



Christ Community Lutheran  
Creating a Community for Christ



Saint Michael Lutheran  
Celebrate, Serve, and Grow in Faith



Two Rivers Parish

I am  
the vine,  
you are the  
branches

JOHN 15:5



## GUEST INFORMATION

**Welcome to Two Rivers Parish, a partnership of Christ Community Lutheran and St. Michael Lutheran!** It is a joy to worship with you on this day.

**We believe God invites you to the table.** Holy Communion is for all the baptized, regardless of age. If walking is difficult for you, we will bring the Lord's Supper to your seat. If you are not communing, we still invite you to come up for a blessing.

**We believe worship should be accessible for all.** Standing and kneeling happen throughout the worship service, which can be difficult for some. Rest assured that you are still worshipping fully with the community when you sit through these parts.

**We believe children belong in worship.** Children's worship kits and instructions are available in the hallway so kids can take part in worship. If a child becomes restless, it's okay, because that's what kids do. If you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a cooldown, we encourage them to return to worship as soon as they are ready.

**We believe God calls us to pray as a community.** Prayer requests may be made during the week by calling or emailing the church office. On Sundays, please write your prayer requests in the Prayer Request Book near the worship space entrance.

**We believe God calls us to be welcoming to all.** Being in a new place can be nerve-racking to say the least. If you are unsure where something is or how something goes, please ask. We want you to feel welcome. Restroom facilities are located just down the hallway.

### **Bulletin Notes**

The worship service is printed fully in this bulletin, so there is no need to flip back and forth to a hymnal. The pastor will also give instructions during the service.

### **Abbreviations**

P: Pastor

A: Assisting Minister

L: Lector

**C: Congregational Response**

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*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ✠ GATHERING ✠



#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, marked upon us at baptism.*

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C:** **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**P:** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**C:** **We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

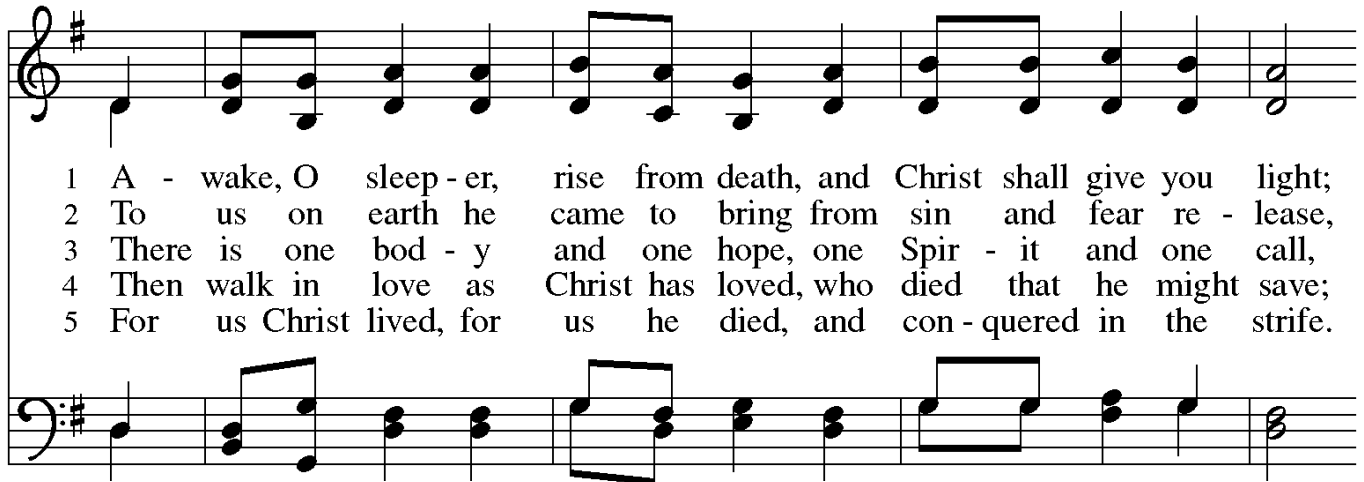
**P:** To you be given honor and praise through our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

