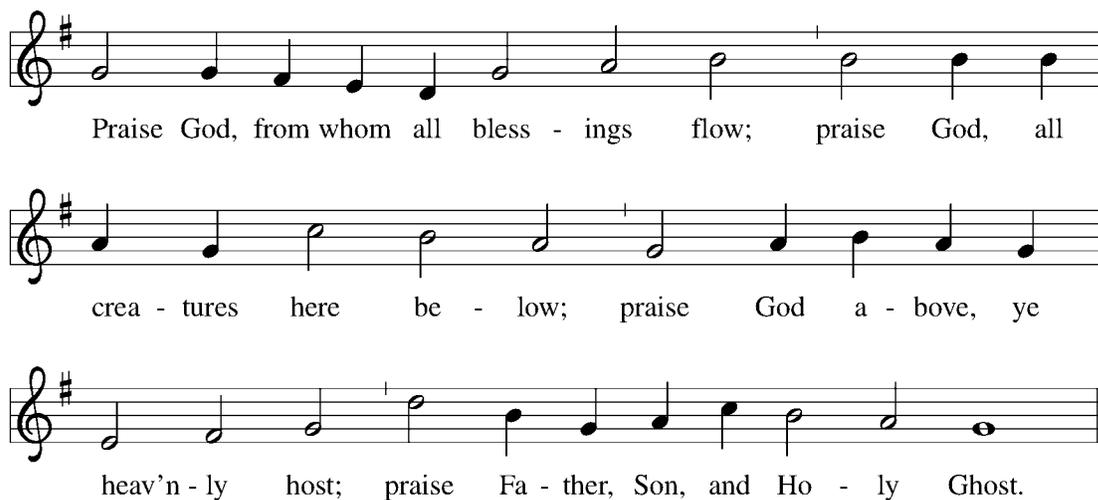
ANTHEM

“If You Love Me”

arr. by Philip M. Young

Virtual Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*) “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, our gifts seem small compared to what you have given us, yet you make of our gifts an abundance, just as you do with our entire lives. We long for the day when you can feed us again at your table, but for today, may we draw strength from the nourishment of your word, and send us forth for service in your name, for the sake of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as one church, deployed across a great distance, we unite our voices and join in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The blessing of the living God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage, as you share the joy of Christ with the world. **Amen.**



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.
 heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

www.gracerockhill.com

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