

The Second Sunday of Eastertide

New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ



1070 Church Road † East Greenville PA 18041
www.newgoshucc.org † 215-679-2041

"Sharing the light, faith and love of Jesus with all people."

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m. In person and Livestream Worship in Sanctuary

Welcome to New Goshenhoppen Church!

We welcome the Upper Perkiomen High School "A" Choir to New Goshenhoppen Church on this Lord's Day. It is a tradition for well over 50 years that the "A" Choir makes visits to the local congregations of the Valley on Sunday morning for worship sharing music to inspire the heart. Two years ago, when the choir visited, several of the graduating seniors joined in the effort of washing the pipes of the pipe organ which was under renovation at the time. We have also hosted the Valley Choral Society for Christmas 2023 in a joint concert with the "A" Choir that filled the Sanctuary to capacity. Thank you for sharing the gift of music with us today!

+ + + + +

In a 2015 interview, the Hungarian composer György Kurtág made a remarkable confession about his struggle to reconcile his atheism with the beauty of Bach's music:

Consciously, I am certainly an atheist, but I do not say it out loud, because if I look at Bach, I cannot be an atheist. Then I have to accept the way he believed. His music never stops praying. And how can I get closer if I look at him from the outside? I do not believe in the Gospels in a literal fashion, but a Bach fugue has the Crucifixion in it—as the nails are being driven in. In music, I am always looking for the hammering of the nails ... That is a dual vision. My brain rejects it all. But my brain isn't worth much.

As we hear the music this day, may your heart open to hear the beauty of God's heart singing over you!

We Praise and Confess
The * invites you to rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

Sanctus – Charles Gounod
Susan Hemperly, piano and Dr. Williams, organ

Chiming of the Trinity

Call to Worship

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD!

**Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens!**

² Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!

**⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!**

**⁵ Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD!¹

*Entrance Hymn: No. 260

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus – Hyfrydol

*Greeting

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

And also with you.

Invitation to Confession

¹ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

Prayer of Confession

Lord God,

You made the hearts of the disciples glad with the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus, your Son. Forgive us because, like them, we find the truth of Easter so hard to believe; forgive us that we are so easily downcast, and given to despair; forgive us that, although we claim to live by the resurrection faith, we so often appear to believe that suffering is simply a tragedy and that death is the end; forgive us that we take so much convincing of the hope that you give the world.

Silence

Come to us, Lord God, in the power of the risen Christ. Take away our crippling doubts and fears and through your Holy Spirit bring us to life in your service; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Christ has died.

Christ is risen!

Because of this, we are forgiven,

we are set free to live and love in the way of Christ.

Alleluia!

Praise

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall show forth Your praise.



Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-thers; you are



wor-thy of praise; glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you for the ra-di-ance



of your ho-ly Name; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.



Glo-ry to you in the splen-dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your



ma-jes-ty, glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you, seat-ed be-tween the



Cher-u-bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.



Glo-ry to you, be-hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of



hea-ven, glo-ry to you. Glo-ry to you, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly



Spir-it; we will praise you and high-ly ex-alt you for ev-er.

*Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We Hear and Respond

From a Book Prophecy

Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." ²

The Word of the Lord, the Light of the World.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music *The "A" Choir of Upper Perkiomen High School*

Kyrie – John Leavit

Hallelujah, Amen – G.F. Handel

*Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

St. John 20:19-31

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Savior.

² *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. ³

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Ministry of Music

Rise and Shine – GoKidz Asia
The Children of New Goshenhoppen

³ *Revised Common Lectionary* (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2009).

A Word for the Day The Children, "A" Choir, and Dr. Williams
If You're Happy and You Know It...

