



**The Great Vigil of Easter  
and  
The Feast of the Risen Christ**

April 19, 2025

8:00 p.m.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

*This holy night is the most solemn festival in the entire year,  
since it deals with the central mystery of our redemption ~  
Christ's saving death and his glorious resurrection.*

Light face print is read by the leader. **Bold print is read by the congregation.**

*The congregation is asked to please stand for all hymns and remain standing until the conclusion of each corresponding prayer.*

### **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*The first part of the Vigil centers on fire and light, the visible symbol of Christ, who proclaimed himself "The Light of the World". On Easter morning Christ arose, resplendent as the dawning sun, thereby conquering death forever. With this thought in mind we assist at the lighting of the Easter Candle, the carrying and distribution of this burning candle through the church, and the Easter Announcement, "Rejoice now..." We anticipate our joyful sharing of Christ's triumph in resurrection.*

### **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

*The second part of the Vigil has as its center the mystery of Baptism, by which the light of Christ was first given to each of us. Through Holy Baptism we died to sin to rise with Christ - going down into the font in death in order to come up cleansed from sin and alive to God. The readings show this transformation by recounting Old Testament events that foreshadowed it. The blessing of the baptismal water leads up to renewal of the resolve of the whole congregation to live with the Baptismal promise of the Risen Christ. Then the Litany is prayed, as we ask God to help us keep our baptismal vows.*

### **THE FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER**

*With the grand ringing of bells, the chancel becomes a proper setting for Easter joy. We have reached the climax of the Easter Vigil - the **feast of the risen Christ**. As baptized members of Christ's Body, we share the feast of Christ's presence and then leave the church to go and tell the Good News.*

### **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*In the Chapel*

**\*Gathering**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Festival that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found ready to take part in that festival of light which has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the darkness of our hearts and minds be dispelled by the light of the Christ who rises this night in glory. **Amen.**

O God, bless this lighted candle and those upon whom it may shine, that all who this night shall take part in your holy Mysteries may be filled with your blessing; that as we were once in darkness but are now in the light of the Lord, we may walk as children of light. **Amen.**

*Individual candles are lit from the one candle as the congregation moves toward the nave.*

**\*The Procession (Sung)**

The Light of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation moves toward the nave arriving at the door to the nave.*

The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation follows into the church.*

The Light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*The Easter Proclamation - The Exsultet**

Rejoice now, all heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!. Sound forth, O trumpet of salvation, for the triumph of the King. Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever. Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

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.**

*The pastor continues in prayer. The congregation is asked to join in saying “This is the night” whenever this phrase is said.*

**Amen.**

*Candles are extinguished. The congregation is seated.*

**A Reading from Genesis: Genesis 1:1- 2:4** (*God creates all things good*)

**\*Hymn LBW, “Green,” 463 Stanzas 1 and 3**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Reading from Exodus: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21** (*Deliverance at the Red Sea*)

**\*Hymn LBW, “Green,” 132 Stanzas 1 and 2**

Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grant that all the people of earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Reading from Isaiah: Isaiah 55:1-11** (*Salvation freely offered to all*)

**\*Hymn LBW, “Green,” 343 Stanzas 1 and 2**

Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

It is truly right and proper that we should at all times and places give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.

- You make the Sacraments effective in a wonderful way;

*(The Pastor touches the water.)*

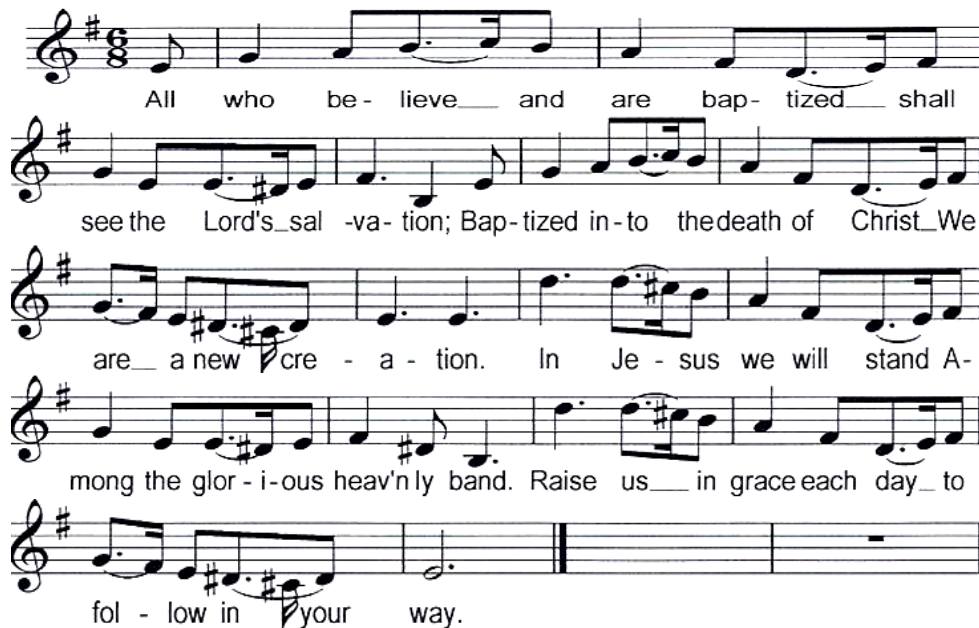
- Your Spirit in the beginning moved over the face of the waters and even now brings about a new creation in the font of rebirth;
- You fashion from our old nature an offspring of heaven;
- You have commanded your disciples to "Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