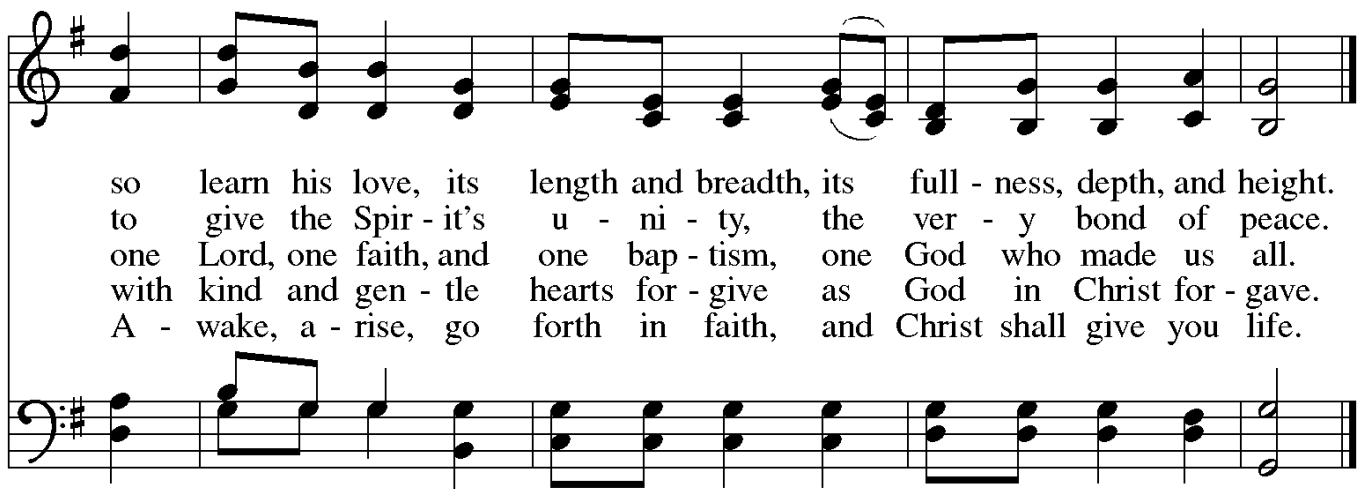
## GATHERING HYMN

*AWAKE, O SLEEPER, RISE FROM DEATH*

ELW 452



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**GREETING**

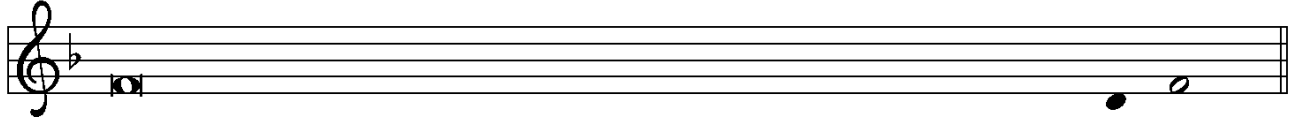
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

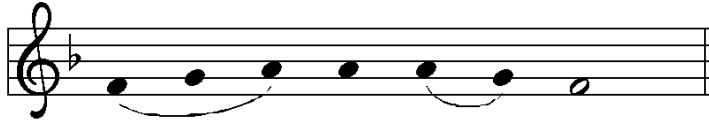
## KYRIE



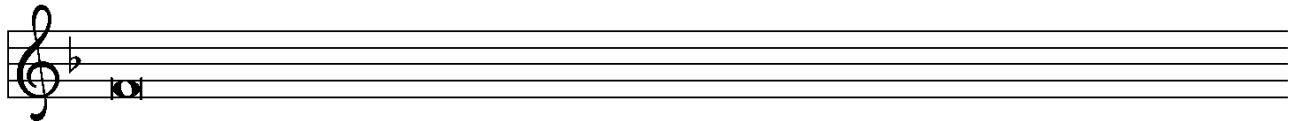
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



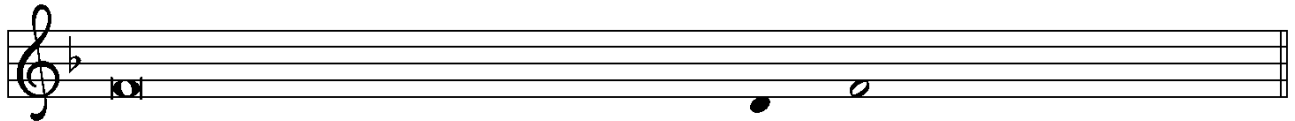
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