Ministry of Music *The "A" Choir of Upper Perkiomen High School*

All Things New – Elaine Hagenberg
Will the Circle Be Unbroken – arr. David Moore

Morning Prayer
Our Savior's Prayer
[Sung – Music in the Front Cover of the Hymnal]

Welcome and Announcement
Honoring Rev'd & Mrs. Kern

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings
Give via PayPal, a Credit Card, or Debit Card by
scanning the QR code with your camera



Offertory

*Festival Doxology

Lasst Uns Erfruen

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

*Offertory Prayer

Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning

1 Christ tri-um-phant, ev - er reign-ing, Sav-ior, Mas-ter, King!

2 Word in-car-nate, truth re-veal-ing, Son of Man on earth!

3 Suffer-ing ser-vant, scorned, ill-treat-ed, vic-tim cru-ci-fied!

4 Priest-ly king, en-throned for ev-er high in heaven a-bove!

5 So, our hearts and voic-es rais-ing through the a-ges long,

Lord of heaven, our lives sus-tain-ing, hear us as we sing:
 power and maj-es-ty con-ceal-ing by your hum-ble birth:
 death is through the cross de-feat-ed, sin-ners jus-ti-fied:
 sin and death and hell shall nev-er sti-fle hymns of love:
 cease-less-ly up-on you gaz-ing, this shall be our song:

Yours the glo-ry and the crown, the high re-nown, the e-ter-nal name.

WORDS: Michael Saward (1932-)
 MUSIC: John Barnard (1948-)

GUITING POWER
 8.5.8.5.7.9.

***We go. . .
To share the light, faith and love of Jesus
with all people!***

*Blessing	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i> – Peter Lutkin The "A" Choir and Alumni
*Dismissal	Dr. Williams
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune for a Festive Day</i> – David German

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We celebrate the Rev'd Erick and Dona Kern's 50th Wedding Anniversary this morning and Rev'd Erick's 45th Anniversary of his Ordination in the United Church of Christ this morning. A gift from the Consistory on behalf of the congregation is presented to them today to enjoy their celebrations.

APRIL 27, 2025

The People of New Goshenhoppen, Ministers
Rev. Dr. David A. Williams, Senior Pastor and Organist
Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens, Pastor Emerita
Rev. Erick Kern, Associate Pastor
Rev. Elaine Ely, Minister of Grief Support
Kelly Johannsen, Lay Minister of Visitation
Beverly A. Benner, Director of Christian Education
Susan Hemperly, Senior Choir Accompanist
Cindy Biehn, Administrative Secretary
Office Phone: 215-679-2041 Email: office@newgoshucc.org
Visit us online at www.newgoshucc.org

WELCOME VISITORS ~ we're glad you are joining us for worship!

WiFi PASSWORD: Network: NewGoshGuest, password: **wearethechurch**

NEXT SUNDAY: Please read Acts 9:1-6 and St. John 21:1-19.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS are located in the vestibule at the Fellowship Hall side entrance and at the elevator entrance on the lower level. There is no charge for the booklets.

FIRST MONDAY MEAL: Please join us Monday, May 5 for another delicious First Monday Meal. The menu at New Gosh is Swedish meatballs over noodles, green beans, bread and dessert...prepared and served by Tribe Nutrition. The meal is *take out* style and distribution will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. OR, if you prefer to *dine in*, Pennsburg UCC (hosted by St. Philip Neri) will be offering spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll, and a sweet treat. Dinner is served there, promptly at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!!

LADIES TEA PARTY: Please join us Saturday, May 10th at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for "Ladies Tea." Bring your favorite teacup, if you wish. Join in the fun and fellowship as we enjoy various teas, tea sandwiches, soup, and sweets. Tickets are required. Price is \$11.00 per person age 12 and older, (under 12 are free). Tickets are available to purchase from Sandy Hardy, Delores Schuler, Amy Treichler or the Church Office. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, May 4th.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The church is grateful for financial gifts received in the name of loved ones and friends.

