

Welcome / Announcements / Land Acknowledgement

We come to worship in Jesus' name acknowledging with gratitude the land where we are gathered. This is traditional and unceded Coast Salish Territory of Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ. We continue to pray that past and present injustices can be reconciled as we commit ourselves to just and respectful relationships.

Celebrations / Joys & Concerns

*God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.  
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on  
you.*

□ *He is Lord (repeat)*

*252*

Call to Worship

We gather with joy, for Easter continues.

**Locked doors have been opened and fear has turned to peace.**

We celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ among us.

**Doubts can be erased, and uncertainty turned to faith.**

Let us rejoice and be glad!

**We offer our prayers and praise with humble, hopeful hearts.**

Gathering Prayer / Words of Hope

God of new life, we come to you, rejoicing in the mystery of the Risen Christ, present among us always, even when we least expect him. We marvel at your constant love, your victory over death, and your resurrecting hope which embraces us in every circumstance.

Trusting in these gifts, we seek to live as Easter people in every time and place. Fill us with the gift of your Holy Spirit in this time of worship and grant us your peace.

Merciful God, we confess our trust in you can weaken and we become anxious about many things. We talk about love, but we fear those who differ from us. We cling to our personal agendas, and neglect your call to serve others, especially when that service costs us something. Forgive us. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, rekindle our passion for you, so we can witness to your love in all we do. Amen

Hear the words of the risen Christ: *Peace be with you.* Receive the peace and forgiveness of Christ and share that peace with one another this day and every day.

□ *Jesus is risen from the grave (verses 1, 4, 5, 6, 7) 254*

## Prayer for Understanding

**Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. Amen**

### Scripture    **Acts 4:32-35**    (NT 122)

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.

### **1 John 1:1 – 2:2** (NT 238)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **John 20:19-31**    (NT 115)

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Message

□ *A Stranger, knocking on a door (tune: Sussex Carol) 361*

### Offering and Prayer

In this season of Easter, we celebrate God's precious gift to us in Christ's dying and rising. As we present our gifts to God, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us and the hope we have found in Christ Jesus.

□ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow 306*

**Generous God, thank you for the hope we can claim in your resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may spread that hope in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen**

### The Apostles' Creed

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only 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; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come 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**

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends – where we gather around the table with all our hopes and dreams, longing for a glimpse of the holy.

It is here where bread is broken, and the cup is shared that we can be most truly ourselves – seeing ourselves and others as children of the living God.

Here, that which is earthly becomes divine and that which is human becomes more than has ever been dreamed.

Come to the table – you are all welcome. Christ invites us to meet him here.

□ *Lift up your hearts/Sing Hallelujah*

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### † Celebrating Together with Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

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

Gracious and loving God, we praise and thank you, for you are the creator of all goodness and the source of abundance...

In the beginning, your Spirit danced on the waters and brought us life. In your generosity, you created a garden of delights and nourishment – you called us to live with respect in creation and to care for one another.

You brought your people out of slavery into a land of milk and honey – flowing with streams of living water and planted with groves of olive trees.

When we turned away from you – living in greed and violence – you sent us prophets to call us back and remind us to live for a day when no one would be hungry, and we would live together in justice and peace.

...And so, with every generation before us, with all who will come after us, we lift our voices in joyful praise...

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!*

Generous God, we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to live with us...

We remember how he called his disciples to follow him and become fishers of all people. He told stories and taught us to pray. We thank you that he loved eating and drinking around tables where strangers became friends and where outcasts were included.

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried, but you raised him from the dead – and like his disciples we meet him again in the breaking of bread as we gather around his table.

We remember and give you thanks, O God, that as he sat at the table with friends – sharing the fruit of the vine and the harvest of the fields – he took bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it, saying: *“Take – eat – this is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me.”*

When supper was over, he took a cup of wine and raised it, saying: *“This is God’s new covenant, made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.”*

As we gather in the promise of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith...

*Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

Pour out your grace upon us, O God, and upon the simple gifts of this meal. Send your Spirit on us and on what we do here as we gather at the Lord’s Table to eat and drink of the living Word. May we be one in Christ and one with your vision of peace and plenty.

**In Christ, with Christ, through Christ – by the power of the Holy Spirit – all glory is yours, now and forever. Amen**

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!  
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!*

Sharing Bread and Cup

*The One who was sealed in the tomb has been raised from death for our sake and is present with us in the bread of life.*

*The Christ whose wounded hands bear the marks of our sorrow and pain now reaches out to us in the cup of joy.*

*In these gifts God comes to us so that we may come to God.  
The bread of life – the cup of joy – we remember and share with thanksgiving.*

*Please come forward to receive Holy Communion – everyone is welcome at this table.  
If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you.  
We use gluten and dairy-free bread. Juice, wine, and pre-packaged elements are available.*

### Prayer

In deep gratitude for this moment – this meal, these people – we give ourselves to you, Gracious God. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. May we live to your glory, O Lord. Amen

- Our Father in heaven (The Lord's Prayer – no repeats) 469***
- Let us talents and tongues employ 563***

### Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you – deep peace of the flowing air to you – deep peace of the quiet earth to you – deep peace of the shining stars to you – deep peace of the Son of Peace to you – and may the truth of the empty tomb – the hope of resurrection – keep you fearless and sure each day as the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the nurturing community of the Holy Spirit embrace us all. Amen.

- Go now in peace, never be afraid***