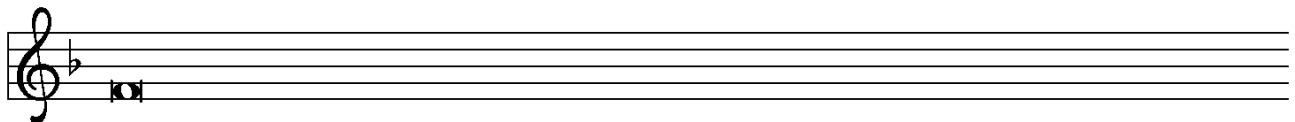
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



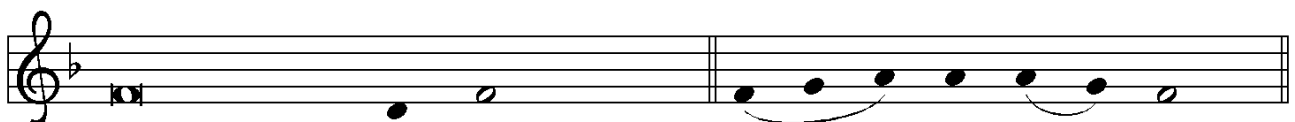
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



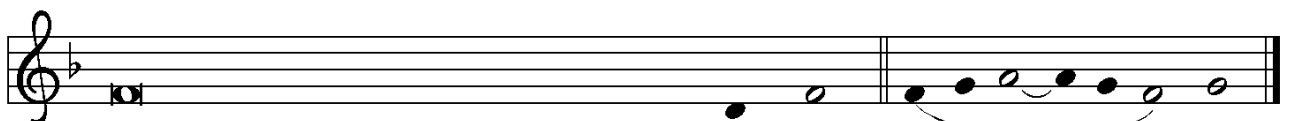
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*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,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

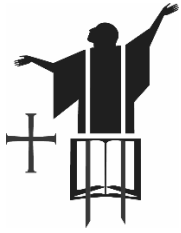
### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.



✠ **WORD** ✠**FIRST READING- ACTS 8:26-40**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

A: A reading from Acts.

<sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As 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?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**PSALM 22:25-31**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

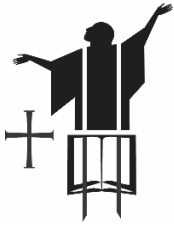
<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**SECOND READING- 1 JOHN 4:7-21**

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

A: A reading from 1 John.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Please stand as you are able.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL- JOHN 15:1-8**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON**

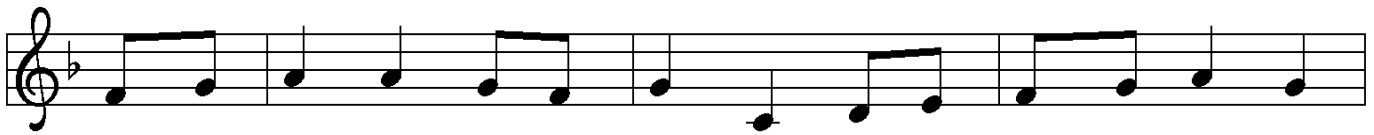
Rev. Joshua Knutson

*Please be seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## LIKE A MURMUR OF THE DOVE'S SONG

ELW 403

*Please stand as you are able.*

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

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**NICENE CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed:

**C: 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 INTERCESSION**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able for the prayers.*

A: 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: Holy God, we pray for the 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, 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. Renew the face of the earth so that all the world may live without fear of famine or drought. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy 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. Restore order to countries in chaos, especially Myanmar, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, 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. We remember especially all on our prayer list and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we pray for 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, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. Lead and strengthen us as we grow our impact. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we give thanks for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to your heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Merciful God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE***Please stand as you are able.***P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.**C:** **And also with you.***The people greet others with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be seated.***✠ MEAL ✠****OFFERING***Worshippers may place offerings into the plate near the door or give using the QR code on the back page.***OFFERING HYMN****LET THE VINEYARDS****ELW 182***Please stand as you are able.*

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 the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