*(The Pastor sprinkles water in the four directions)*

- You promise to be present with us so that this clear water may provide a cleansing of body and spirit.

*(The Pastor divides the water in the shape of the cross.)*

Let the power of the Holy Spirit come down and regenerate by water and word each time we baptize. In this font will every stain of sin be washed away, here begins new life through Christ our Lord.



All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall  
 see the Lord's sal -va -tion; Bap-tized in -to the death of Christ\_We  
 are a new cre - a - tion. In Je - sus we will stand A-  
 mong the glor - i -ous heav'n ly band. Raise us in grace each day to  
 fol - low in your way.

Family of God: On this most holy night, we recall God's saving actions and keep vigil in celebration of the joyful resurrection. The Apostle Paul says, "We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life."

Therefore, people of God:

Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

**We renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**Creator of Heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven. And is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Do you, Megan and Shawn renew your promise to live in this faith and in the covenant of your Baptism, and as a members of the Church and this congregation be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace and in prayer?

***Megan and Shawn: I do so promise.***

Faithful to God, do all of you gathered here promise to live in this faith and in the covenant of your Baptism, and as members of the Church and this congregation be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace and in prayer?

**We do so promise.**

May the Almighty and Everlasting God, who has caused all of us to be reborn by Water and the Spirit, and has forgiven us all our sins, strengthen and preserve us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another using these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.*



**THE LITANY** (*Sung using the same inflections as the leader.*)

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

O Christ, hear us. **Hear us, good Lord.**

God, the Father in heaven, **Have mercy on us.**

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

God, the Holy Spirit, **Have mercy on us.**

Be gracious to us, **Spare us, good Lord.**

From all sin, evil, and everlasting death, **Spare us, good Lord.**

By the mystery of your incarnation,

by your Passion and Resurrection,

by the gift of the Holy Spirit, **Help us, good Lord.**

Though unworthy, we implore you, **To hear us, Lord God.**

To rule your Church, to guide all servants of your church, **Hear us, good Lord.**

To raise up those who fall, to comfort the faint-hearted, **Hear us, good Lord.**

To help all in danger and need,

to bring reconciliation in every family, **Hear us, good Lord.**

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, **Give us your peace. Amen.**

*(We wait in silent anticipation for three loud knocks on the church door.)*

### **\*THE FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



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



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



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



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



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



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



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: stir up in your church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in Holy Baptism, that we, being wed both in body and mind, may worship you



in sincerity and truth through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is seated*

**THE LESSON .....Romans 6:1-11**

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**\*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**\*HOLY GOSPEL .....John 20:1-18**

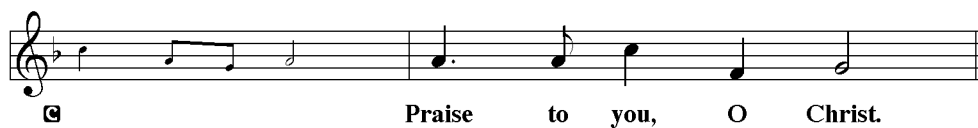
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and

said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord:’ and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



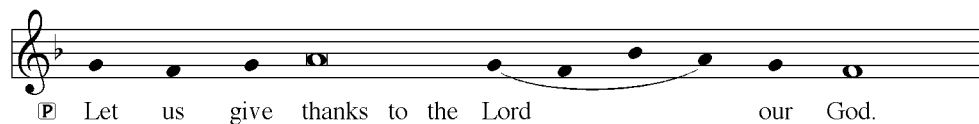
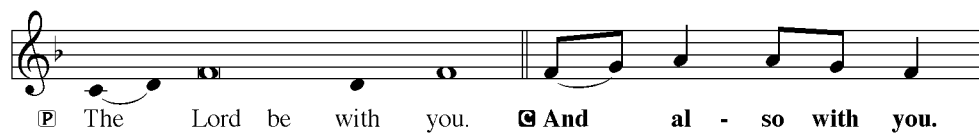
## SERMON

