

# TURTLES



*the Wilderness*

“Several summers ago, my children found two turtles and put them in the vegetable garden. During a thaw the next February, as I was digging up the soggy soil where the peas go, I lifted a heavy mound with my shovel, and then another. The two turtles had burrowed down for winter sleep, and I had rudely awakened them too soon. So I carried them to a corner of the garden where I would not disturb them and dug them in again. When my wife said that she feared the turtles might be dead, I said I did not think so (though I wasn’t as sure as I sounded). I insisted that in spring, they would come up. And they did in Easter week.

“Lilies and hyacinths signify the resurrection, and I can understand why. But I have a pair of turtles that plant themselves in my garden each fall like two gigantic seeds and rise on Easter with earthen crowns upon their humbled heads. With the women at the tomb, I marvel.”

- Vigen Guroian





## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain*



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le-  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give\_ praise to his\_ Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation.  
*Refrain*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.  
*Refrain*

## THE GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

*Presider* The Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* Praise and glory to Christ.

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself and will glorify him immediately. Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now— ‘Where I’m going, you can’t come.’ “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples when you love each other.”

*Presider* Good News from the Lord.  
*People* Praise to Christ, the Word.

*The People are seated.*

## THE REFLECTION

*All stand.*

## OPEN SPACE

*The People are invited to wander in prayer or remain in their seats.*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Presider* Be with us, Wandering God, as we tread new ground in this season of confession and renewal. Walk with us. Live with us. Stay with us. In your holy name.  
*People* Amen.

## THE PEACE

*Presider* Christ's peace is with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*The People greet one another with a sign of Peace and are then seated for announcements.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

The Wilderness Musicians

*All stand.*

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

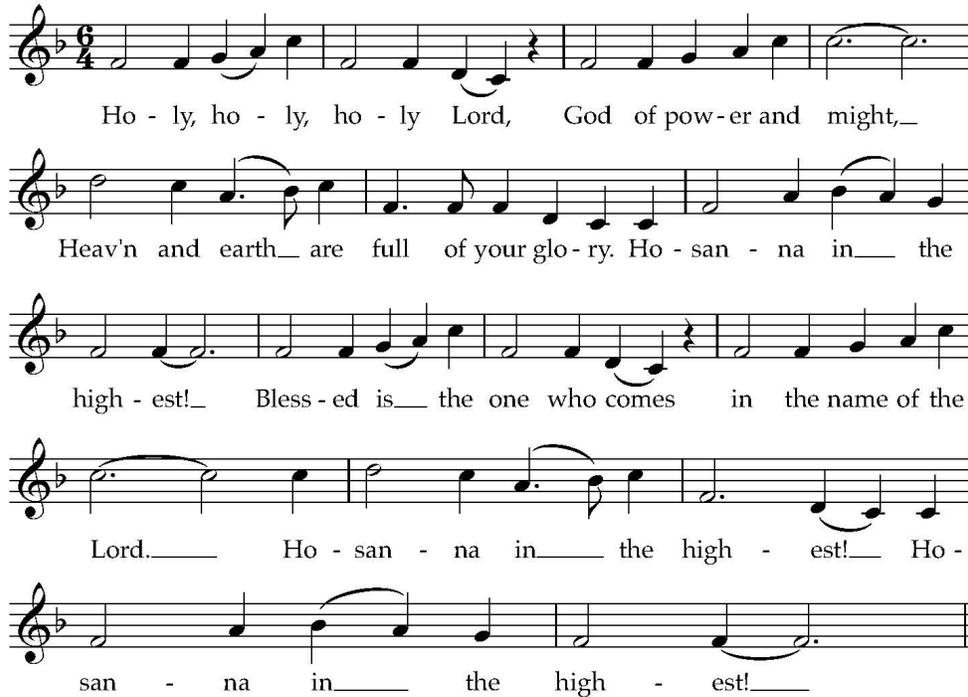
*Presider* God is with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to our Lord God.  
*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears:  
In the life, death, and resurrection of your Christ,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.  
In every age you sent prophets to make known  
your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time,  
you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In concert with choirs of martyrs, angels,  
and saints that praise your name night and day we sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *All sing*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

*The Presider continues.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*People* Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,  
his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return to free  
the whole earth from the bonds of enslavement and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

*People* Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to make this bread and wine  
the Body and Blood of our Son  
and fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love  
and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

*People* Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets  
and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through Christ, with Christ,  
and in Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, Holy God,  
now and forever.

*Silence.*

As Jesus taught his friends, we now pray,

*Presider and People*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.

*The musicians and people sing*  
Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated bread and says,*

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the Bread.

*The Presider and assistant break the Bread and fill the chalices with Wine.*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Table now is ready. Feast on Christ.

*Following the invitation to Communion, the Ministers and People receive the Sacrament.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The Wilderness Musicians

*All stand.*

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

We thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven  
and satisfying us with the cup of freedom.

Send us from this place as signs of your Presence  
as we join you in repairing this fractured world.  
Through our Healer and Friend, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## THE BLESSING

*Presider*

The blessing of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity  
be upon this day and remain with you for ever.

*People* Amen.

## CLOSING SONG



1. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ Let Chris - tians sing.\_\_\_ His cross stands  
2. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ No long - er bound\_\_\_ to dis - tant  
3. Not throned a - bove,\_\_\_ re - mote - ly high,\_\_\_ un - touched, un -  
4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war\_\_\_ where co - lor,  
5. Christ is a - live!\_\_\_ His Spi - rit burns\_\_\_ through this and



emp - ty\_\_\_ to the sky.\_\_\_ Let streets and homes with prais - es\_\_\_  
years in\_\_\_ Pal - es - tine,\_\_\_ he comes to claim the here\_ and\_  
moved by\_\_\_ hu - man pains,\_\_\_ but dai - ly, in the midst of\_\_\_  
scorn or\_\_\_ wealth di - vide,\_\_\_ he suf - fers still, yet loves the\_\_\_  
ev - ery\_\_\_ fu - ture age,\_\_\_ till all cre - a - tion lives and



ring.\_\_\_ His love in death\_ shall\_ nev - er die.  
now\_\_\_ and con - quer ev - ery\_\_\_ place and time.  
life,\_\_\_ our Sa - vior with\_ the\_\_\_ Fa - ther reigns.  
more,\_\_\_ and lives, though ev - er\_\_\_ cru - ci - fied.  
learns\_\_\_ his joy, his jus - tice,\_\_\_ love, and praise.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Alleluia! Alleluia! We have seen the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!





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*Welcoming and inclusive of all.*

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