

 **ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Welcome!

April 28, 2024

***Fifth Sunday
of Easter***

Presider and Preacher

The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia,

Interim Priest

Eucharistic Minister

Keith Rogers

Lector

Lloyd Riches

Minister of Music

James Jelasic

Cantors

Stacy Sage & Ginny Winn

Violin

Bill McAdams



Thanksgivings

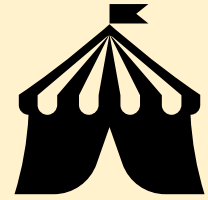
Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. You set us free when we are hard-pressed; you have mercy on us and hear us when we call upon you. We know that we are loved by you and called your children, and we thank you. We thank you for the faithful worshipping community of St. James and for the ways that we gather. We thank you for those who give of their treasure, time, and talent. Thank you for the gift of community. Amen.



Announcements



FRANCIS FEST is coming May 4!



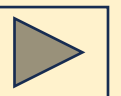
Donate, volunteer, and purchase scrip!

Visit www.stjameskent.org/francis-fest.html

Come downstairs for **coffee chat** following the service
and stay for **Bible study!**

Join the **WONDERFUL WEEDERS!**

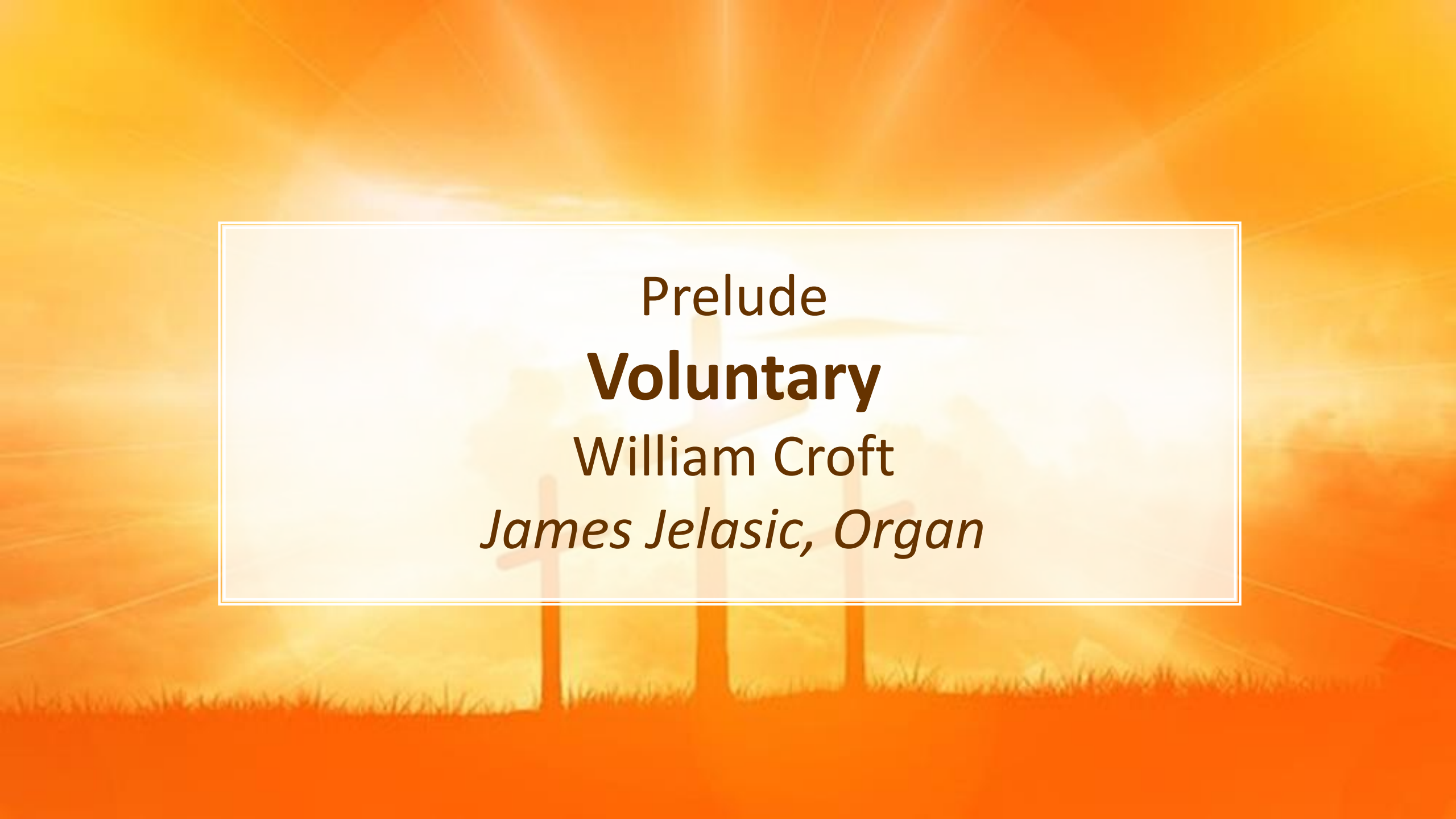
Contact Ann Aarhus for info.




