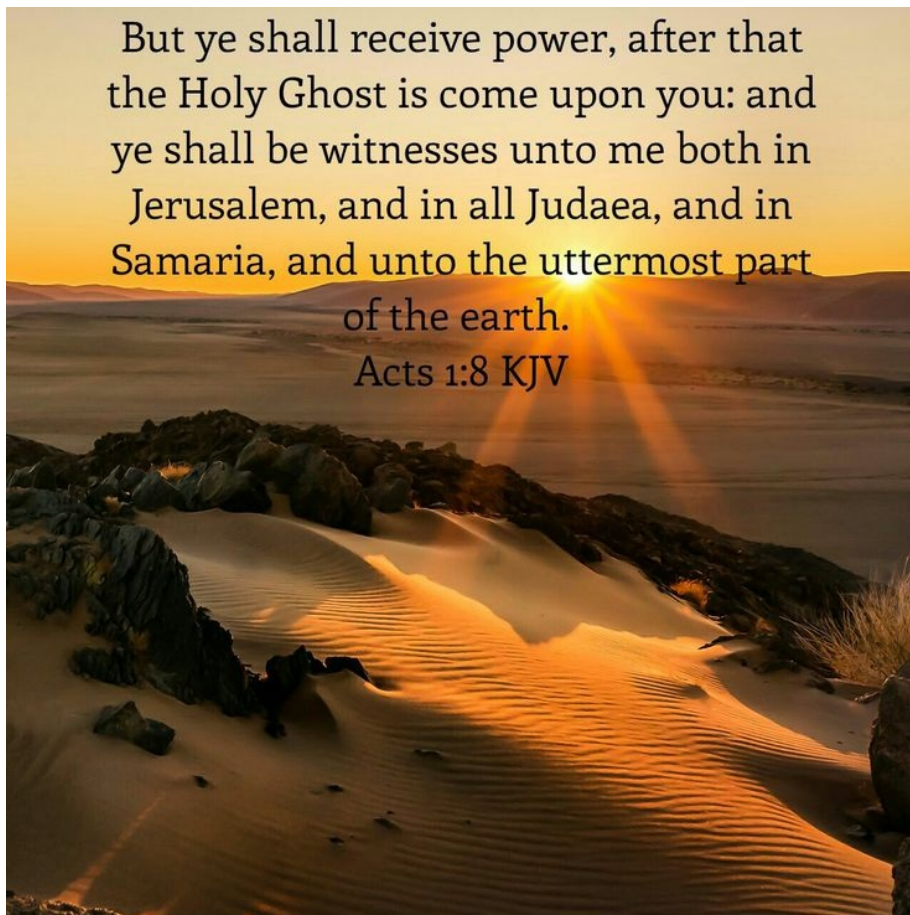


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 21, 2023
10:15am

Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*



Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.
The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table.*)

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information...

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)
Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP ⑩ (Unison)

O Lord Jesus, our King, the one who rose from the tomb and then rose into the clouds, returning to Heaven, we give you our praise. Mighty one, protect us in our day-to-day life. Walk with us from afar, but in your intimate closeness. Walk with the saints who are actually very close to you. We await the calling to join you and the crowd in the clouds. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

*"A Prayer on Slane"
Handbell Choir*

*Arranged by Jeffrey Honore
An Irish Folk tune*

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Worship Christ, the Risen King"

♩Blue #361

Public Domain

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father,
and of God the Son,
and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 68*

Leader: Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

People: let them also be merry and joyful.

Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;

People: exalt the one who rides the clouds.

Leader: I Am is that name, rejoice before God!

People: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

Leader: You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;

People: you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

Leader: How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel.

People: Give strength and power to your people!