GENERAL FUND

In loving memory of my husband, Neil H. Gery

by Linda

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES COMMITTEE SPRING/MOTHER'S DAY

FUNDRAISER: OMC is taking orders for Wendy's Flowers Gift Cards. Each gift card costs \$25.00 and is redeemable at Wendy's Flowers locations in Gilbertsville and Barto. Gift cards may be used to purchase any item(s) in Wendy's shops (gifts, vegetable plants, flowers, etc.) with a total value of \$25.00. Gift cards are valid until May 2030. Outdoor Ministries receives \$5.00 for each gift card purchased. Orders may be placed on the forms available on the table in the Social Room or the table outside Fellowship Hall. Or contact Delores Schuler, Debra Brauner, Lois Anastas, Gail Gerhard, or Donna Fried to place an order. The deadline to order a gift card is April 27th. Gift cards may be paid for and picked up on Sunday, May 4th after worship services. Questions? Ask any of the people listed above. *Why not buy two gift cards? Buy one for a special person and one for yourself!*

YOU'RE INVITED! A Family Fun & Learning Fair for all ages (young children to grandparents) will be held at Dock Mennonite Academy EC-8 Campus, 420 Godshall Road, Souderton, PA, on Saturday, May 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Indoors & outdoors, rain or shine. Come and leave anytime. Have a blast with interactive games and fun learning stations. FREE! Sponsored by The Worm Project.

CEMETERY WORKDAYS: The following are the dates for cemetery workdays: May 24, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, and Sept. 27. We begin the morning with a cup of coffee and a planning meeting at 7:30 a.m. with work commencing at 8:00 a.m. We appreciate any time your schedule will allow. *More helpers make tasks easier.*



OUR 300TH ANNIVERSARY IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

The Anniversary Committee wants a logo to recognize our long history. So, of course, there is a contest! The winning emblem will appear on a variety of anniversary items including golf shirts, tees and sweatshirts, books and other commemorative items any New Gosher may want

to own. Ideas suggested for inclusion are our name, the church building's facade, 1727-2027, 300th Anniversary, and "That they may all be one." Use these ideas, designed in any combination or layout. Perhaps you have a different idea... Be creative! Submit it! All entries must be your original artwork and include your name and phone number. Entries can be dropped in the box found in the Social Room and labeled "300th Contest." All entries must be received no later than Sunday, May 18, 2025. What's the prize?? A free commemorative item of the winner's choice and bragging rights!!

DRIVER and VEHICLE needed to pick up refrigerated unit for use at the Strawberry Festival. Towing vehicle needs a 2-5/16" ball size hitch and requires an electric brake controller to operate brakes on the trailer. Unit to be picked up on Thursday, June 5th and returned on Sunday, June 8th (or no later than 8:00 am on Monday). The pick-up address of this unit is in East Earl, PA. If you can help with this request, please contact Delores Schuler at 610-295-9165 or the Church Office at 215-679-2041.

THANK YOU TO THE BIBLE STUDY CLASS: We would like to thank everyone for the anniversary surprise during our last class before the summer break. The goodies (cupcakes and brownies) were a complete surprise. The cards and gift card to Longacres were both meaningful and delicious! You are so caring and a wonderful group to be associated with. As the song goes "see you in September" for the next series of Bible Studies. In His Name, Pastor Erick and Dona Kern

BULLETINS are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Tom & Elizabeth Graber; and in memory of parents, Amandus & Glenna Frank and Francis & Esther Kline by Roger Frank.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of departed loved ones by Janet & Chris Weikel.

THE FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT are presented in memory of mother, Mary A. Kline by Nancy & Mark Mullen.

THE FLOWERS BEHIND THE PULPIT are presented in memory of the birthday anniversary of husband, Bruce Butterweck by Karen and family.

ATTENDANCE: Maundy Thursday 4/17/25 – 11:00 a.m. 30; Saturday 4/19/25 – 7:00 p.m. 32; Easter Sunday 4/20/25 – 7:00 a.m. 25; 8:00 a.m. 83; 10:30 a.m. 115; Livestream (You Tube) 83. Sunday School 15.

Above is the “Live” Concurrent Household Number - (Note: “number of households” is less than “number of people”. If on average each household has two people watching, then our numbers are 2x the number of households that tuned in.)

