



Easter 5

May 18, 2025 ✝

9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ on this *Fifth Sunday of Easter*! Today's readings remind us that Easter initiates a new day, anticipating a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new! In the mystery of Holy Baptism, God has made new people of us. Today, Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light— through the lens of love.

Congregational responses are printed in *indented boldface italics*.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

GATHERING HYMN: “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

ELW 835

All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: “Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong, drive far the shadows, join the throng: “Alleluia! Alleluia!”

Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

We gather today just as God has gathered us into His family in our Baptism:
in the Name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known; from You no secrets are hid.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy Name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth's not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who's faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
So let's confess our sin against God and one another:

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will

and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

Listen to the Good News, brothers and sisters:

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you,

and for His sake, ✙ God forgives you all your sins!

To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God
and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

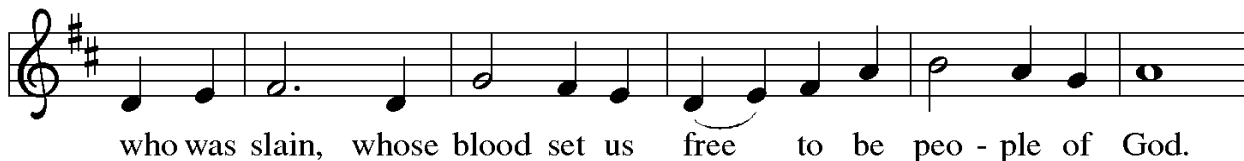
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast of Victory!"

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, 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.