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Lord God, Lord Jesus, Lord Holy Spirit, when have we last looked up? When have we last bowed our knees? When have we praised you for every good thing in a day? Awaken our souls to be increasingly attentive; attentive to the bees, to the ants, to the wild flowers and the domesticated flowers, to all of creation. When have we paid attention and felt sorrow for the people you created who do not have decent dwelling places or medical attention or healthy food? When, Father Creator, have we last taken a wonderful breath of fresh air and remembered to thank you? When have we taken action to make the air fresher? Fairest Lord Jesus, crowning glory of creation, Savior of our souls, when have we last in-breathed you? When Holy Spirit, refresher of our souls, did we dodge your life-giving wind and spark of life? What have we missed? Is it too late?

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

It is never too late, dear friends! Act now!

*CALL TO PRAISE ⑩

Leader: We praise you God for the risen and ascended Jesus whose love and power we see in action around us!

People: **We act in response to this love and power!**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**He's ascended, alleluia, he's ascended, alleluia;
He's ascended, alleluia, he's ascended, alleluia!**

{please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: [Acts 1:6-14](#)
Second Lesson: [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [John 17:1-11](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

♪ *Red #182*
Public Domain

EXTINGUISHING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Leader: Christ has died.

People: Christ is risen.

Leader: Christ lived on earth for 40 days after the resurrection.

People: Christ ascended and lives in heaven and is our source of light from there. His light lives in our hearts.

Leader: We now extinguish the Paschal Candle - the Lamb of God candle.

People: Lamb of God, Risen Christ, Ascended Christ, we praise you and glorify you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

"Get in the Ark!"
"The Butterfly Song"

Text & Music by Suzanne H. Clason
Text & Music by Brian Howard

MINI-MESSAGE

MUSIC

"Praise Him, Praise Him"

Anonymous

**Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him at the noontime,
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him when the sun goes down.**

**Love Him, love Him, love Him in the morning, love Him at the noontime,
Love Him, love Him, love Him when the sun goes down.**

Serve Him, etc.

Thank Him, etc.

SERMON

"Everyone Can Find Jesus!"

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world,
and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostles' Creed"**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

{Please be seated}

MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE FOR DOLORES MARIE (MOORE) HARTMAN (from various sources)

Pastor: We gather to commend to God, with thanksgiving, the life of Dolores Marie (Moore) Hartman as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection. For whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ who is Lord both of the dead and of the living.

PRAYER (Leader)

O God, who in Christ Jesus has called us from death to life: We praise you for the promises of baptism assuring us that we are your sons and daughters, children of your everlasting covenant through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you for giving Dolores to us as our sister in the household of faith, and we remember with joy her days among us.

REFLECTION FROM REV. M (PASTOR MARY ETTA) FOR DOLORES ⑩

COMMENDATION FOR DOLORES MARIE (MOORE) HARTMAN

Leader: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Dolores. Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, and a daughter of your own redeeming. Receive Dolores into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the company of the saints in light.

People: Amen

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Unison)*

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.

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"God, Bless Our Homes" vs. 2

*NCH #429
One License #A-728042*

**May every heart receive God's loving spirit
and know the truth that makes life truly free;
Then, in that spirit may we live united,
and find in God our deep security.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: We bring our gifts to the altar.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

Leader: We bring our gifts for the work of God's kingdom.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

Leader: We bring our gifts because of our love for God's people.

People: Touch our hearts, Lord.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://sprucc.org) option on our website at sprucc.org ([Click Here](#)), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"We Come, O Lord, This Day"

by Michael Bedford

{Those who are able, please rise}

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia,
You are worthy, alleluia, You are worthy, alleluia!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩ (Leader)

Leader: Holy and gracious God, these offerings come from our heart. Thank you for accepting them for the work of your kingdom, especially for your loved ones who do not have enough. May there be a balance in our lifestyles so that everyone has "enough." In the name of Jesus, we pray.