## ANTHEM

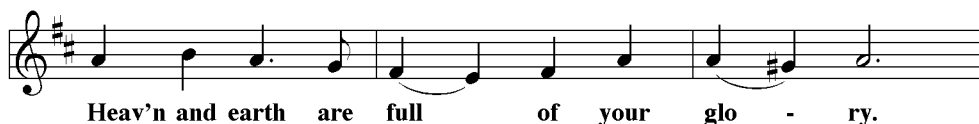
*Jubilate Deo*

W. A. Mozart

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us 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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of

your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you set your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty  
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is  
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

## \*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## \*LAMB OF GOD



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



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



Lamb of God, you take a- way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.*

*Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, generous God,  
for in this bread and cup

we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

God the Father, God the Son, and + God the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**The Strife Is O'er**

**LBW, "Green," 135**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**





**Leading Us in Worship:**

Lectors

Deb. Buckman  
Megan Louder  
Shawn Cartwright  
Ray Huff

Communion Assistant

Ray Huff

Bearer of the Light

Devin Owen

Organist

Sam Robinson

Preacher/Celebrant

Pastor Vasey

Ushers

Gary and Shelby Weber

Tonight we receive into the membership of St. Mark's Megan Louder and Shawn Cartwright. Megan comes to us by way of transfer of membership from Trinity Lutheran Church, Greencastle, PA. Shawn joins by way of Public Affirmation of Baptism. Welcome!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP:**

Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday)

Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am  
Hospitality, Fellowship Hall, 9:15 am





## EASTER LILIES ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND

### ***IN HONOR OF:***

Annika, Gabriella and Makensi by Grammy & Poppy Doebler

Our son, Andrew, by Lou Ann & Ralph Zeigler

Jane Kline by the Zeigler Family

Our sons, Riley & Stefan, by Shelby & Gary Weber

Our mothers, Ruth & Gloria, by Shelby & Gary Weber

Lily, Ezra, Asher & Ren by Deb Buckman

Grant Rees by Ruth Rees

Our grandchildren, Dallas, Finley and Alba, by Matt & Wanda Fortin

Our children, Ryan, Katlin & Sean, by Mike & Pam Jensen

### ***IN MEMORY OF:***

Harold & Joyce Hershberger by Mike & Pam Jensen

Paul E. Robinson by Samuel Robinson

Bob & Shirley Campbell by Bob Campbell & Cathy Fenderson

Edward Sr. & Mary Gair by Brenda & Ed Gair

Bill & Prudy Poff and Jack & Eleanor Whiting by Herb Poff and Steve & Candy Dewar

Jack & Margaret Dewar by Steve & Candy Dewar

Robert E. Furman by Theresa Furman

Our parents, Shirley & Bob Miller by Barbara Cooley & family

Bob & Shirley Miller by Richard Miller

Francis Bigelow by Ruth Ann Bigelow

Harry Osbaugh by Karen Mariano

Josephine & Allen Malick and Julia & Phillip Williams by Cheryl & Dave Williams

Our Loved Ones by the Newcomer Family

My wife, Charlotte Reitz by Richard Reitz

Our father, Ray Kinney, and our mother, Carol Smith, by Jackie & Mike Kinney

Lisa Rees and Ruth & Harry Ulmer by Ruth Rees

Jack & Doris Fortin by Matt & Wanda Fortin

Our Loved Ones by Sandy Vlahos

My husband, James Buckman by Deb Buckman

Our parents by Ray & Cindy Huff

My husband, Bob Todd, and my mother, Margaret Thoman, by Cindy Todd

Our son and brother, Peter, by Lou Ann, Ralph & Andrew Zeigler

Our Loved Ones by Lou Ann & Ralph Zeigler

Anna & Robert Kuntz, Marty Kuntz and Helen & William Kennedy by Charles & Ann Kuntz

Wilson & Emily Doebler and Jim & Jane Horner and Mary Jane Kratzer by Walter & Margie Doebler

***DONATIONS TO LOCAL HUNGER:***

To the Glory of God by Linda Rosini

In memory of Forrest & Margaret Klinger by Ron & Donna Baker

In memory of our loved ones by Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor

In memory of Bob & Shirley Campbell by their children

# The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell; the bars from  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting



vic - tor's tri - umph won! Now be the  
 le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of  
 glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry  
 heav'n's high por - tals fell. Let hymns of  
 free your ser - vants too, that we may

+



song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenum*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909  
 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1525–1594, adapt.

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