

# Daring to Dance Again



*April 4, 2024*

*With Great Power*



1105 N. Washington Blvd.  
Ogden, UT 84404  
801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion and commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshipping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know a nursery space is available for  
parents who need to tend to their little ones**

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## Introduction

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us.*

*With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread.*

*From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.*

# Dancing Together

## Welcome to Worship

*P* This is the Easter Season! Easter is not just one day of proclaiming that life and love are more powerful than death and hatred, but a whole “week of weeks,” as we call it—seven more weeks of daring to dance our dances with hope and passion. So let us continue our praise!



Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long. Dare to dance a-gain.

*P* Dancing requires that we pay attention to our dance partners. It requires finding a rhythm together. The Sunday after Easter brings the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples and breathing the Holy Spirit on them. Other scriptures this week point to the power of being together, of finding fellowship in the presence of Jesus and the presence of the community. What does it take to dance together?

**♪ ♪ Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song. ♪ ♪  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long.  
Dare to dance again.**



# Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit.

*P* Open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table.

Pray for those who have no earthly tables,  
or no place at a table, and so little daily bread.

**All** We confess this day that we have been slow to join the dance that brings life to all, brings love to all, brings sustenance to all. In silence, let us lift up our prayers of confession...

*P* Hear this good news!

God has loved you from the very beginning.

The invitation of Christ is never-ending  
because resurrection can happen at any moment.

The Holy Spirit is transforming you even now!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**All** In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Glory to God! Amen!

Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart, \_\_\_\_\_ teach me to move

in the power of your Spir - it, teach me to [move] in the light of your pre -

- sence, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer for this Day

*P* Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

**All** You are the restorer of life,  
the conqueror of all that is death-dealing  
in our hearts and in this world.

Tune us to each other.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –  
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

## A Reading from Acts the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter

*While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Acts 4:32-35*

*L* The Word of the Lord,

**All** Thanks be to God!

# A Reading from 1 John beginning in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter

*The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

<sup>1</sup>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—<sup>2</sup>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—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2:1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*1 John 1:1--2:2*

**L** The Word of the Lord,

**All Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Teach me to love with your heart of com - pas - sion, teach me to trust  
in the word of your pro - mise, teach me to hope in the day of your com -  
- ing, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.\_\_\_\_

## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.*

<sup>19</sup>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."<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> 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."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> 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.

*John 20:19-31*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

*You may be Seated*

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn of the Day

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

I Danced in the Morning



1. I danced in the morn-ing when the
2. I danced for the scribe and the
3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I
4. I danced on a Fri-day when the
5. They cut me down and I





world was be - gun, And I danced in the moon and the  
 phar - i - see, But they would - n't dance, and they  
 cured the lame: The ho - ly peo - ple said it  
 sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the  
 leap up high; I am the life that - 'll



stars and the sun, And I came down from heav - en and I  
 would - n't fol - low me; I danced for the fish - er - men, for  
 was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they  
 dev - il on your back. They bur - ied my bod - y and they  
 nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll



danced on the earth; At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 James and John; They came with me and the dance went on.  
 hung me high, And left me there on a cross to die.  
 thought I'd gone; But I am the dance and I still go on.  
 live in me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance then wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the



dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, And I'll



lead you all in the dance, said he. dance, said he.

## Apostles' Creed

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

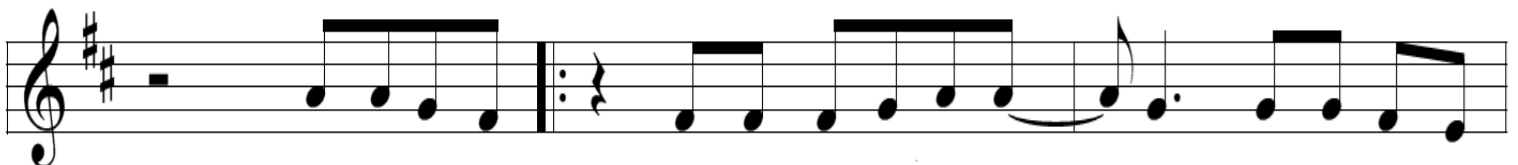
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

## Prayers of The People

*WA* Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.