All: Amen

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION ⑩

Leader: Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

People: When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Leader: And Jesus came and said to them,

People: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Leader: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

People: baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Leader: and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

People: And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ Red #558
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks"

♫ Blue #359
One License #A-728042

*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
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 - ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑦ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑧ Reprinted with permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑫ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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Staff & Leadership

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz - PastorMotz@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Pastor & Teacher: The Rev. Mary Etta Mest - mestme@aol.com - 610-659-2775 (C)

Music Minister: The Rev. Robert Masenheimer

Bell Choir Director: Miriam Borkert

Office Secretary: Geri Gammel - Office@sprucc.org - 610-621-5770 (O)

Sextons: Michael Pastor & Terry Pastor

Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

Consistory President: Elsa Wertz

Consistory Vice President: George McLain

Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Easter - The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, and continues for seven weeks until Pentecost. 40 days and six Sundays before Easter; a season of penitence as we reflect upon our personal sins, which led to the need for the sacrifice of Jesus' life for us upon the cross. The root word of "Lent" means "to lengthen", referring to the lengthening of days as we anticipate spring and the new life granted through the resurrection - moving from darkness to light.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life, and the light of the resurrected Christ.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, May 21, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 68

This OT hymn was adapted for worship during festivals in the Jerusalem temple. It is a song of praise for God's presence in the sanctuary and God's victory over enemies.

The First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

The Gospel According to John

John is the latest of the four Gospels, written around 80-90 A.D. probably in Ephesus, and attributed to John the son of Zebedee, the beloved disciple of Jesus. This Gospel was "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).

Next Sunday, May 28, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 *or* Acts 2:1-21;
John 20:19-23 *or* John 7:37-39

Worship Christ, the Risen King 361

He has risen! He is not here. Mark 16:6

1. Rise, O Church, and lift your voice; Christ has conquered
 2. See the tomb where death had laid Him; Empty now, its
 3. Hear the earth protest and tremble; See the stone re-
 4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur, Scoffers mock and
 5. We acclaim Your life, O Jesus; Now we sing Your

death and hell. Sing as all the earth rejoice;
 mouth declares: "Death and I could not contain Him,
 moved with power. All hell's minions may assemble,
 sinners jeer; But the truth proclaims a wonder
 victory. Sin and hell may seek to seize us,

Resurrection anthem swell. Come and worship,
 For the throne of life He shares." Come and worship,
 But cannot withstand His hour. He has conquered,
 Thro'ful hearts receive with cheer. He is risen,
 But Your conquest keeps us free. Stand in triumph,

come and worship; Worship Christ, the risen King!
 come and worship; Worship Christ, the risen King!
 He has conquered; Christ the Lord, the risen King!
 He is risen; Now receive the risen King!
 stand in triumph; Worship Christ, the risen King!

TEXT: Jack W. Hayford

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

A lower setting may be found at No. 754

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REGENT SQUARE

8.7.8.7.8.7.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU (CRUSADERS' HYMN)
Silesian Folksong Melody
Arr. RICHARD S. WILLIS, 1850

