

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
at Swan's Trail

Sunday, April 21, 2024

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

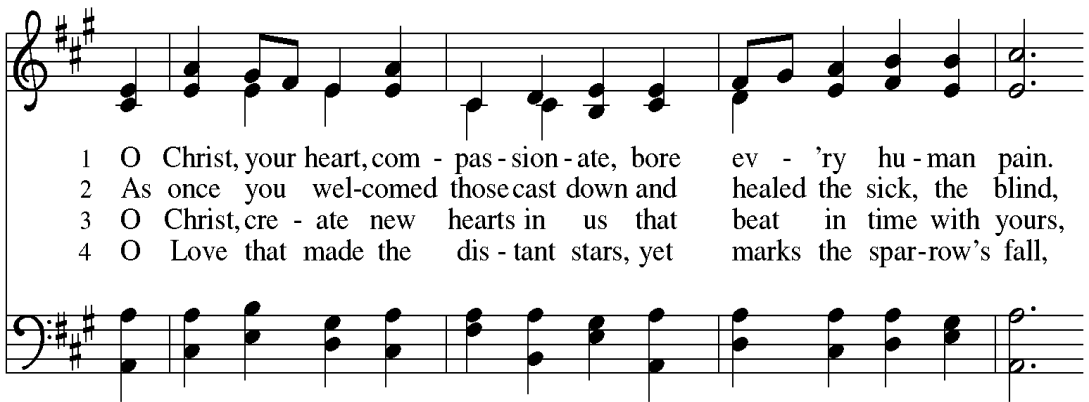


REVEREND JOSEPH PAXTON (PASTOR JP)  
MUSIC DIRECTOR BONNIE THORESON

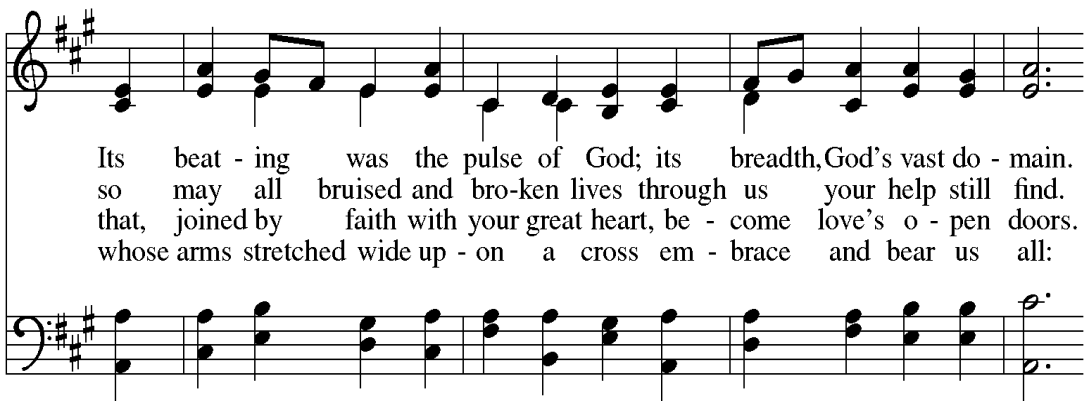
\*Please stand as you are able

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

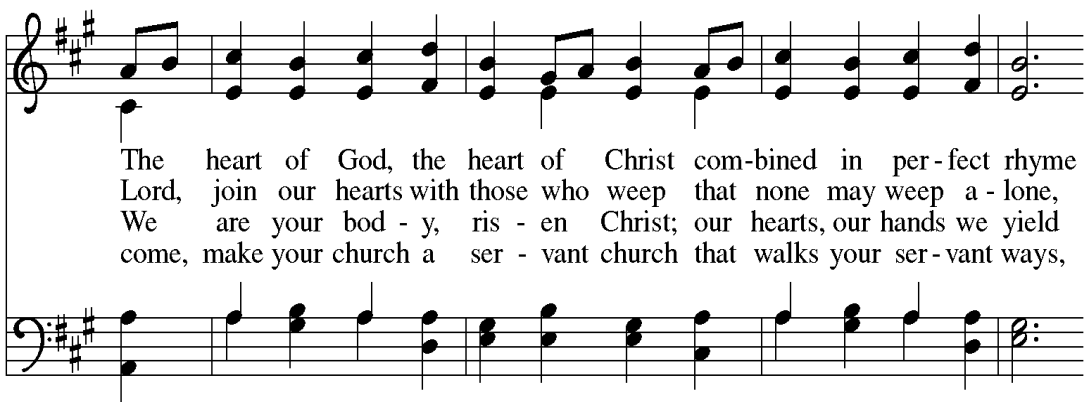
**“O CHRIST, YOUR HEART, COMPASSIONATE”**



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,

to write God's love in hu-man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

**GREETING**

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
**P** This is the day the Lord has made.  
**C** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**“YOURS, LORD, IS THE GLORY”**

- 1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;  
 2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;  
 3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;  
 4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.

yours, Lord, now and al - ways.  
 yours, Lord, now and al - ways. A - men, a - men.  
 all, Lord, I sur - ren - der.  
 Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **FIRST LESSON ACTS 4:5-12**

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

A reading from Acts:

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 23 (Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear  
no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## SECOND LESSON 1 JOHN 3:16-24

*Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by

this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of God, the Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH”**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

**HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 10:11-18**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

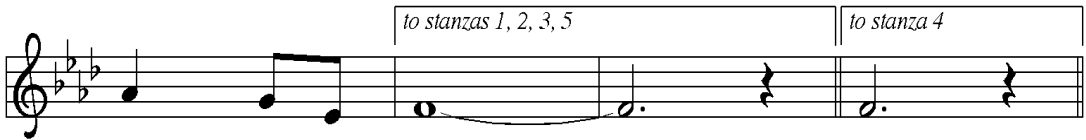
“SHEPHERD ME, O GOD”

*Refrain*

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I  
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
 lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my  
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.