Teach me to pray in the pow - er of Eas - ter, fol - low - ing Christ

in a life res - ur - rec - ted, teach me to act with com - pas - sion and jus -  
 - tice, teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.\_\_\_\_

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

**WA:** God of grace,

**All:** You hear our prayer.

## Passing of the Peace

**P** Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

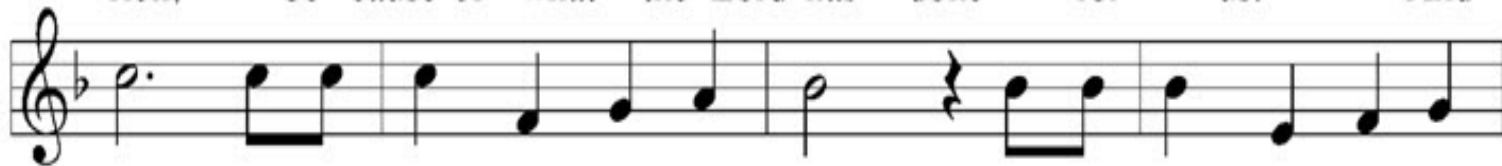
## Offertory

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
 Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
 give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

## Offertory Prayer

*P* Lord of the Dance, following the lead of Christ you call us to pour ourselves out for the sake of love.

**All** Receive these gifts we offer so that we might dance the dance of justice, find the steps of service, and invite others to dance with us.

In the name of your resurrected son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## Holy Communion



1. In re - mem - brance of Me, eat this bread. In re -



mem - brance of Me, drink this wine. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the



time when God's own will is done.



P Holy Living One,

You transformed a whole lot of nothing into this amazing creation.

You breathed life all around and called it good.

You invited us to the wonder of it all

and when we could not face you, you turned us around.

You keep bringing us around and around, time and again,  
offering the chance to join the freedom-dance.

Jesus sat at tables with those who had no place  
and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls.

And on the night when he would give all love for us,  
he sat at the table with extended family—

just as he hosts this table here and now with this extended family.

He offered the usual prayers of thanks to you, God,

over bread and cup, and then disrupted the gathering with  
uncustomary words:

“Take and eat this bread—it is my body given for you.

Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

“Take and drink from this cup, each and every one—

it is the sign of a new covenant,

(for business-as-usual is over and done and the resurrection dance goes on).

This love is poured out for all people.