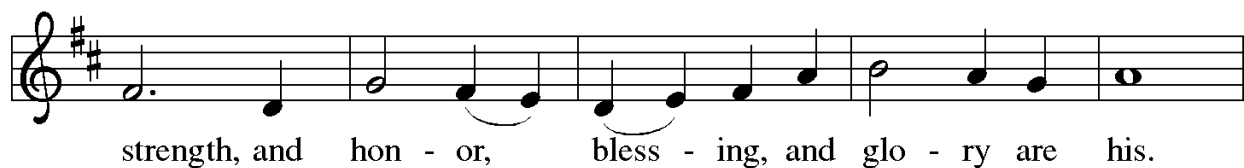


Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

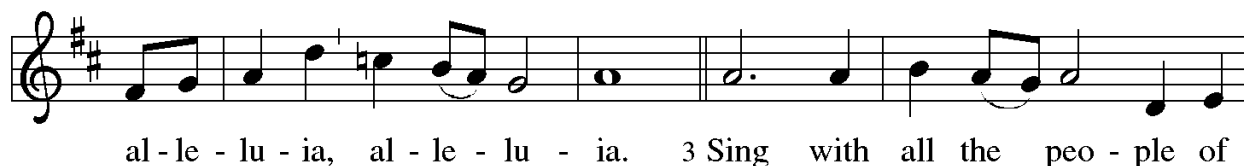


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



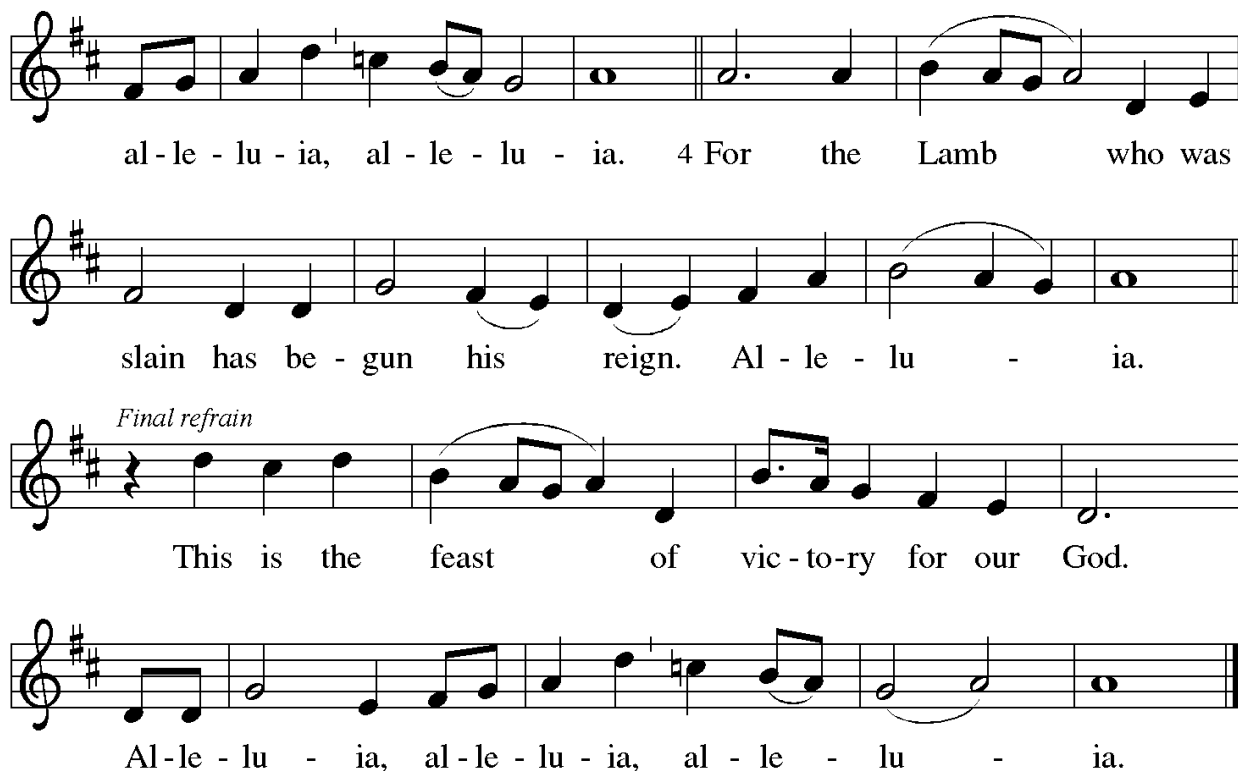
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,





GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

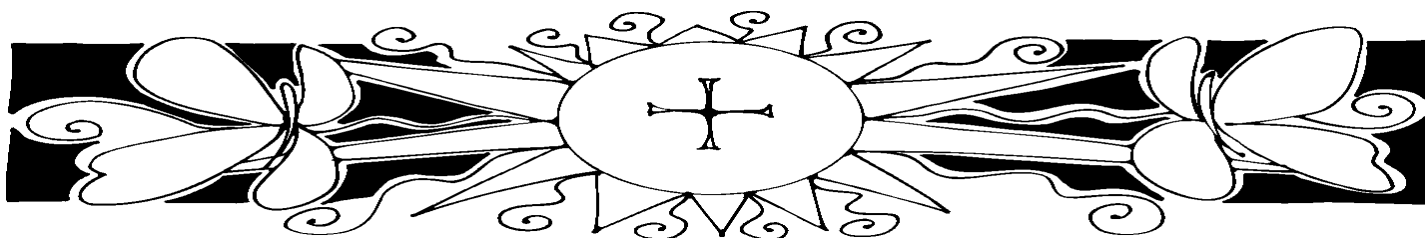
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

And so the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

And also with you.

Then let's pray: Lord God, You teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing.
Pour into our hearts Your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by Your Spirit,
we may know goodness and peace through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



WORD AND PRAYER

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

*Pr Dave will introduce this song to us;
then we'll sing it together two more times to let the tune (and the promise) sink in...*

***Behold, behold— I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold— I make all things new; My promise is true, for I am Christ the Way!***

FIRST READING:

Acts 11.1-18

NRSVUE

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”

⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat!’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he’d seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who’s called Peter; ¹⁴ he’ll give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He’d said, ‘John baptized with water, but you’ll be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If, then, God gave them the same gift that *God* gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?”

¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life!”

