

# **Saint John Lutheran Church**

*We love because He first loved us*

**May 18, 2025**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Setting Three – Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

## **PRELUDE**

Amanda Boykin

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **WE GATHER**

## **EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us share God's peace with one another.

*All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying  
"Peace be with You."*

## **INVOCATION**

*Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the  
sign marked at Baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and  
from whom 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.

**C Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

*ELW #482 "I Come with Joy"*

1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

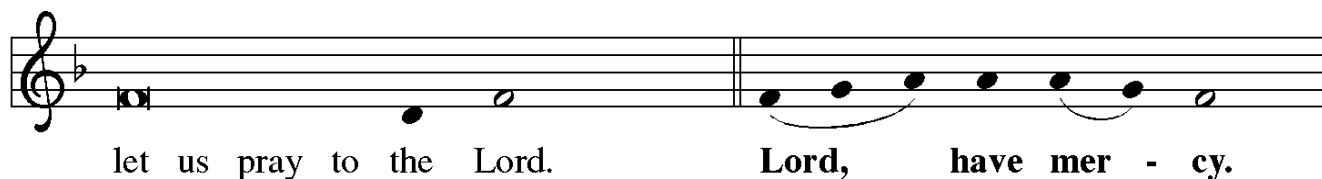
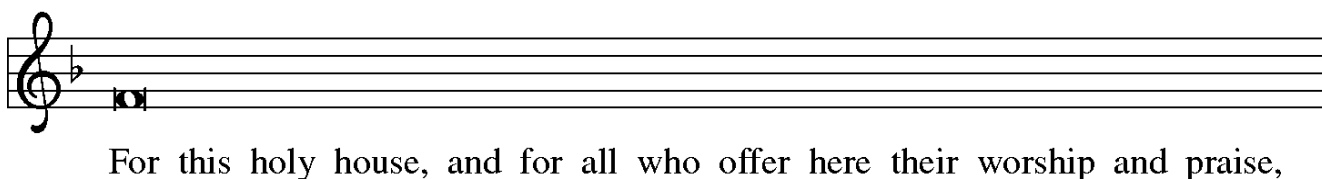
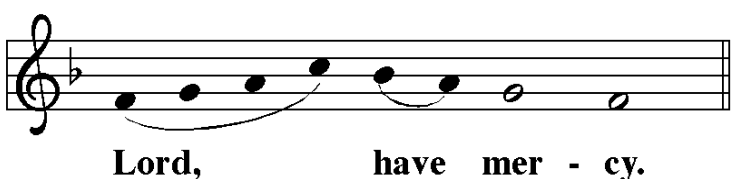
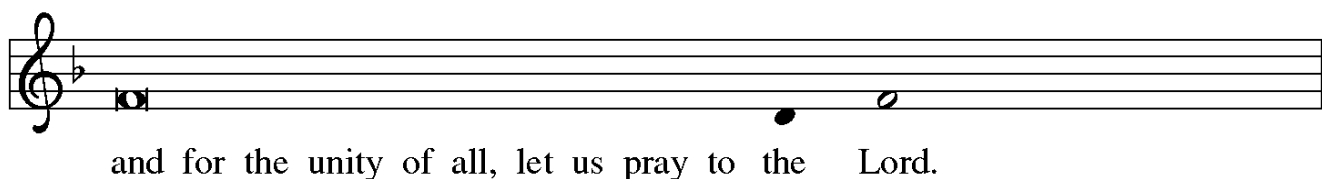
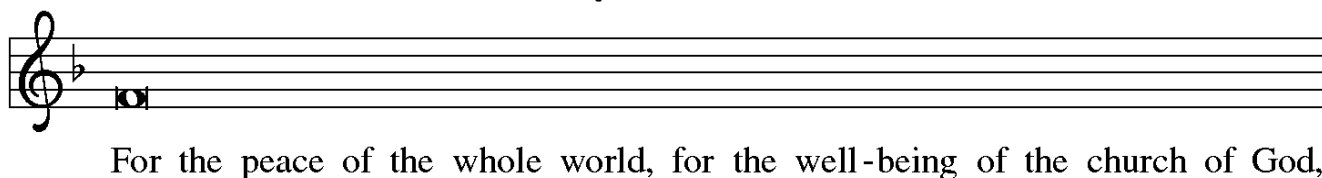
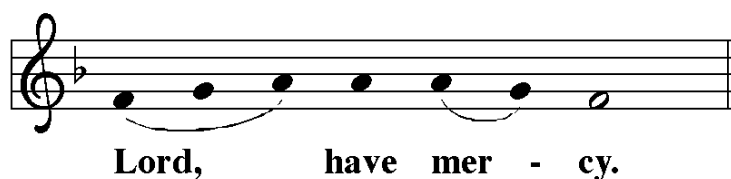
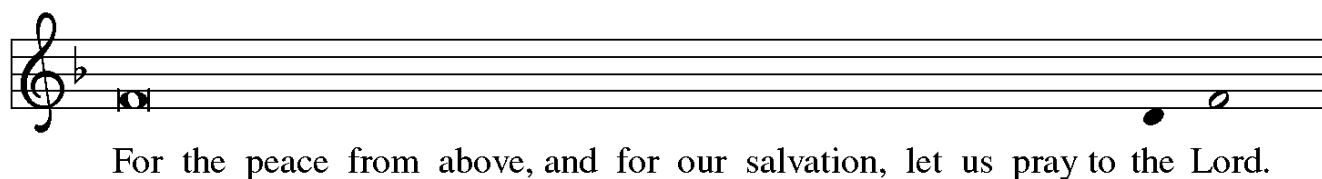
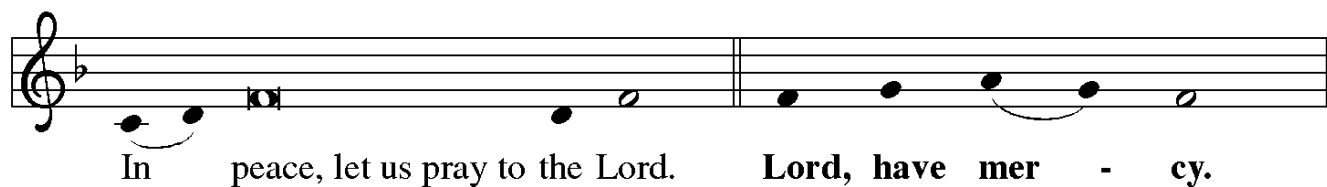
## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

