

# *7th Sunday of Easter*

*May 16, 2021*



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Welcome! The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

This is a special bulletin for Grace Lutheran Church. We have closed the Sanctuary to the general public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. This bulletin is designed to be used at home by anyone who is baptized serving as the Worship Leader. If you use this bulletin for worship, either by itself or alongside our service on YouTube, please fill out the Attendance Record Form on our website: [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com)

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Worship Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Worship Leader: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the worship leader gives thanks.*

Worship Leader: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

vs. 1 & 5



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
- 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
- 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
- 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6  
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Worship Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

**Congregation: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our**

**Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

Introduction to the Lesson: *In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas' treachery and death.*

Reader: <sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 1**

*The psalm for the day is read responsively.*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**SECOND READING                      1 John 5:9-13**

Introduction to the Lesson: *God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

Reader: <sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

<sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

**GOSPEL LESSON                      John 17:6-19**

Introduction to the Gospel: *In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to John in the 17th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Worship Leader: [Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

*After the reading...*

Worship Leader: The gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**GOSPEL MESSAGE—From Sundays and Seasons**

### **The Power of Prayer**

Here in the Gospel of John, at the close of Jesus’ final speech to his disciples before he is arrested and crucified, he engages in a remarkable, even visceral act of love. He prays for his disciples.

When we pray, God already knows, of course, what is on our hearts. We are not bringing God any new information. But when we pray, we bring ourselves uniquely into God’s presence. In prayer, we bring to God our deepest and most intimate needs, and we make ourselves vulnerable in a way we seldom allow in day-to-day life. This vulnerability is what strengthens our relationship with God, as any repeated physical actions strengthen our muscles. But prayer is not only for our own needs. Unexpectedly perhaps, it is intercessory prayer that nourishes us like nothing else. When we petition God on behalf of another person, we go outside ourselves, becoming other-focused in the way Jesus so fervently invites us to be in his own prayer in today’s gospel passage.

In this moment so close to the end of his life, Jesus prays not for himself but for his disciples, whom he loves: “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. . . . But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves” (John 17:11, 13).

How extraordinarily powerful it is to hear someone pray for you! As Jesus prepares to send his disciples out to preach and teach and baptize in his name, he equips them with the tool that strengthens our every act: he prays. He names them, along with his gratitude and his concerns, before God. That is a gift the disciples will be able to carry with them wherever they go.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

vs. 1 & 4



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

## **CREED**

Worship Leader: Let us confess our common faith with the ancient words of the Nicene Creed.

**Congregation: 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**

Worship Leader: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**



Prayer Leader: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (*especially* Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George Clark, Jill Grote, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia & family, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Iris Valentin, Deacon Connie Puls, Joan Keeton, Steve Davis, Rose Marie Piff, Gary Mostrum, Vicki Kennedy, Gail Elder, Valerie Smutko, Jason Meadows, Lisa & Ty Hauschild, Bishop Pedro Suarez, Pastor Courtney Erzkus and family, Ralph Burson, Ellen Duncan, Luanne Sekel, Lorraine Chavez, Pat Fredell, Skylar Favos, Audrey Fisher, the family and friends of Kelly Sullivan, and all those suffering from natural disasters [including all those affected by COVID-19 and severe winter weather], from violence, & terror, and the family & friends of the 490,000+ people in the US & the 2,400,000+ people worldwide who have died from COVID-19). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints (*especially those within our Memorial Garden.*) Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