Prayer List

Erin Osbye, Alan Alstad, Liam Figg, Randall Daniioth, the McLaughlan family, Aidan Dike, Bailey Aylward, Sharon Rockwell, David Daniioth, Anne Richardson, Sister D. Bracher, Chris Huff, Cliff Sipe, James Sipe, Tom Soran, Lillie Makumbi, Jeremy Bacon & Mother Ruth Anne, Darla Reed, Doreen Miller, Olivia & Luke Eldredge, Marcia Wesley, Ellen Flick, Cathryn Wilkerson, Kathy Scholl, and Dorothy Yantis; repose of the soul of Jack McLaughlan.





Prelude
Voluntary
William Croft
James Jelasic, Organ

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-orange sunset sky with rays of light. In the foreground, three simple wooden crosses stand on a grassy field. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Welcoming Hymn
In Christ There Is No East or West
1982 Hymnal 529, v. 1-3

Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
what e'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Glory to God/*Gloria in Excelsis*
1982 Hymnal S#277

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;**

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life:
Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ
to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may
steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to

eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson: A reading from Acts 8:26-40.

All scriptures are from the NRSV.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning

home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the

slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going

along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as

he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response: A reading from Psalm 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

**I will perform my vows in the presence of
those who worship him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *

he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the Lord'S for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet
unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson: A reading from 1 John 4:7-21.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved,

since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and

they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not

reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John 15:1-8.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**


”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I

abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-orange sunset or sunrise over a field. Three wooden crosses of varying heights are silhouetted against the bright sky. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Sermon
The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia
Interim Priest

We pause for reflection...



The 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:

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.
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.

The Peace

Presider

**The Peace of the Lord
be with you!**

People

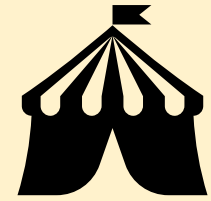
And also with you!



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Offertory Sentence

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Offertory

He Started the Whole World Singing

William & Gloria Gaither/
Chris Waters/Bock

Chris Waters/Bock
James Jelasic, Piano

Text to Give (253) 303-5850

<https://stjameskent.breezechms.com/give/online>

The Doxology

1982 Hymnal #380 (v. 3)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

(Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP p. 372)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus* 1982 Hymnal S124

**† Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his

disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." †

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." †

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**All We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember our Bishop Provisional Melissa Skelton and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. James and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is
sacrificed for us;

**People Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia!**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ
died for you, and feed on him in your
hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns
Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid

1982 Hymnal 500

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

1982 Hymnal 448


Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing



The background of the slide features a warm, golden-orange sunset over a field. In the foreground, three simple wooden crosses are visible, standing on a grassy area. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and spiritual.

Sending Hymn
**God Is Love,
Let Heaven Adore Him**

1982 Hymnal 379, v. 1-3

Hymn permission used by Rite Song, a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

God is Love, let heaven adore him;

God is Love, let earth rejoice;

let creation sing before him

and exalt him with one voice.

God who laid the earth's foundation,

God who spread the heaven above,

God who breathes through all creation:

God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and Love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace:
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
every child of every race.


And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the
name of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia, Alleluia!



Postlude
**God Is Love,
Let Heaven Adore Him**
James Jelasic, Piano