OPERATING INCOME 4/15-4/20/25: Current & Benevolences \$9,604.50; Building, Improvement & Maintenance \$622. Monthly EFT income \$5,060.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: 73 units have responded. There is \$84,130 pledged. The amount received since 2023 is \$87,331 (including Capital Campaign memorial gifts.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS:

Year to Date Income	\$254,000.75
Less Investment Withdrawals	<u>\$44,424.00</u>
	\$209,576.75
Year to Date Expenses	\$220,093.61
Special Income	\$10,261.79
Capital Campaign Income	\$14,892.22
Special Project BIM Expenses	\$5,694.01
Meadows Paid Back Year to Date	\$12,500.00

Dr. Williams is away beginning Wednesday through next Monday. He will be visiting his cardiologist, his mother, and then playing the organ dedication service at Emanuel Church, Manchester, MI next Sunday. He served Emanuel from 2014-2017. In his absence if you need Pastoral Care, please call Rev’d Stephanie Thompson, Friedens Church, at 267-834-5305.

Sleep Out for Somebody Youth Event

WHAT: Sleep Out for Somebody Youth Event Friday, May 2 @ 6 pm - Saturday, May 3, 2025 @ 8 am.

WHERE: St. Mark's Lutheran Church 81 N. Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073

BACKGROUND: The Sleep Out for Somebody Youth Event is an educational, faith-forming and fundraising event. Youth will learn about the challenges that kids and adults face with homelessness. We are also raising money to support the Upper Perkiomen Valley Homelessness Coalition.

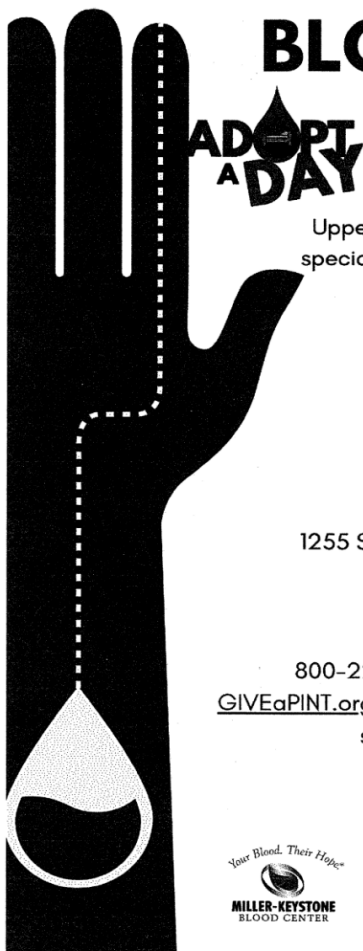
The idea is to raise both awareness and funds. The plan is to build cardboard shelters on the lawn next to the church, and sleep in them overnight. Each participant will be expected to find sponsors – but there is no minimum amount required to participate, and there is no registration fee. We are working with the Open Link, Access Services and the Homelessness Coalition to plan a program of speakers, games, activities, and a service project that will help educate youth about the reality of homelessness, but also be fun and engaging.

There is a registration flyer and an information sheet for youth leaders attached. Once folks have registered we will send a sponsor sheet.

This is the first time that we are trying something like this – so even if your youth decide not to take part, we hope you will pray for us!

Pastor Serena Sellers
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
81 N. Main Street, Pennsburg, PA 18073
215-679-9015
stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com

BLOOD DRIVE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Mobile Unit from Miller-Keystone will NOT be able to be at New Goshenhoppen UCC for our April Blood Drive. The Health and Welfare Committee feels this ministry continues to be important, so we have set up another option with Miller-Keystone Blood Center for anyone that is able and willing to still donate. From April 21 – May 3, please choose what day you could donate and which location you are able to drive to. Please refer to the flyer in the bulletin for instructions. Any questions can be directed to Sherry Peterson.



BLOOD DRIVES SAVE LIVES

ADOPT A DAY

Upper Perkiomen Valley Community is hosting a special blood drive to save lives. Our only source of blood is from volunteer donors like you.

JOIN US

April 21-May 3, 2025

MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTERS

740 Hamilton St., Suite 120 | Allentown
1255 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Ste 1300 | Allentown
1465 Valley Center Parkway | Bethlehem

Schedule your appointment by calling 800-223-6667 and mention Group ID E064 visit GIVEaPINT.org and include Group ID E064 in the notes section of the form, or scan the QR code.



