



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SIMSBURY, CT



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

MAY 7, 2023 – 9:00 AM

*Our service follows The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) unless otherwise noted;
congregation responses are **bolded**.*

Easter Blessings & welcome to St. Alban's!

As we say every Sunday, “If you’re visiting St. Alban’s for the first time, or for the first time in a while, we extend a special welcome to you.” To all of you joining us today whether in the building or via Zoom or Facebook, we’re feel so fortunate to be together.

There are no “reserved seats” in our Sanctuary. We hope you’ll find a spot and make yourself comfortable. Our Playground is available for any worshipper who needs a more flexible space. We invite you to enjoy the Playground resources in the Playground; or, pack a tote bag and take it somewhere else in the Sanctuary.

We invite you to fill out one of the Welcome cards that you can find on the table in the rear of the Sanctuary. This gives us a chance to stay in touch with you. You can also find us on Facebook and visit our website: stalbanssimsbury.org.

Join us in the Parish Hall after our service for Coffee Hour!

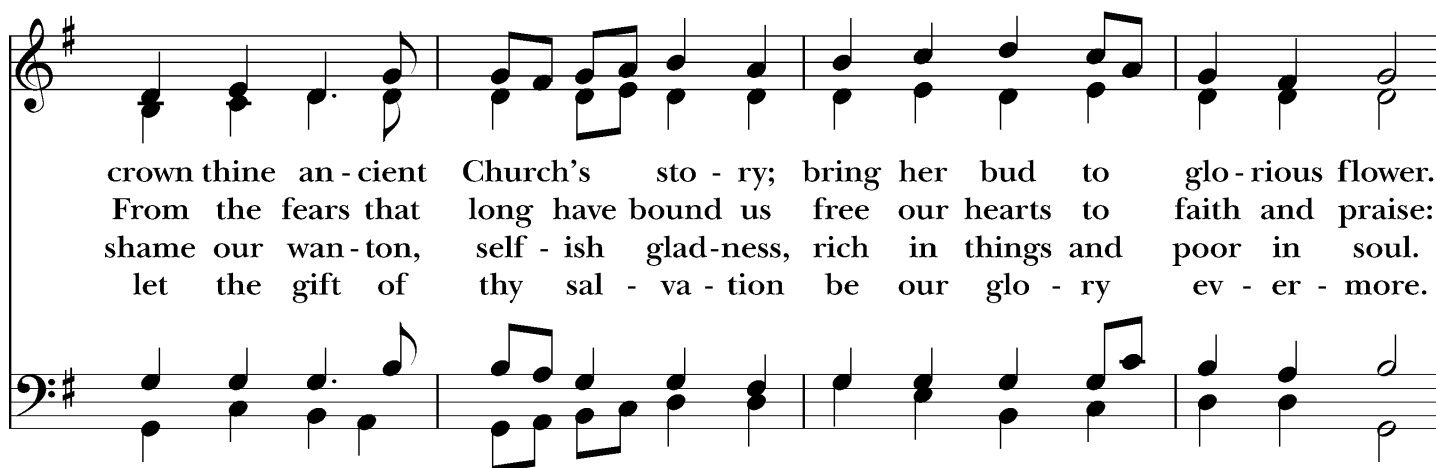
We’re so glad you’re here!!

A note about standing, kneeling, sitting rubrics


One of the spaces that has received more attention during the pandemic is around ableism. Our society, in large part, functions as though everyone has nearly full use of their bodies. During the pandemic, the shift to an online space made it possible for folks who have added accessibility needs to join groups and activities they hadn’t been able to before. Where a “standing” rubric might have been added alone, we’re adding “seated”, as well, as an invitation for you to listen and respond to the needs of your own body. You are invited to remember that our bodies are created by God and intended for worship, just like our voices. However you feel comfortable doing that, God sees that it is good!