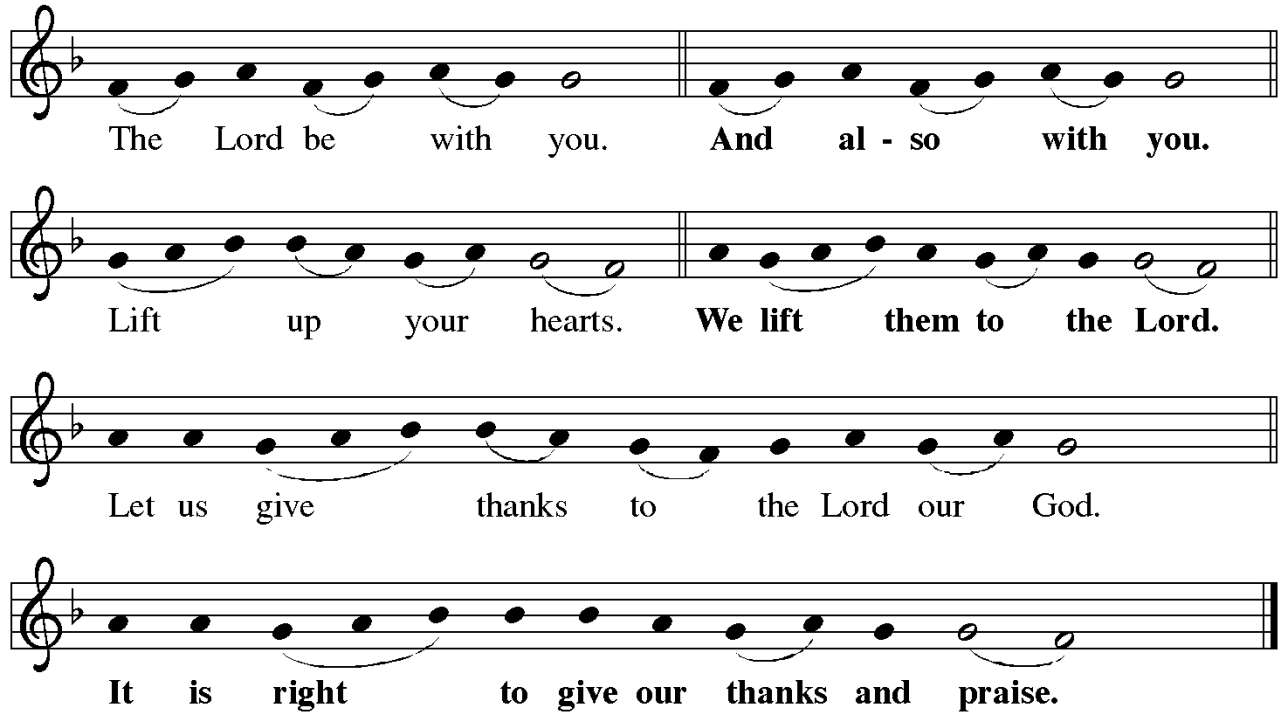


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**


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

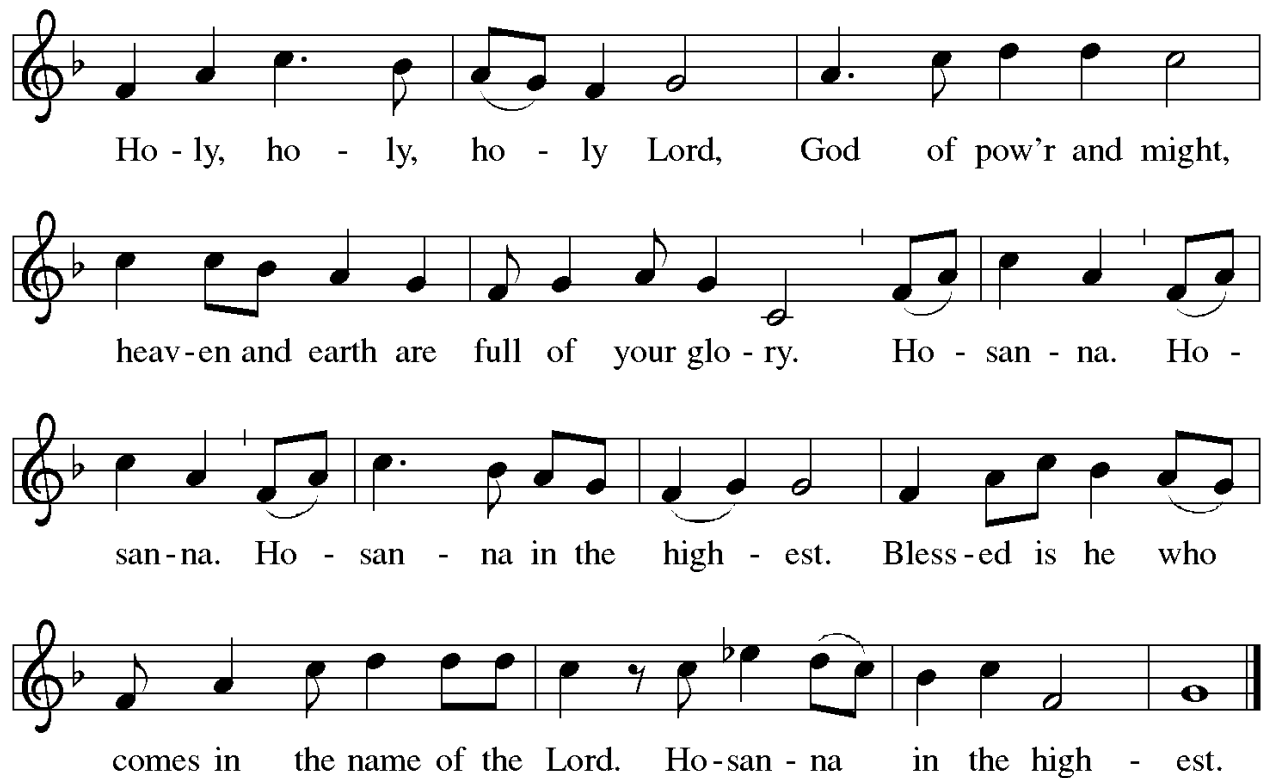
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...*The presiding minister continues with the appointed preface for the day...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.



**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

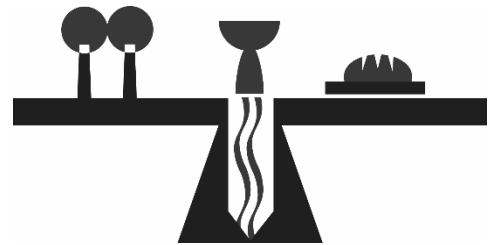
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

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.



P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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 THE TABLE**

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**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.

**TABLE BLESSING**

*Please stand.*

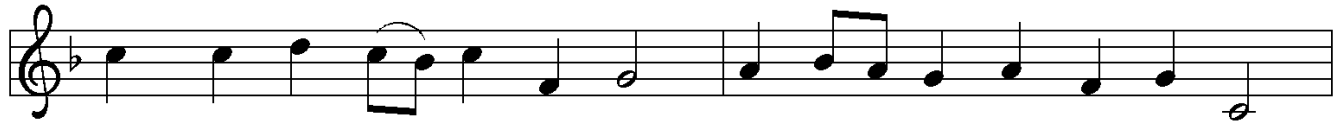
**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## CANTICLE

*THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE*

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
 Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C:** Amen.

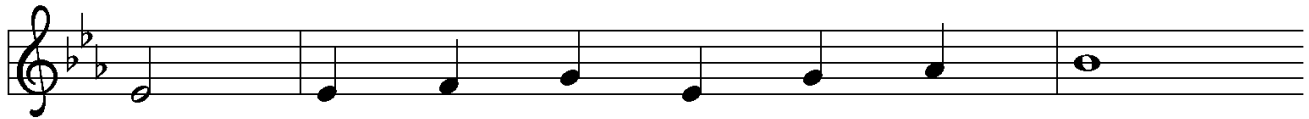
✠ **SENDING** ✠**BENEDICTION**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

## NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**DISMISSAL**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Go in peace. Serve our risen Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

### **FED BY GOD, NOURISHED BY CHRIST**

Imagine a nursing baby at its mother's breast—what a blissful picture of love, joy, peace, and contentment! This image can help us understand who we are as God's beloved children and how tenderly God cares for us. God's grace is unconditional, just as a mother's milk flows to an infant without anything to do with deserving. In today's gospel reading, the vine-and-branches metaphor is another image of how intimately connected Jesus is with us and how crucial it is that we, the branches, hold on to him as our vine.