Verses 4 and 5 next page

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

*Refrain*



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

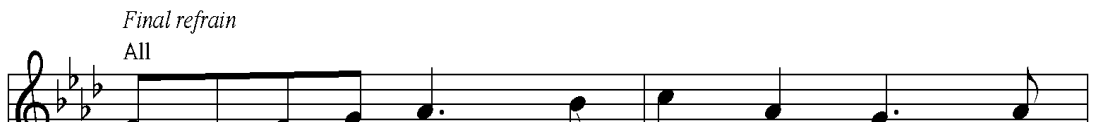


5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;




I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

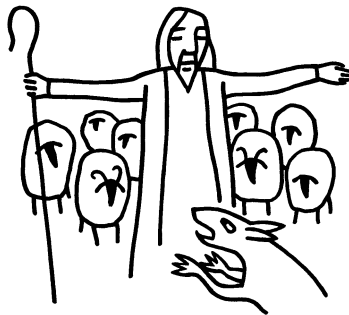
*Final refrain*  
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.





## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **NICENE CREED**

**P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**ALL** 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.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*(Between the first and last prayer, congregation please share in reading the prayers)*

**P** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, we pray for all those places in the world where there is war and violence. Protect all who are in harm's way and comfort those who mourn. Give wisdom to those in authority, that they put an end to conflict, and work towards peace. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

**C     hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

### SHARING OF PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another in whatever way you feel most comfortable.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING

*Offering plates are available to accept your gifts at the front windows of the sanctuary.*

### \*OFFERTORY

### “IN THE SINGING”



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C **Amen.**

## CELEBRATING THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for with you as our shepherd, we need nothing more. At the dawn of time you spread creation out like a banquet and in love brought forth all life on the earth. Through your prophets you promised a good shepherd, who though rejected, would become the cornerstone of salvation for every creature under heaven. Your promise has been fulfilled in your Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who showed us the fullness of love that lays down even its own life for others. He was crucified, but you raised him from the dead, and through his love we have the boldness to approach you. Because he abides in us, and in all who listen to his voice, our cup overflows with goodness and love and our feet find safe paths leading to your house where we will live forever. And so, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy, are you, God of power and might;**

**Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P 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, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for 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 this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, and his glorious resurrection and ascension, we pray for his coming again even as we cry: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

**C Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Empower us by that same Spirit, to love and forgive, that our lives may anticipate that day when you will make all things new. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.

**C Amen! Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**C Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P The risen Christ is in our midst, so with Christ we pray.

**C 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

# COMMUNION HYMN "THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS"

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

Verses 5 and 6 next page

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

### **\*GOD'S BLESSING**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope† bless you now and always.

**C** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

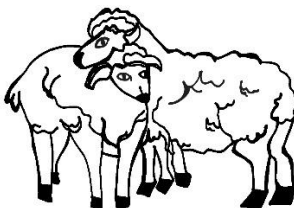
**P** Let us pray. (*Brief silence is kept*) Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C** **Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** And now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor, and grant you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

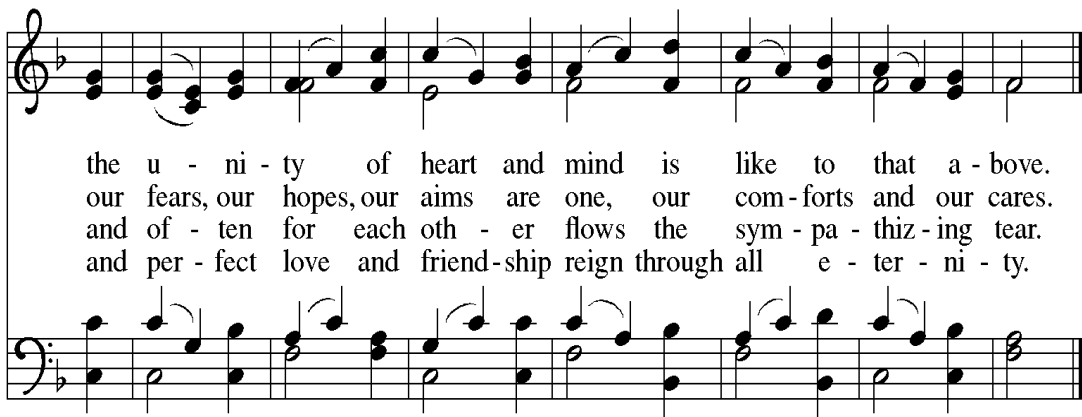


# SENDING HYMN

# “BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS”



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!