

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



This Easter, I have one invitation for you: **Rise up!**

It's a resurrection invitation—an invitation from Christ to rise from the grave with Him into new life...but this year, I mean it literally!

This Easter, I invite you to “Rise Up” by giving to our Easter Offering that will support a major renovation to our Sanctuary Elevator.

For years, our elevator has been increasingly unreliable; we have regularly heard the cries of those stuck on their way to and from worship—even a bride on her way to get married! Soon, our elevator will not be usable **at all** unless we overhaul its control system and the other components that rely on that system.

Perhaps this seems like an unglamorous project; on the contrary, I believe it is an essential component of our witness. Our building can be inaccessible for those experiencing temporary or long-term disabilities. Given that fact, at the very least, we must ensure that all people can reach our Sanctuary to participate in worship each week. In this way, the elevator is essential to our mission to invite **all people** to know the love of God.

This is a major commitment, with a **price tag of \$75,000**. We will need more significant gifts than we usually receive for our special offerings in order to fully fund this project—multiple gifts of \$10,000 and \$5,000, beyond our pledged giving. It is daunting, but God has used us to meet challenges many times before! **I have confidence that we can do this!** If we exceed our goal, we will shout “Praise the Lord!” and then direct any excess funds toward increasing accessibility at FUMC.

So, First Church, will you “Rise up” to the challenge? Please join me in giving generously to our Easter Offering! Together we will ensure that all people can continue to join us in worship to celebrate the God who has raised all of us to new life.

To give, simply return the enclosed envelope with your gift to the church office or offering plate. Envelopes will also be available in the pews on Sundays, or you can give online at fumcaustin.org/riseup. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us.

With gratitude for each of you,
Pastor Taylor and Curt Shaw, *Chair of Trustees*

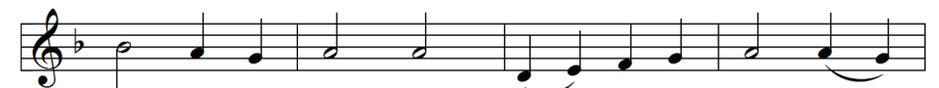
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being
and called them good.
From the dust of the earth
you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth
for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters,
saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai
for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments
and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, Al - migh - ty, heav'n and earth are



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the



high - est! Blest is He who comes in your name.



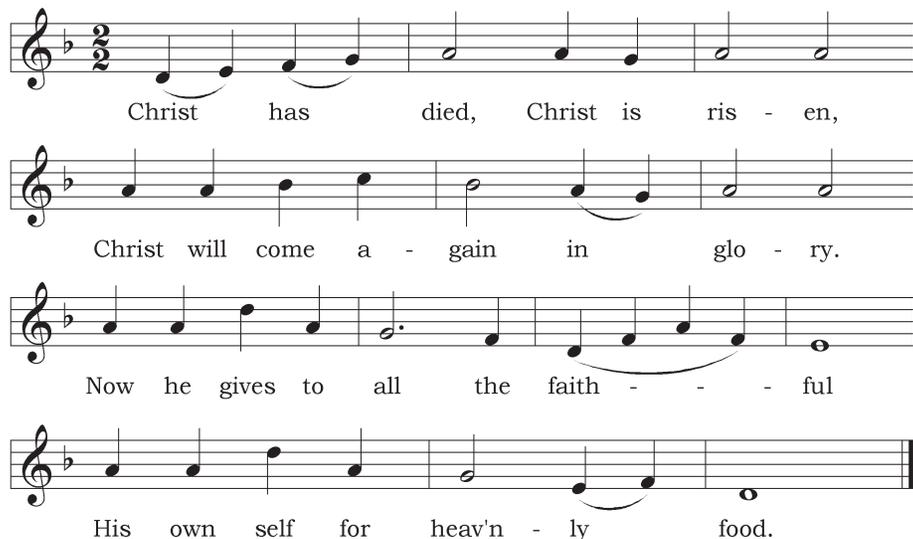
Tell how Christ, the world's re - deem - - - er,



as a vic - tim won the day.

Please be seated. Pastor continues leading the prayer, recalling the acts of Christ.

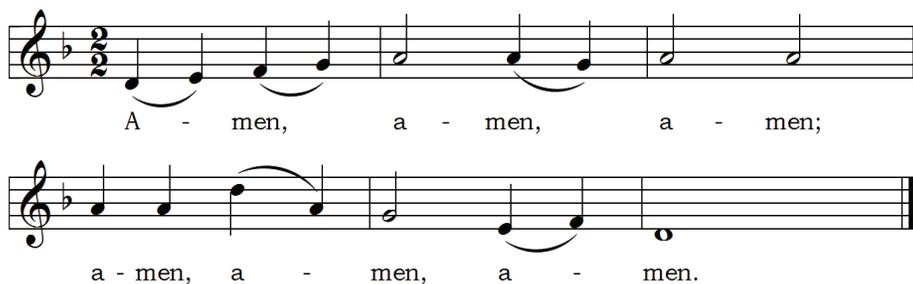
... And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again in glory.
Now he gives to all the faithful
His own self for heav'n - ly food.

Pastor continues leading the prayer, asking God to pour out God's Holy Spirit on us and this meal.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God,
now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men;
a - men, a - men, a - men.

Words: Traditional, alt. and Liturgy of St. James

Music: PICARDY - French Carol



EASTER LILY SALE
ORDER DEADLINE:
MARCH 22

The lily is a flower that comes from a bulb. It seemingly dies away, then returns with new life each year.

FUMC members and friends are invited to place lilies in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

The cost is \$10 each. Plants are florist quality and great for replanting. You may order lilies online at fumcaustin.org/lily, by turning in the form below, or by contacting Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

Orders must be received in by 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 22. Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.

Name of donor

Phone number (in case of questions)

Amount enclosed (make check payable to FUMC)

The lily is in memory of _____

The lily is in honor of _____