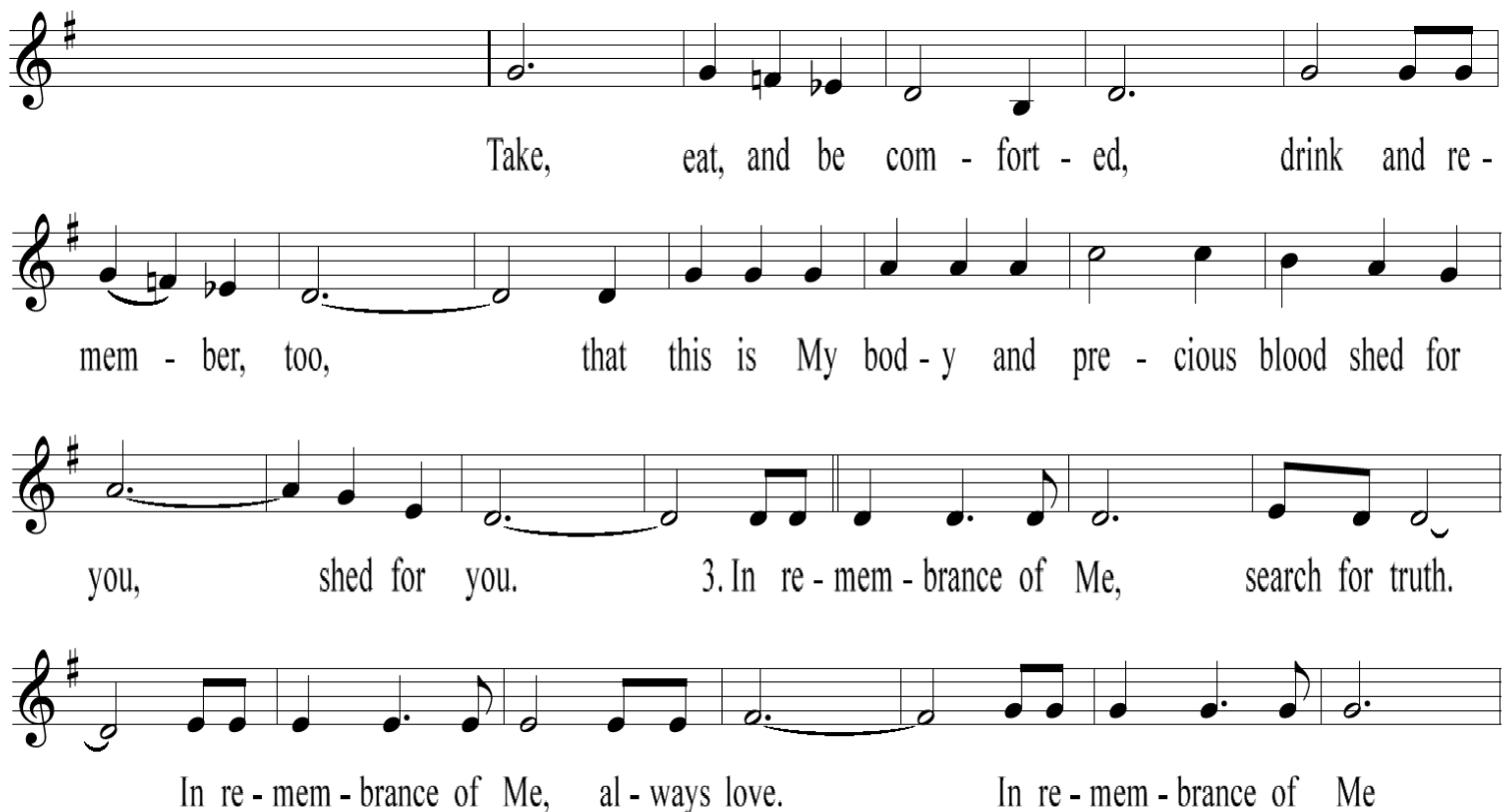
Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.”

2. In re - mem - brance of Me, heal the sick. In re -  
mem - brance of Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, o - pen the  
door and let your broth - er in, let him in.

# The Lord's Prayer

*P* Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**All**      **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,  
          forever and ever. Amen.**



Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed, drink and re -  
mem - ber, too, that this is My bod - y and pre - cious blood shed for  
you, shed for you. 3. In re - mem - brance of Me, search for truth.  
In re - mem - brance of Me, al - ways love. In re - mem - brance of Me

don't look a - bove, but in your heart, look in your heart for  
 God. Do this in re - mem - brance of Me. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Invitation

*P* Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,  
 offers everyone a place of welcome at His table of grace.  
 Come to the feast.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.  
*Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant*

shed for you and  
 for all people  
 for the forgiveness of sin

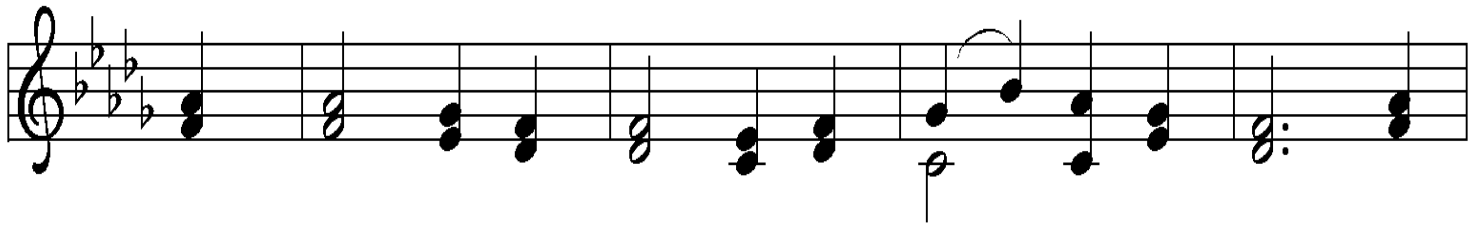
All are Welcome!





