

Celebration of Ministry Retreats
Opening Service

GROW_{IN}
GRACE

PARTNERING
WITH PASTORS

April 2022
San Antonio, Texas

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Opening Service

456 | O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, whom heav'n - ly
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, the faith - ful
3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee, for thus he
4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear; a - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting!
wom - en went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.
spoke un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
came their Lord most dear and said, "My peace be with you here."



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

5 When Thomas afterwards had heard
that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
he doubted that it was the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
"my hands, my feet, my body see;
and doubt not, but believe in me."
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

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.

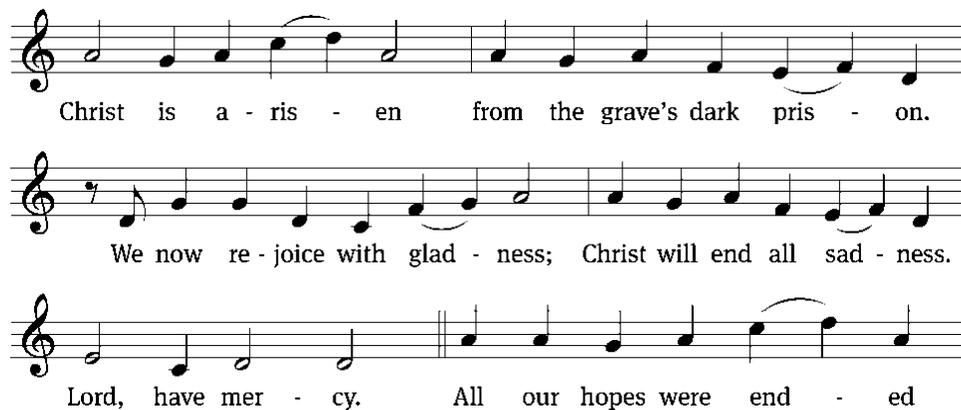
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

CW 458



Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on.
We now re - joice with glad - ness; Christ will end all sad - ness.
Lord, have mer - cy. All our hopes were end - ed

had Je - sus not as - cend - ed from the grave tri - um - phant - ly.

For this, Lord Christ, our thanks shall be. Lord, have mer - cy.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! We now re - joice with glad - ness;

Christ will end all sad - ness. Lord, have mer - cy.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Acts 5:12,17-32

After a miracle, Peter proclaims the risen Christ.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34A | Through All the Changing Scenes of Life



1 Through all the chang-ing scenes of life, in trou-ble
2 O mag-ni-fy the LORD with me, ex-alt his
3 O taste and see that he is good; ex-per-ience



and in joy, the prais-es of my God shall still my
ho-ly name; when in dis-tress to him I called, he
will de-cide how blest are they and on-ly they who



heart and tongue em-ploy. Of his de-liv-'rance I will
to my res-cue came. The hosts of God en-camp a-
in the LORD con-fide. Fear him, you saints, and you will



boast, till all that are dis-tressed, from my ex-am-ple
round the dwell-ings of the just; de-liv-'rance he af-
then have noth-ing else to fear; make serv-ing him your



com-fort take and lay their griefs to rest.
fords to all who in his prom-ise trust.
sole de-light, your wants shall be his care.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4–18

The risen Christ appears to St. John.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
“You are my Lord and God,” he cried.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! | 8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
and yet whose faith has constant been;
in life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
|---|---|

Gospel

John 20:19–31

Jesus appears to the disciples and then to Thomas.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

All sing:

- 9 On this most holy day of days
to God your hearts and voices raise
in laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Be seated

Sermon

Prof. Bradley Wordell

Based upon Psalm 34

I Will Teach You the Fear of the Lord

Stand

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will—false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan’s lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel’s free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, “He is risen!” As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tune: WEBB



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Tune: HAMBURG



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled



cross to bleed and die, in per-fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per-fect love will

