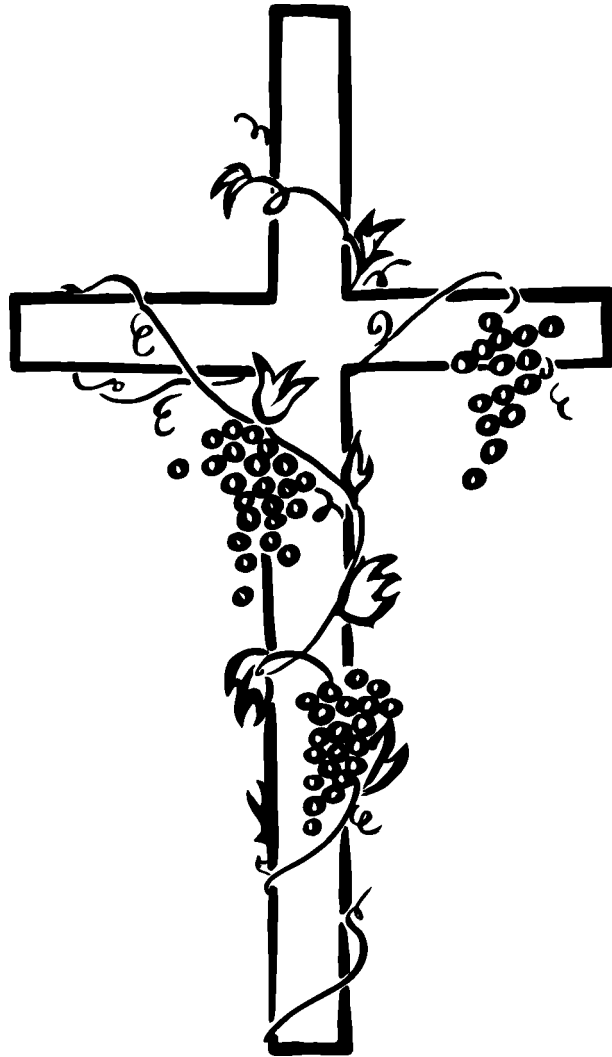




Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024, 10:30am
In-Person Family
Communion Service**

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you will enjoy your time with us today. Ushers are here to serve. If you have questions or need something, they are more than willing to help, it's why they are here!

Rest rooms are available to the left as you exit the sanctuary, near the coat rack.

Most understand that God made children who are wiggly and full of energy. Please don't worry. Activity bags for children are found near the coat rack. If you feel that you must take your children out, there are also some books and toys in the library to the right as you exit the sanctuary, and you can still hear worship through the speaker. A changing station is available in the handicapped restroom.

There are listen-assist devices. If you need one, please stop at the usher's area and they will be glad to supply you with one. There are two types of listening devices, one that just fits over the ear and another that works directly with some hearing aids.

Welcome to our sacred space, ancestral lands of the Lenni Lenape and Susquehannock, and home of our forebears. Important note about the bulletin. To save more trees and utilize the hymnal, parts of the service marked "pg. XXX" will be found in the front portion of the hymnal. Parts of the service marked "ELW XXX" will be found in the back portion of the hymnal.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Go into the World*

Sleeth

(Sanctuary Choir)

please stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,

let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new
day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through
the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian
official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to
you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Children gather in the playground

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor Serena Sellers

SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING SONG:

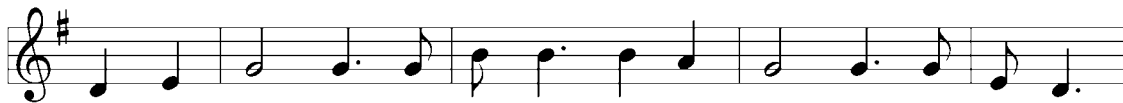
I've Got Peace like a River



1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
2 I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain,
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;
I've got joy like a foun - tain in my soul;
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;



I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain,
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,



I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.
I've got joy like a foun - tain in my soul.
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