# When Peace, like a River

## *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul,

## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All Amen**

*P* Let us pray,  
Generous God,

**All The table extends beyond this physical space  
and into the space of the Spirit that unites us.  
May the meal we have received ready us to  
love, trust, hope, and dance  
to the beat of God's heart. Amen**

*You may be Seated*

## Blessing of the Care Kits



*P* God, you have called us to go and do likewise as we reach out to our neighbors around the world. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy.

**All Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.**

*WA* God, we give you thanks for those who have generously shared their resources in order to make these kits possible. Move us by their example to live generous lives.

**All Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.**

*P* God, we lift before you the staff and partners of LWR. As they share these gifts, grant them strength and encourage them in this work. Guide them as they reach our neighbors who are the farthest away.

**All** Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

*WA* We pray for our neighbors around the world – those we have never met – those who like us, long for your grace and mercy. May these kits fill them with the hope and peace found only in you.

**All** Amen

## Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

### Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* May the Loving God,  
Risen Christ, ✝  
and Dancing Spirit  
fill you with all you need for the days ahead.

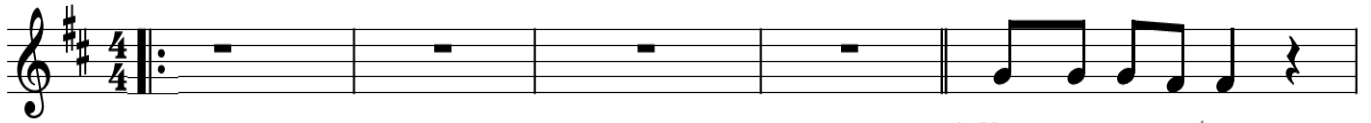
And all God's people said,

**All** Amen.

# Sending Song

## All The People Said Amen

Words and Music by  
Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan  
and Paul Moak



1. You are not a-lone

2. If you're rich or poor,



if you are lone - ly.

When you feel a - fraid,

you're not the on - ly.

well, it don't mat - ter.

Weak \_ or strong,

you know love is what we're af - ter.



We are all the same,

in need of mer - cy, \_

to be for - giv - en and be

We're all bro - ken, but we're

all in this to - geth - er. \_

God knows we stum - ble and fall, \_



free.

It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need. \_

and He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

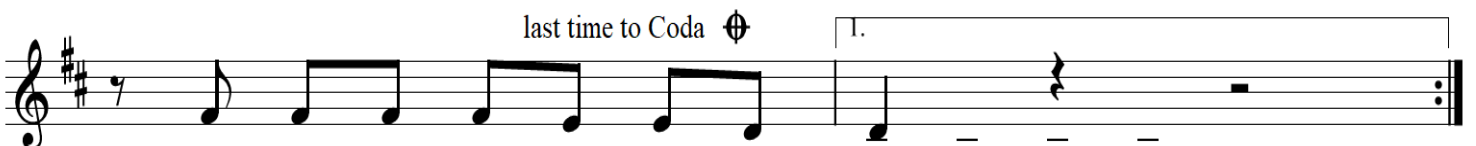
Whoa. \_

And all the peo - ple said, "A -



-men."

Give thanks to the Lord, \_ for His love \_ nev - er ends. \_



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."



men." Bless-ed are \_\_\_ the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless-ed are \_

\_\_\_ the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless-ed are \_\_\_ the peo - ple hun - gry for an -

-oth - er start, \_\_\_ for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of God. \_\_\_

⊕ Coda **ENDING**

- men." And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

## Dismissal

*P* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*P* Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

**All** Thanks be to God.

THESE FOLKS  
IN ACTS SEEM  
TO REALLY  
GET INTO IT.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

WELL, JESUS  
HAS DEFEATED  
DEATH,



AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS  
EMPOWERED THEIR  
CONFIDENCE IN THE  
RESURRECTION. WHY WOULD  
YOU HOLD BACK?



I'M NOT SURE I  
CARE FOR WHERE  
THIS IS HEADED.



ACTS 4:32-35

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Readings for next Sunday,  
April 14<sup>th</sup>

First Reading:

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm:

Psalm 4

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-7

Gospel:

Luke 24:36b-48

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