"Apart from me," says Jesus, "you can do nothing." Apart from its vine, a branch can do nothing—cannot live long, cannot produce grapes, cannot nourish people and animals. Apart from its mother or another devoted caregiver, a newborn can do nothing—cannot feed itself, cannot become or stay healthy, cannot grow and bear the fruit of life and love for others. Apart from God's love and care, which Christians know in Jesus, the whole web of humanity fails to thrive.

A nursing mother sets her face and does whatever is needed—two or three times a night at first, even through mastitis, weariness, and boredom—to feed and impart life to her little one. Jesus' face is set toward the cross as he shares farewell counsel with his disciples. He, too, is ready and determined to do whatever it takes—even dying on a cross—to sustain the vineyard-world with abundant life.

The imagery of vine and branches, juxtaposed with that of God breastfeeding her babies, comes alive when we celebrate the eucharist. At the table, Jesus feeds us with his own body and blood, pouring life and nourishment into us. We are called to abide in him forever—an invitation to grace-filled, permanent relationship. In Jesus the true vine, we his branches enjoy a continual flow of grace, mercy, and love. In turn, we are energized to bear the fruit of his love, joy, and peace for the world.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Marion Conover; Edwin Dodge; Mary Garrick; Snookie Ham; Margaret Harrell;  
Roy Jones; Gary LeCroy; Barbara Moyer; Karen Roberts; Lillian Tanner

Thelma Adams; Sheree Alberris; Clare Barstow; Keith Barstow; Christa Bennett; Sheila Burns; Sidney Brown; Cathie Butler; David Bowers; Claudia Carbonell; Jill Coats; Ron Cribb; Sonya Darden; Dolorous Dukes; Tyrell Ellison; Robert Farman; Jim Freeman; Laura Freeman; Ranson Freeman; Cheyenne Gibson; Gail Godesky; Kyle Hampton; Margie Hampton; Jamie Harris; Stephen Harris; Isabella Jones; Amanda Keifer; Sandra Linville; Tom Mannisto; Byron McClellan, Bryson McClellan; Carla McDonald; Don Mathews; Stacey Morgenweck; Lizbeth Niesman; Ginny Peck; Shirley Reed; Henry Reinsburrow; Eunice Roberts; Kyle Roberts; Mabelle Scott; Pam Shelton; Bob Shiers; Robin Smith; Darlene & Brian Smoly; Barbara Tabler; Mekia White; Jack Wilson; Bob Winters; Vinnie Young.

# News in the Pews



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>28</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship (CCL) <b>11:30 AM</b> Worship (SMLC)	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastor's Office Hours (CCL) <b>8:00 PM</b> AA/Al-Ateen (SMLC)	<b>30</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastor's Office Hours (CCL)	<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastor's Office Hours (SMLC) <b>4:00 pm</b> Confirmation (SMLC) <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Circle (Zoom) <b>7:00 pm</b> Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>2</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastor's Office Hours (SMLC) <b>8:00 PM</b> AA/Al-Ateen (SMLC)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

## PRAYER CIRCLE

Christians believe God calls us to intentional prayer and Bible study. That's why we gather each Wednesday on Zoom to pray for our friends, family, and community, and to learn more about the Bible and our faith. Prayer Circle starts at 6:30 PM and our Bible study on the Gospel of Mark starts at 7:00 PM. Even if you have never joined in before, now is a great time to start. Just use the link that Pastor Josh sends out by email each week or check the home page on the church website.

## CAUSE OF THE MONTH

During March and April, both CCL and SMLC will support different Causes of the Month. CCL will be helping meet the needs at Ronald McDonald House. CCL has supported RMH for years in their mission of easing parents' stress while their children are treated in area hospitals. SMLC's collection will benefit the Women's Ministry at Changed Lives, which is a faith-based substance abuse recovery program. Both are very important causes for our community, so if you have a few dollars on your way out of church, please make sure to drop them in the basket.

## BIRTHDAYS

## PRAYER LIST

If you have names on the Prayer List, please make sure you update the office about their condition. We do not want to remove anyone who still needs prayer, but we do want to keep current.



← ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN OFFERING LINK

CHRIST COMMUNITY OFFERING LINK →