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

Revelation 21.1-6

NRSVUE

John of Patmos writes: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals! *God* will dwell with them; they'll be *God's* peoples, and God will be with them and be their God. ⁴ *God* will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the One who was seated on the throne said, "See, I'm making all things new!" Also, *the Holy One* said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then *God* said to me, "It's done! ***I'm*** the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty, I'll give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

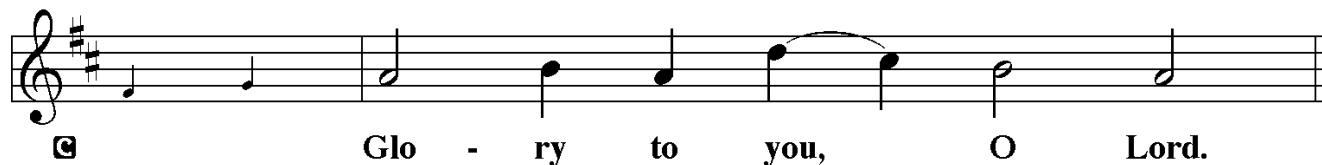


THE HOLY GOSPEL:

John 13.31-35

NRSVUE

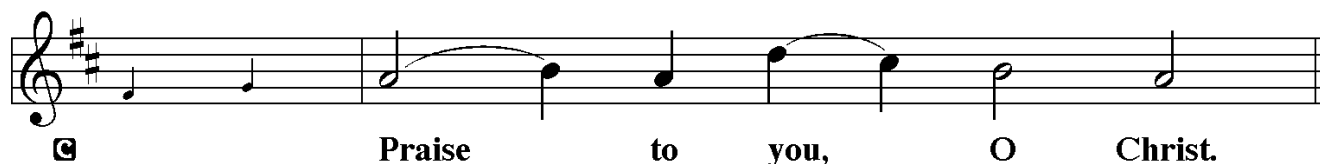
The Holy Gospel according to St John, the thirteenth chapter.



When *Judas* had gone out *from the upper room*, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. ³² If God has been glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in God's self, and will glorify Him at once.

³³ "Little children, I'm with you only a little longer. You'll look for Me, and as I said to the *religious authorities*, so now I say to you, 'Where I'm going, you can't come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I've loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you're My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.



PROCLAMATION OF THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

ELW 377

We sing this to the tune of “Earth and All Stars”.

*Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Walking the way, Christ in the center, telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*Weeping, be gone! Sorrow, be silent! Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

*City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!*

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He 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 INTERCESSION AND SHARING OF THE PEACE:

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit,
let's bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love:

Good and gracious God, we give You thanks and praise for Christ Jesus Your Son, for in Him You've made Your home among us and loved us as You would have us love. In Him, You're preparing a new heaven and earth where all will drink from the wellsprings of Your death-defying life. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your church. Awaken in us a renewed commitment to our baptismal promises to build community, to worship together, to share our faith, to serve others, and to work for justice and peace. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. Heal us, convict us, and renew us by Your love; bring an end to racism in our churches and communities; and let everyone know Your goodness by the love we show one another. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Forgive us for the ways we've caused creation to suffer. Inspire creativity as we explore new ways of reducing our consumption of earth's resources. Restore forests and waterways. Replenish the habitats of all endangered and threatened species. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Call all nations, including our own, to the repentance that leads to life. Empower our leaders at every level of government to lead their communities with wisdom and compassion, especially for the most vulnerable among us. Disrupt the work of terrorists, religious and political extremists, and all who choose the way of violence over the way of mercy. Let Your peace and freedom triumph in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, the DRC, and violence-torn homes and communities in our own land, that all may know the blessings of Your grace. Merciful God, ***receive our prayer.***

Make Your home among us and shelter us from the storms of death, mourning, crying, and pain. Draw near to those who weep and to those who are lonely. Restore health and wholeness to all who are suffering, that they may experience Christ's death-defying life in their own renewal of strength and life. Pour out Your healing Holy Spirit upon and all whom we remember before You now... Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