GREETING

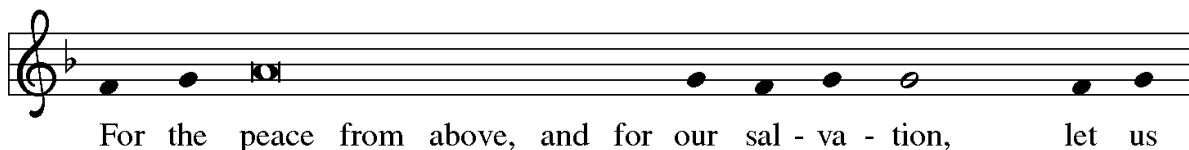
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



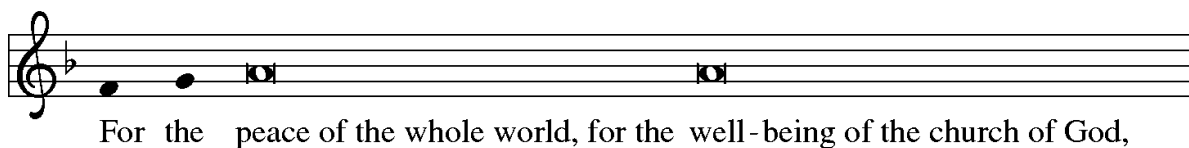
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



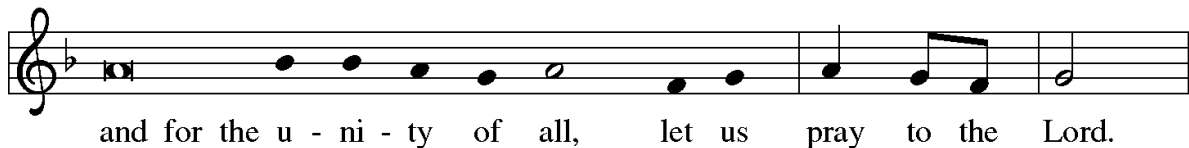
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



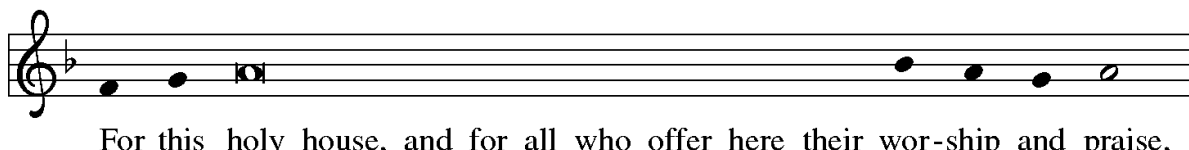
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



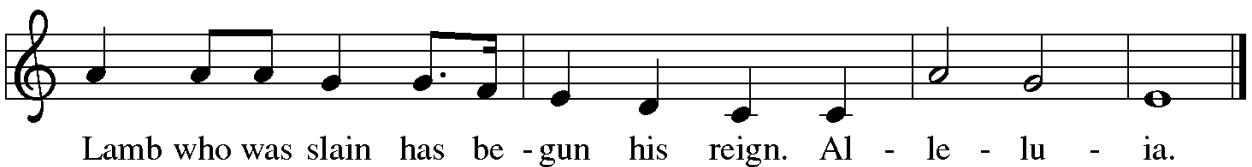
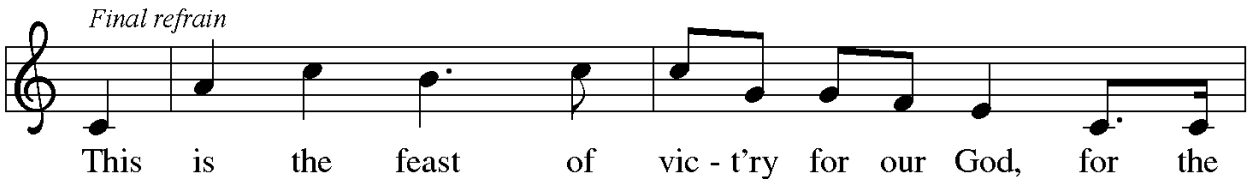
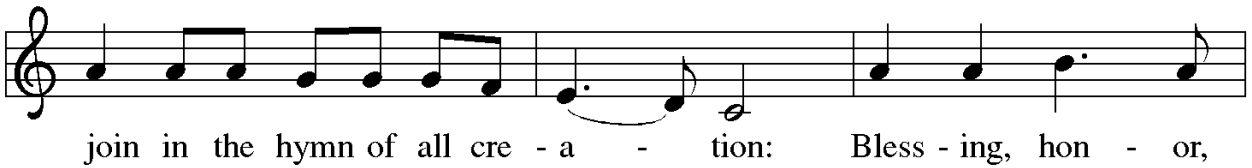
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *Please be seated*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

