



# WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York  
April 7, 2024  
Service of Worship 10:00 a.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
The Second Sunday of Easter



**WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

*(Let the notes of our Opening Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together. Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)*

**Prelude** "Variations on Vruuchten" Austin C. Lovelace

**Opening Sentences** Leah Threatte

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! *Luke 24:34*  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**



**Opening Hymn #255** O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

**Call to Confession** Leah Threatte

The Lord says: Come. *Revelation 22:17*  
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.



**Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God,**  
in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.  
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We overlook the poor and the hungry,  
and pass by those who mourn;  
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,  
and indifferent to calls for peace;  
we despise the weak,  
and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy.  
Help us to trust your power  
to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the joy of life abundant  
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

**Declaration of Forgiveness** *Acts 2:17, 21*

Hear the good news of God's promise:  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Passing The Peace** Leah Threatte

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

Living God, with joy we celebrate  
the presence of your risen Word.  
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit  
so that we may proclaim the good news  
of eternal and abundant life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Lesson**

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Special Music**

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)  
Rachel Balbi, Soloist**Scripture Lesson**

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer Hymn #306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verses 1 & 2)

**Gathering Celebrations and Concerns**

Prayer Hymn #306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verses 3 & 1)



**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**



**Invitation to the Offering**

Leah Threatte



**Hymn #607**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We remember that on the eve of his death,  
Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation.  
And while sharing the ancient story of freedom,  
he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.

We remember that at that table he took the bread,  
gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:  
This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying:  
This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood.  
Whenever you drink it remember me, and look toward the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

And so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.  
We share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Let us pray: God of Life, send your Spirit upon us as we share this meal,  
infuse this bread and this juice with the Spirit's power,  
As we eat and drink may we feel the fire of hope blaze in our hearts,  
and the joy of the empty tomb dance in our souls.  
Christ who died is now alive!  
**Alleluia! Amen.**



### SHARING BREAD AND CUP

**Communion Hymn #512**

The Bread and the Wine Are Here



### PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

### WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



**Closing Hymn #536**

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

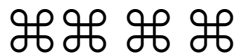
**Benediction**

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

**Postlude**

"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)



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## 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

### Session

*Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session*

2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles

### Deacons

*Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators*

2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

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2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Dixon Southworth, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

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# O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing 255

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

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing with  
le - lu - ia!  
2 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a -  
3 When Thom - as first the ti - dings heard, how  
4 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see; and

heaven - ly hosts to Christ our King; to - day the grave has  
mong them came their Lord most dear, and said, "My peace be  
they had seen the ris - en Lord, he doubt - ed the dis -  
look up - on my hands, my feet; not faith - less, but be -

lost its sting!  
with you here."  
ci - ples' word. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
liev - ing be."

- 5 No longer Thomas then denied;  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 How blest are they who have not seen,  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

These stanzas from a 19th-century translation of a longer 15th-century Latin text are the continuation of hymn no. 235 and are based on the traditional gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter. They are sung to a 15th-century French tune adapted for church use.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2 Be - fore our \*Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual  
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us  
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be  
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.  
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

\*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.



607

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551  
Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH  
LM

SERVICE MUSIC

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

## 512 The Bread and the Wine Are Here

The bread and the wine are here; (The feast is here.)

come now, all who hun - ger and thirst.

Come need - y; come now with - out fear.

Drink joy, as the last be - come first! (The last are first!)

*Refrain*

Come in; sit down; there's room at the ta - ble;

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system has the lyrics 'The bread and the wine are here; (The feast is here.)'. The second system has 'come now, all who hun - ger and thirst.'. The third system has 'Come need - y; come now with - out fear.'. The fourth system has 'Drink joy, as the last be - come first! (The last are first!)'. Below the fourth system is a 'Refrain' section with the lyrics 'Come in; sit down; there's room at the ta - ble;'. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

There are many dimensions to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and this song focuses on the important theme of hospitality, with reference to Jesus' table ministry and his teaching about the reversal of social distinctions (Matthew 19:30/Mark 10:31/Luke 13:30/Matthew 20:16).

LORD'S SUPPER

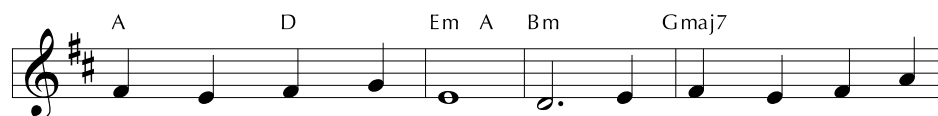
en - joy the feast love has spread for you.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'LORD'S SUPPER'. It consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are: 'en - joy the feast love has spread for you.' The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## 536 Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen



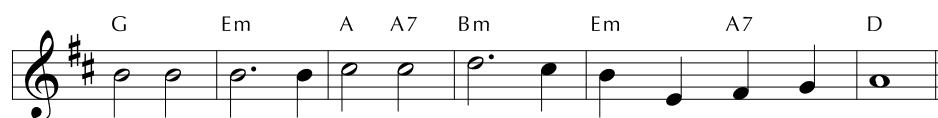
1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this  
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter  
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has  
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age



meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -  
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are  
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing  
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -



vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -  
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -  
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -  
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The second line of the first stanza shows that this hymn is meant for use in the context of the Lord's Supper, but the last stanza further clarifies its special purpose as a sending hymn celebrating the values guiding the work of the church in the world: service, courage, mercy.