You promise new life for all the faithful departed, and You promise to wipe away every tear from our eyes. Renew us in faith and hope until the day when death is no more, when You'll dwell with us in the new heaven and earth. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

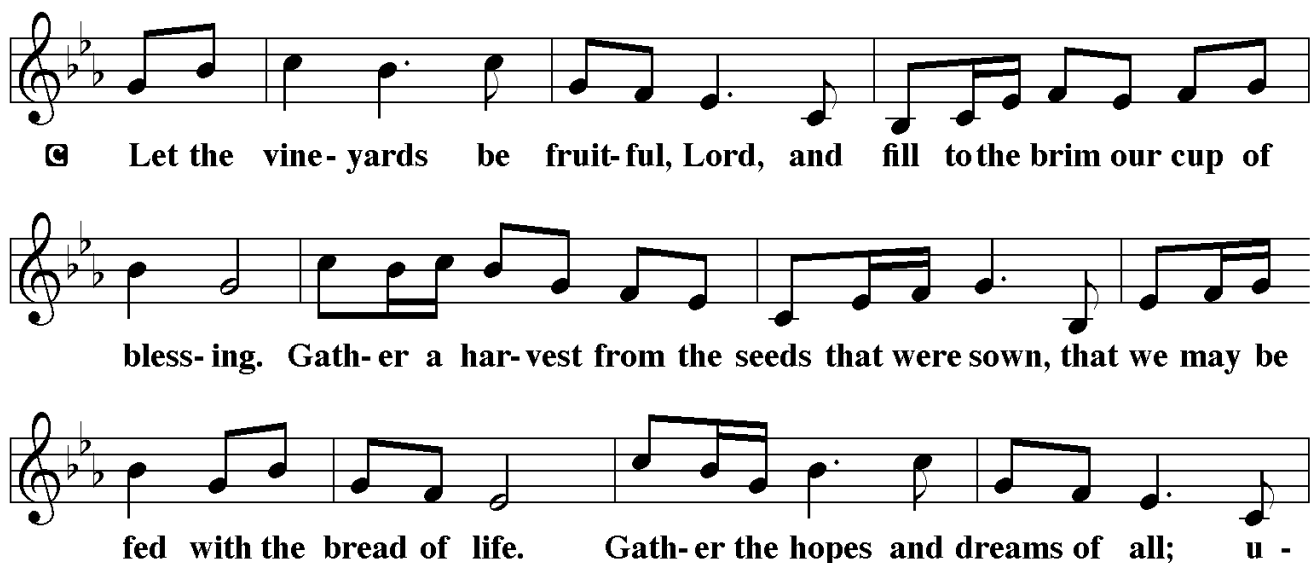
The peace of the Lord is with you always. *And also with you.*

Reconciled to God and one another, let's share with one another a sign of God's peace.

MEAL

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY HYMN: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