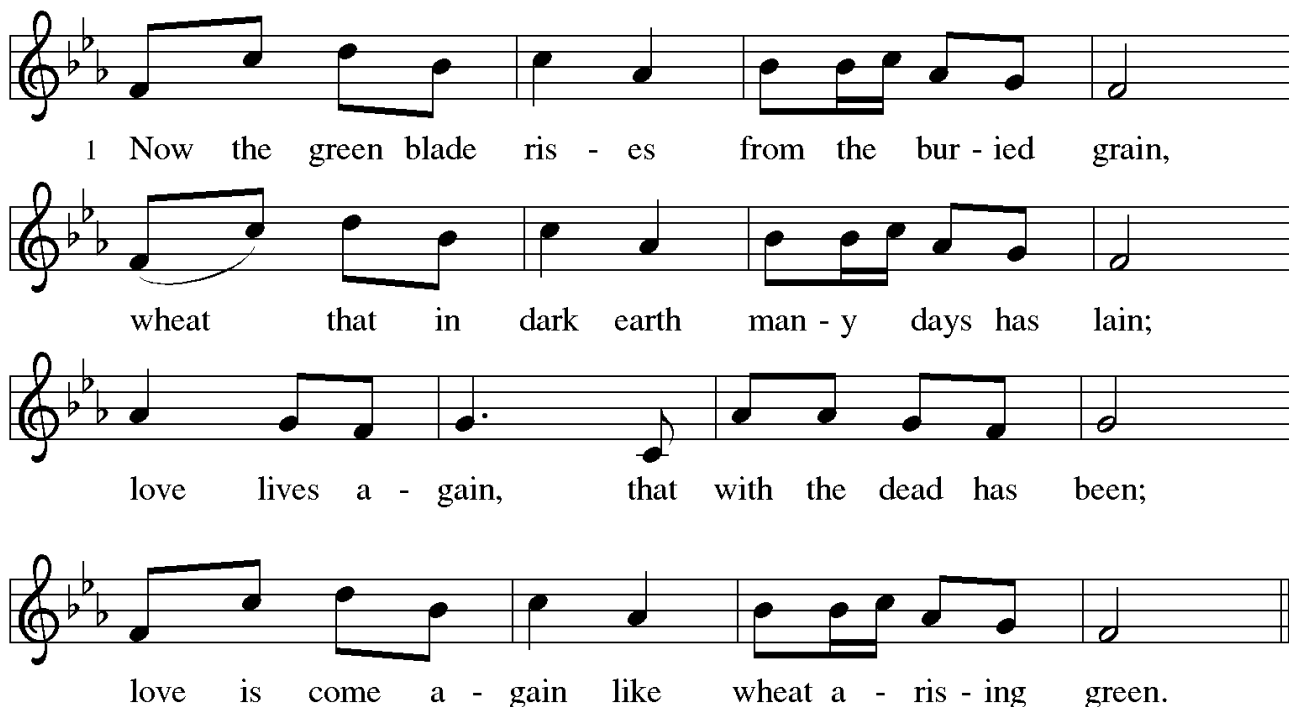
**Congregation: Amen.**

## OFFERING

Offerings to the mission and ministry of Grace can be made online at [GraceCLW.com](http://GraceCLW.com) (look for the "Donate" button), or by mailing a check to Grace Lutheran Church, 1812 N. Highland Ave. Clearwater FL 33755. Thank you for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. **You can also fill out your attendance form on our website.**

## OFFERTORY

### *Now the Green Blade Rises vs. 1*



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain, wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain; love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been; love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green."

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**Congregation: we give you thanks and praise.**

Worship Leader: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Worship Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation: 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.**

### BLESSING

Worship Leader: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#### *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

vs 1 & 4



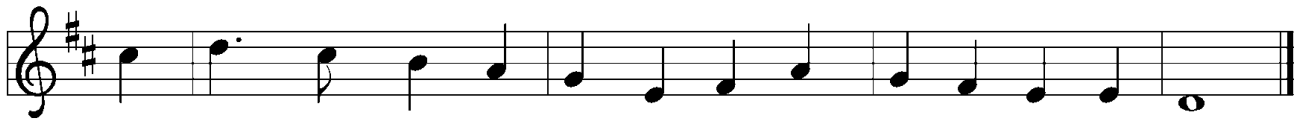
- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
- 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4  
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

## DISMISSAL

Worship Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Congregation: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Share the Good News. Alleluia!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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