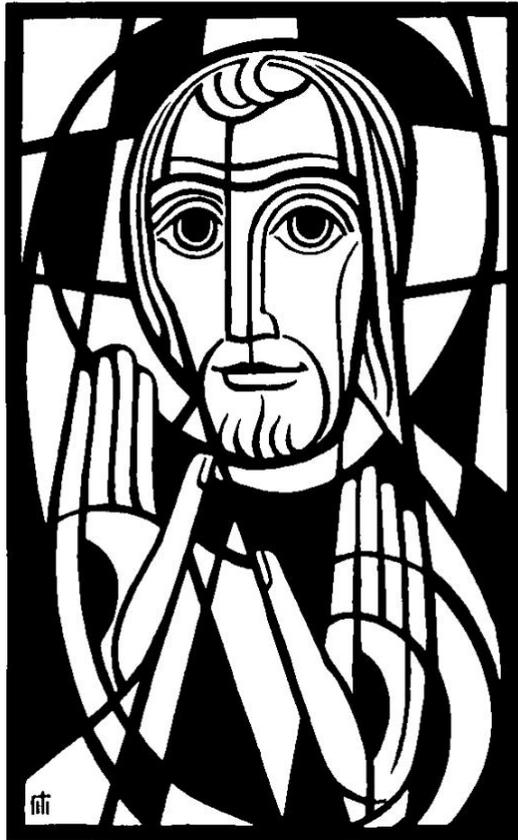


took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution

Approach the altar by the center aisle. Line up in tables to the right and left of the altar.



439 | Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of - fens -
 2 No son of man could con - quer death, such ru - in sin
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, his peo - ple to
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death



es giv - en; but now at God's right hand he stands
 had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
 de - liv - er; de - stroy - ing sin, he took the crown
 con - tend - ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,



and brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 and there - fore death had brought us in - to bond - age
 from death's pale brow for - ev - er. Stripped of pow'r, no
 the reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture



joy - ful be and sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 from of old and ev - er grew more strong and bold
 more it reigns; an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
 plain - ly saith that death is swal - lowed up by death;



loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 and held us as its cap - tive. Al - le - lu - ia!
 its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dis - graced, it lies de - feat - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 whom God so freely gave us;
 he died on the accursèd tree—
 so strong his love—to save us.
 See, his blood now marks our door;
 faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 and Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival
 to which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is himself the joy of all,
 the sun that warms and lights us.
 Now his grace to us imparts
 eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 the night of sin is ended. Alleluia.

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
 on Christ, the bread of heaven;
 the Word of grace has purged away
 the old and evil leaven.
 Christ alone our souls will feed;
 he is our meat and drink indeed;
 faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

675 | At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
 You have conquered in the fight,
 you have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 now no more the grave enthrall;
 you have opened paradise,
 and your saints in you shall rise.
 Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days,
 Three in One, your name we praise.
 Alleluia

BLESSED
 ARE THOSE WHO HAVE
 NOT SEEN
 † AND YET HAVE †
 BELIEVED

668 | Jesus Comes Today with Healing



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, knock - ing at my
 2 Christ him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, gives him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing in this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour — in this or - di - nar - y sign.



He him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, and I hear his
 gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, and the cup, the
 ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, who to bit - ter
 On my tongue his pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept his



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken of his sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing that I taste his love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 whose own feast of love I savor,
 bidden by his gracious call.
 Wedding garments he provides me,
 with a robe of white he hides me,
 fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,
 comfort in my tribulation,
 balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
 cleanses me from sin and error,
 makes my wounded spirit whole.

As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.
 Go † in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

461 | He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
 the gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
and Satan's arrows broken lie,
 destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
 O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious,
rising glorious,
 life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

Service Participants

Preacher

Bradley Wordell, Mequon, WI

Keyboard

Aaron Christie, Mequon, WI
Michelle Mayer, San Antonio, TX

Acknowledgments

We thank Our Savior, San Antonio, and CrossLife Church, Pflugerville, for the use of their communion ware and altar cross.

Setting Three from Christian Worship

Christ Is Arisen Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

Psalm 34A Tune: © 2021 Dale A. Witte, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.

Holy, Holy, Holy Text: Michael D. Schultz © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House.

O Christ, Lamb of God Text: Michael D. Schultz © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House.

Jesus Comes Today with Healing Text: translation © 2003 David W. Rogner.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714730