The first reading is written in the eighth chapter of Acts beginning at the 26th verse. The reading can be found on page 892 of your pew Bible.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this

scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

The second reading is written in the fourth chapter of First John beginning at the 7th verse. The reading can be found on page 991 of your pew Bible.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

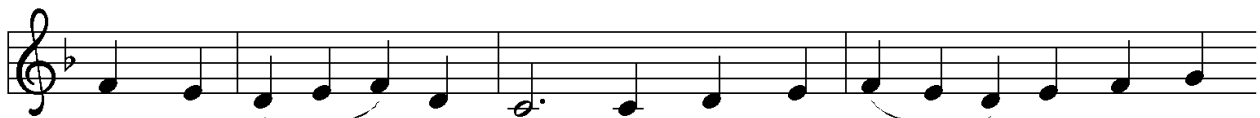
SERMON: Pastor Serena Sellers

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Blessed Spring*



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. *A brief silence.*

True Vine, we pray for the unity of your church around the
world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel.

Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care.

Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in
you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Great gardener, we pray for the well-being of the earth and
of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and
estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters, the
Susquehanna and Wissahickon. Renew the face of the earth
and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Most High God, we pray for the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, we pray for all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially Ron, Gary, Charlie, Frank, Elva, Dorothea, Michael, Charlotte, Karl, Randy, Harry, David and Dave. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we pray for the family of this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, write cards and post messages, and for all who seek to share your love with one another and the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Share that peace with those around you.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, so that all are welcomed, the gospel is shared and the hungry are fed. Online donations to the church may be submitted through this link.

<https://www.christlc.org/giving>

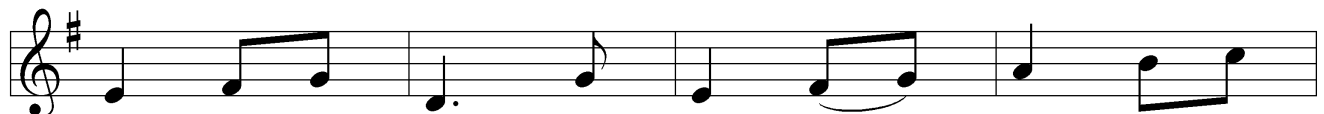
GIFT OF MUSIC

Please stand

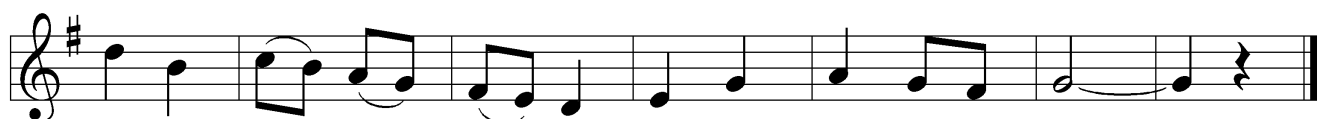
OFFERTORY HYMN



Christ has been raised from the dead, al - le - lu - ia.



Christ has been raised. Oh, God be praised! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Christ the Lord has been raised.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit.**