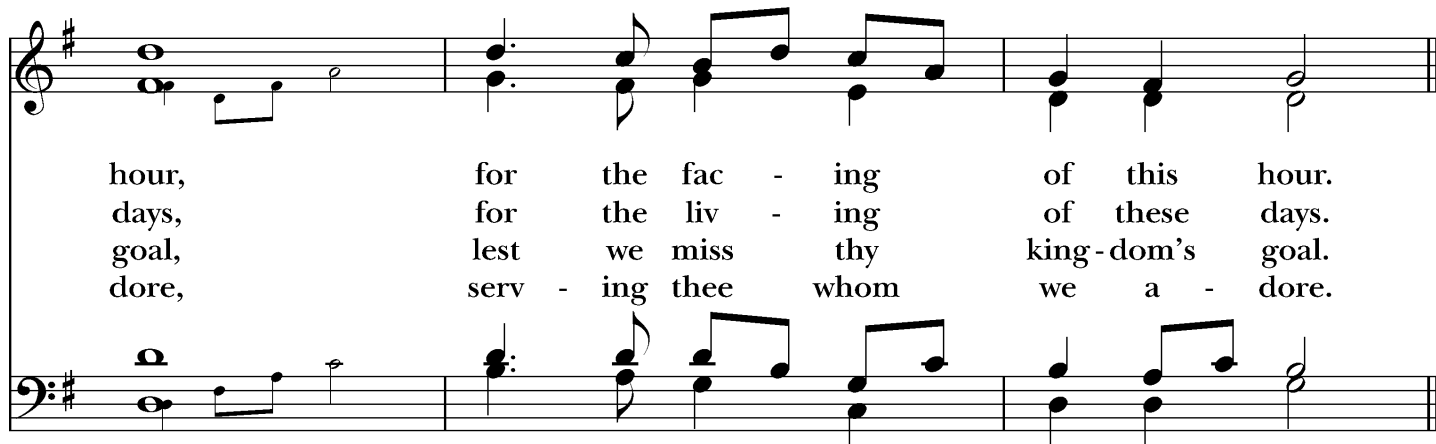
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.



Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -



hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

THE GLORIA

(WLP 900)

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, —

— and peace to his peo - ple on earth. — Lord God,

heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, — we wor - ship

you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. —

Lord Je - sus Christ, — on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Fa - ther, —

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: — have mer - cy on us; — you are seat - ed at the right

hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For
Fa - ther: re - ceive

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

READING: *Acts 7:55-60*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down

and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Standing or seated.*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life (H82 487)



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

THE GOSPEL: *John 14:1-4*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I

will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Rebekah Hatch, Rector

THE NICENE CREED

Standing or seated

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor

In this Eastertide we celebrate and proclaim the signs of Jesus, that all might believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing they may have life in this name. Therefore, that everyone may experience the new life in Christ in the midst of the old life of sin and doubt, let us pray for all God's people, and for all people everywhere according to their needs, saying: Lord, have mercy.

That amid all the doubts which threaten to destroy the community of faith, Christ's peace may be shared and experienced for the strengthening of belief, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That all who have come to new birth in holy baptism and all who have received the forgiveness of sins in absolution may live in peace with each other, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That the sick, the infirm, and the troubled might experience the healing power of the Spirit of the risen Christ. Today, we pray especially for The Harris Family, John H., Judy R., Art, Dick, Barbara, Jocelyn and her family, Scott, Alex, David G., Margaret, Punch, Kathy, David C., Meredith H., Amanda, Frank, Hayden, Bryan, Susan, Regina, Mary J., and anyone we name now silently or aloud. *(We invite you now to remember them either silently or aloud)* Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That those who participate in the Eucharistic meal may taste and see the feast to come in the presence of the one who died and is alive forevermore, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That all who have died in the faith, that they may serve as examples to us who continue in our pilgrimage on earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The mission and ministry of St. Alban's depends on the financial and prayerful generosity and gifts of members of our congregation and community. We welcome your one-time or ongoing donation today. Please place cash or checks in the Offering Plate; or use the QR code on the cards found in the rear of the Sanctuary and in the Narthex to make an online donation. We are grateful that you've chosen to share your gifts with us today.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Beach Spring (from the Sacred Harp) arr. Randall Hartsell*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS

(S130)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the

world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

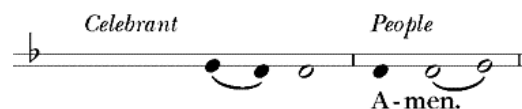
The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,



People and Celebrant

**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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

(LEVAS 268)

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia. **Fine**

Christ our pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed _ for us;

Response
 (organ) There-fore let _ us _ keep the

Christ our pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed _ for us;

feast.