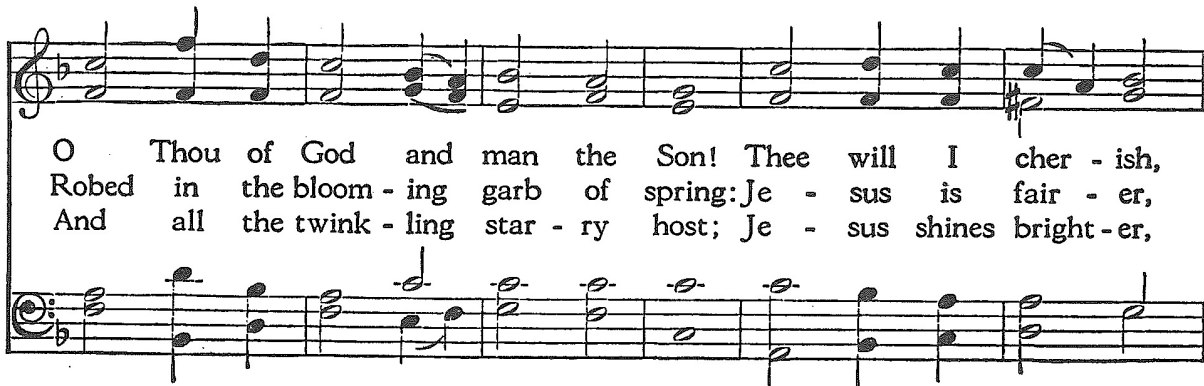
German, 17th century

Irregular

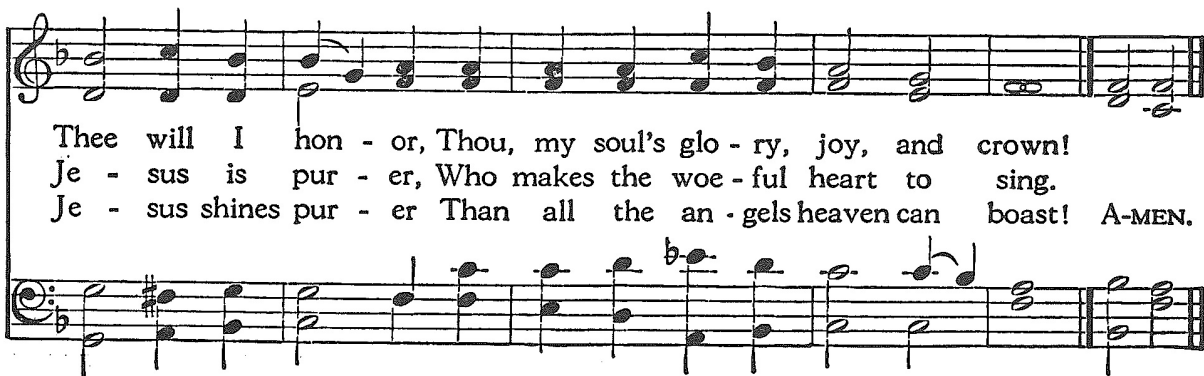
In moderate time and graceful rhythm



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Rul - er of all na - ture!
2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,



O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
And all the twink - ling star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,




Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heaven can boast! A-MEN.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks 359

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

F F/E Dm Gm/D Dm Gm Gm^9 C C^4 C



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord;

1 2 3 4

N.C. F F/E Dm Gm/D Dm Gm Gm^4 Am/C C^7 F Fine



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His name.

5 6 7 8

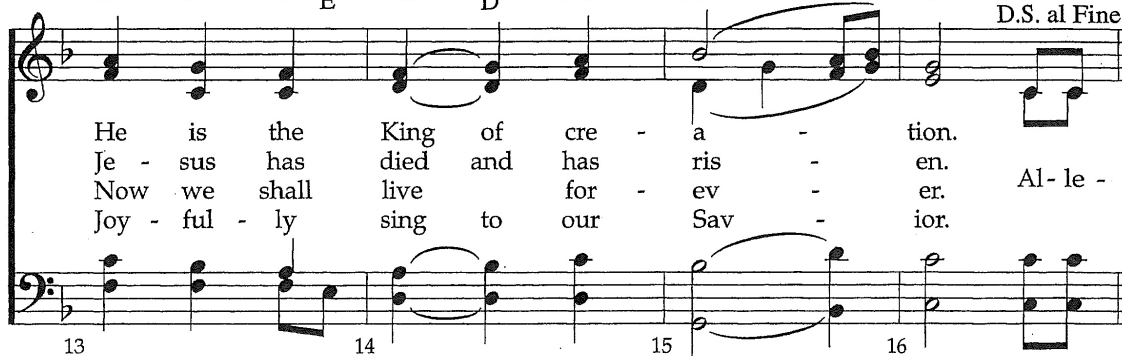
F F/E Dm Dm^7 Gm^7 C sus C



1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
 3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
 4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God;

9 10 11 12

F F^4 F F/E Dm Gm/D Dm^7 Gm B^bM^7 C N.C. D.S. al Fine



He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

13 14 15 16

TEXT: Donald Fishel
 MUSIC: Donald Fishel

ALLELUIA No. 1
 Irregular meter