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

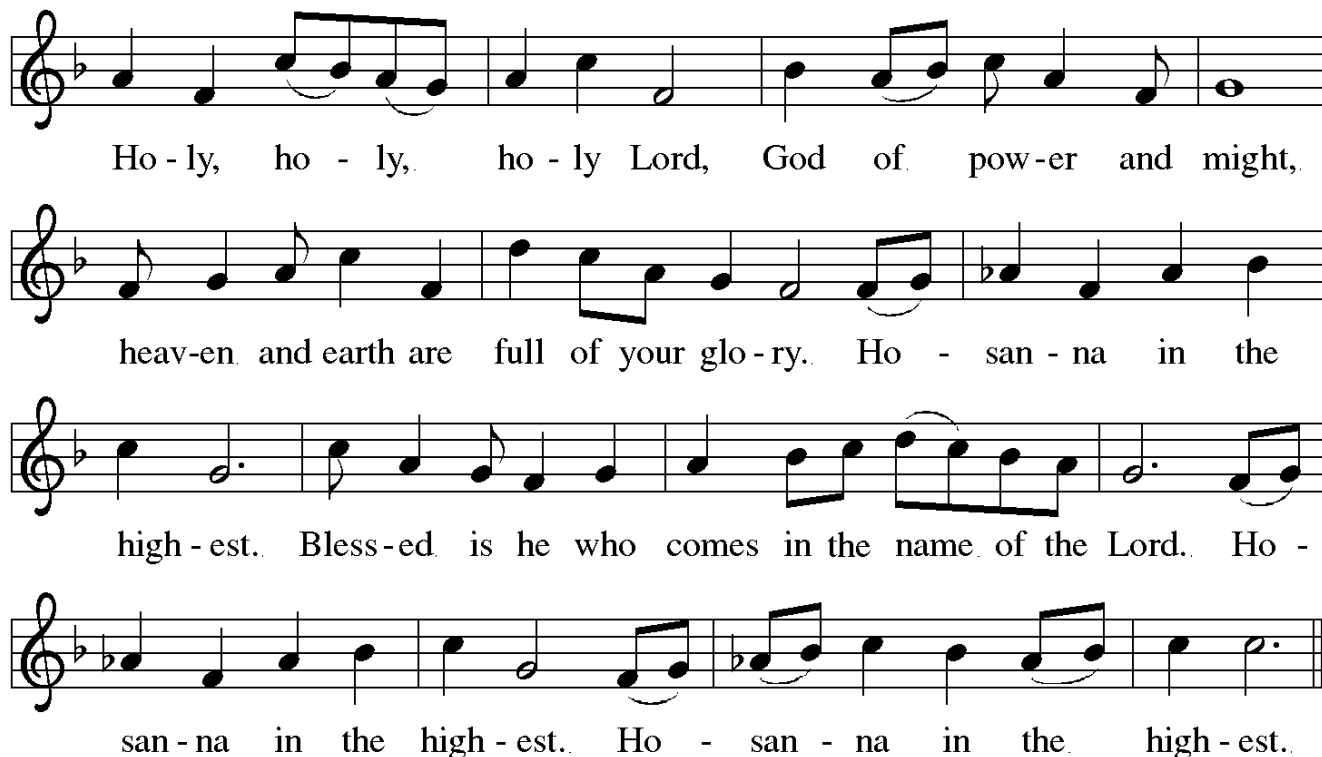
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Please be seated

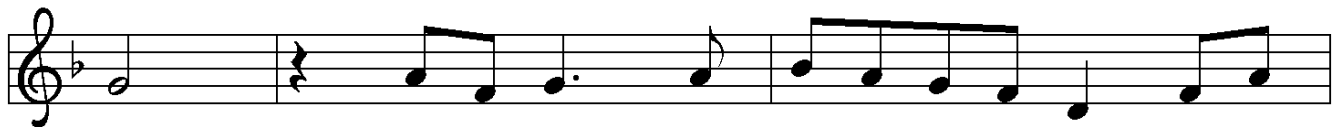
COMMUNION

All who believe and are baptized are welcome to receive the sacrament. Put out your hand to receive the wafer. If you need a gluten-free wafer, indicate that need and one will be provided. The wine will be presented in a small glass. If you prefer not to receive the wine – know that “communion in one kind” (just receiving one element: bread or wine) is understood as full participation. Once you have communed, leave your glass in the tray provided. If you need communion brought to you, raise a hand to notify us, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please stand

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you

SENDING SONG: *To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold*



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our



won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
treasure and our song, in faith we



grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the



Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
veil of sin and grief, and in their
world be - loved and whole. In love re -



night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -



life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
peace, and robes of joy and peace.
told, God's won - ders still un - told.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: WONDERS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

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Music © 2011 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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and