(organ)

Leader

Response

Christ our pass-o-ver is sac-ri -

There - fore let _ us _ keep the feast.

(organ)

D.C.

ficed _ for us;

Response

D.C.

There - fore let _ us _ keep the feast

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

To receive Holy Communion, you may stand or kneel at the altar rail; or stand in the space between the altar rails, in front of the altar. If you need the sacrament brought to you, please let someone know and we will be honored to bring it to you. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know at the altar.

Anyone of any age and tradition is invited to receive Holy Communion, and no one who comes to the altar with outstretched hands will be turned away. To receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, approach the altar and cross your arms over your chest.

For the first time in many months, we're returning to the use of the Common Cup and reception of wine. If you'd like to receive wine this morning, please drink directly from the cup. Remember, too, that communion "in one kind" (bread only) is a sufficient manifestation of the sacrament. If you'd like, you can simply hold the cup while the chalice bearer offers the words of reception, without drinking from the chalice.

COMMUNION HYMN

Here, O Lord, your servants gather (WLP 793)

1. Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
 1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;

Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
 Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove

As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
 Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

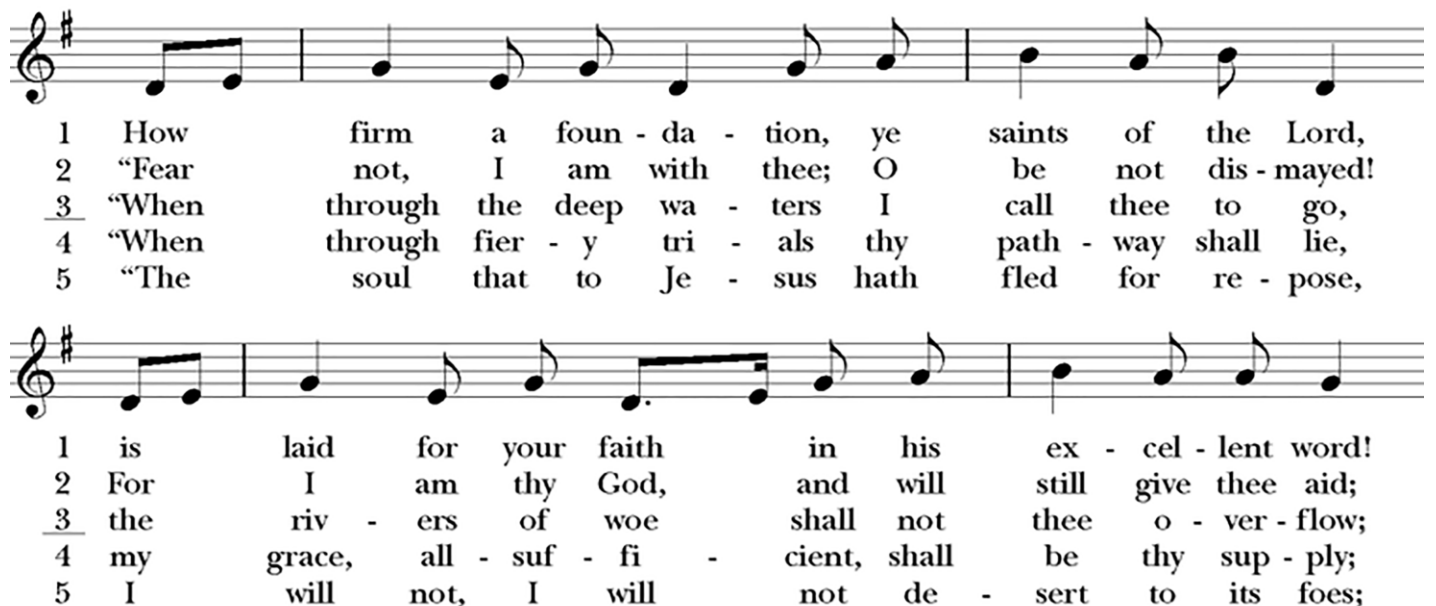
Celebrant and people

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

HYMN

How firm a foundation (H82 636)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,
 1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign,
 5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE *Finale Organo Pleno by Janet Correll* Mary DeLibero, Music Director & Organist