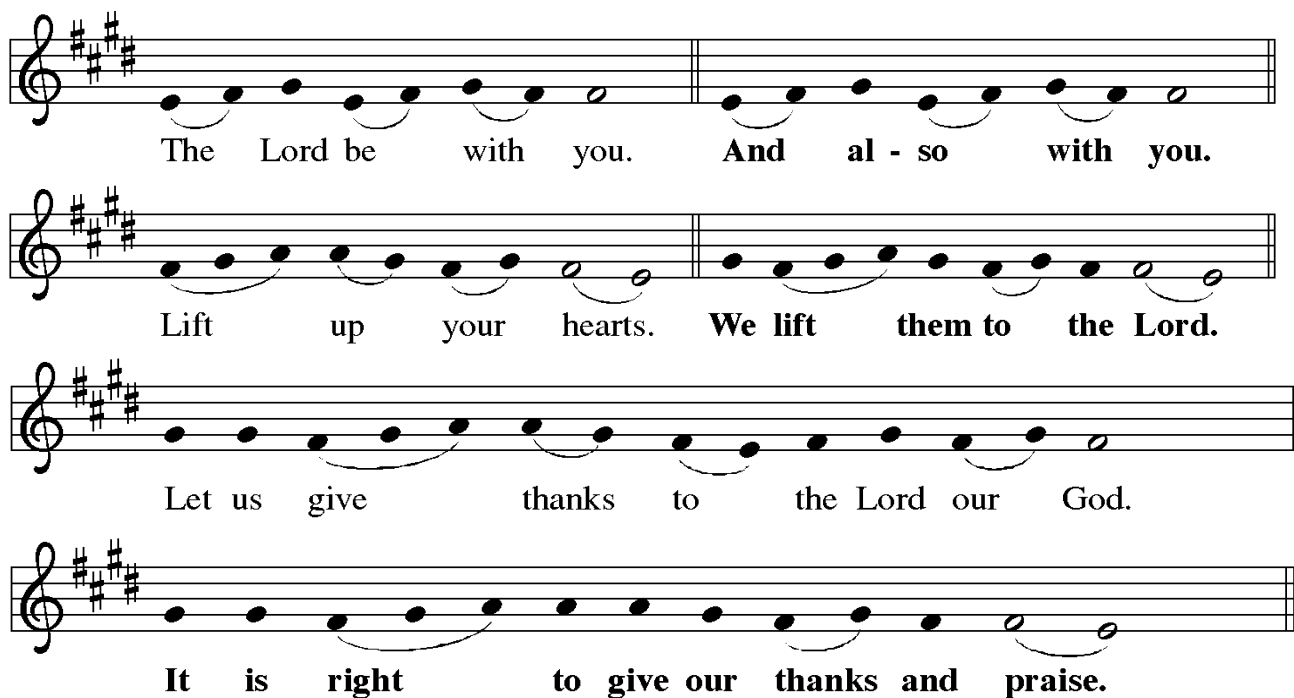


Living God, You gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in Your peaceable Reign,
and You welcome us all at Your table.

Reach out to us through this meal, and show us Your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:



It's indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and everywhere
give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ Jesus our Lord,
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your Name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

And so, remembering all that our Lord has done for us,
believing the witness of His resurrection, awaiting His final appearing in glory,
we share this foretaste of the feast to come.
Now send Your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as He comes to us in His holy Supper.
Empower us by that same Spirit to love and forgive,
that our lives may anticipate that day when You'll make all things new.
All this we pray with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who's taught us to pray:

***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.***

CANTICLE: "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, grant us peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

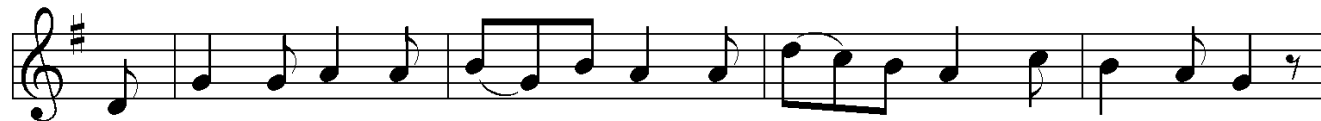
*Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ by "**tables**": When the usher bids you, come forward via the left side aisle, take an empty glass from the tray (or a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary), and kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive "**the body of Christ, given for you**" from the Pastor; receive "**the blood of Christ, shed for you**" from our communion assistant (or drink the grape juice you already have in hand). Pr Dave will dismiss each "table" with a blessing, at which point the next "table" will form. Once we've all communed, our service continues with thanksgiving...*

SENDING

THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION:



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

3

We give You thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup
we've tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to Christ's resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Now may the God of life, who raised Christ Jesus from death,
empower you by the Holy Spirit to walk in newness of life;
and almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

ELW 452

We sing this to the tune of "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
So learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.*

→

*To us on earth He came to bring from sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.*

*There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,
One Lord, one faith, and one Baptism, one God who made us all.*

*Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.*

*For us Christ lived, for us He died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life!*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We're it!

What's our part in God's plan?

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

Then let's go in peace, serve in joy, and live out the new life of our risen Lord!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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