1-800-B-A-DONOR | GIVEaPINT.org





MOTHER'S DAY - CARNATION PROJECT

REMEMBER MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER ON
MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 11.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor my loved one and also to encourage the good work of JULIA'S GRACE FOUNDATION (based in Royersford, PA) that helps children with cancer and their families by supporting them and providing financial assistance.

Kindly use a separate form for each carnation ordered.

This year, instead of delivering carnations to a health care facility, we wish for all women of New Goshenhoppen to be remembered.

At the conclusion of both services, every woman is invited to come to the chancel railing and receive a carnation.

___ In Honor of _____

___ In Memory of _____

Presented by _____

Relationship to you:

(Indicate Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, etc.)

Cost \$5.00 each.

Checks should be made payable to New Goshenhoppen Church.

Kindly mark the envelope "Carnation Project."

Please mail-in to the Church Office, place in the offering plate, or put in the black lock box located outside the Main Entrance door (at the elevator entrance).

Deadline for orders is Monday, May 5.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sun.	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed) – <i>Welcome the Upper Perkiomen “A” Choir</i>
	11:30 a.m.	Refreshments (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	6:00 p.m.	Friendship Committee (Heidelberg Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Ursinus Association Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Ursinus Association Meeting (Sanctuary)
Tues.	8:00 a.m.	Quilting (Pathfinder Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts (lower-level classrooms)
Sat.	10:00 a.m.	Daughters of the American Revolution (Heidelberg Room)
Sun.	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School (Christian Education building)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
	11:30 a.m.	Youth meeting/Escape Room activity

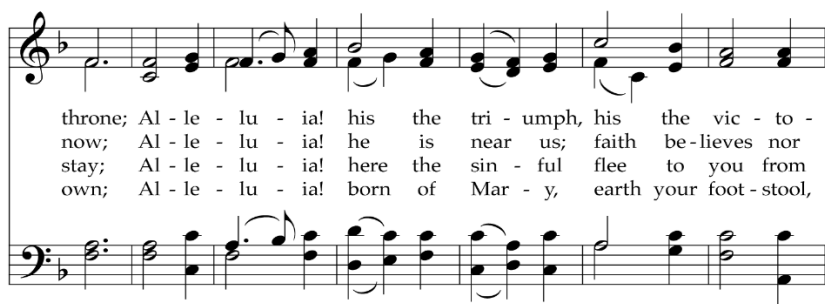
Thank you to our Service Participants

10:30 a.m.	Narthex – Soren Mugridge Roberts’ Church Office – Thomas Bancroft Elevator – Doug Atno Upper Narthex – Melissa Jamison Liturgist/Acolyte – Peter Hemperly
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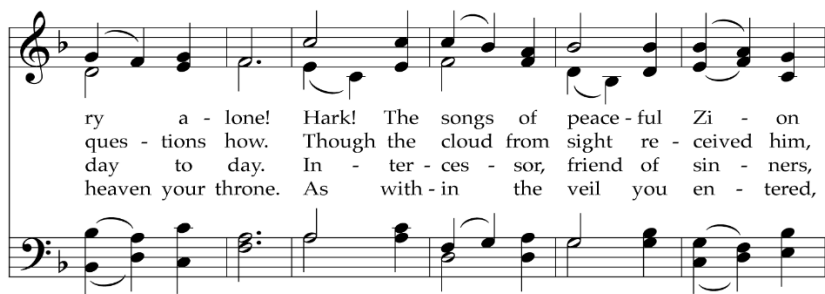
260 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we



throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -
now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lies nor
stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from
own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,



ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on
ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,
day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,

The author regarded this text as a communion hymn, a theme that seems eclipsed by the attention to Christ's exaltation, but a helpful reminder that such hymns are not always quiet and meek. This text is sung to various tunes, but this rousing Welsh one is a favorite choice.

JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN



thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the songs of
robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both

ev - every na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Sing praises
to the **LORD**,



you his faithful ones,
and give thanks
to his holy name.

PSALM 30:4, NRSV