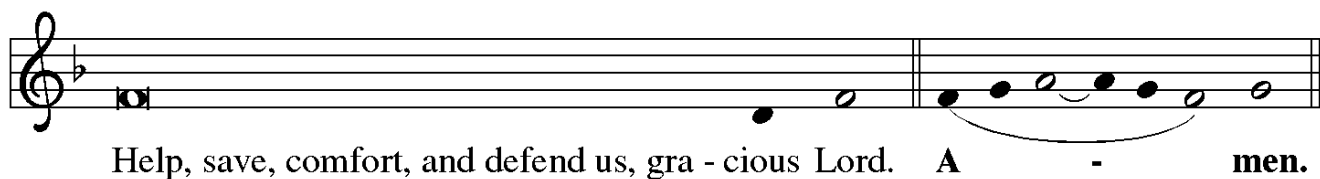
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

# KYRIE

*Pg. 138-139*





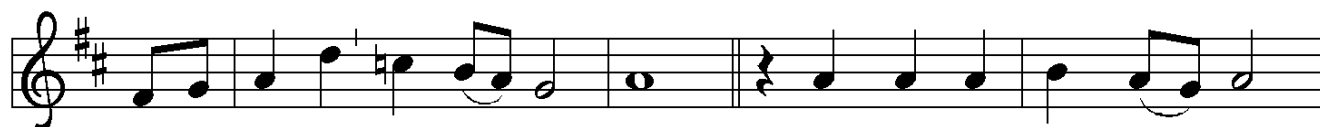
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"

Pg. 140-141



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



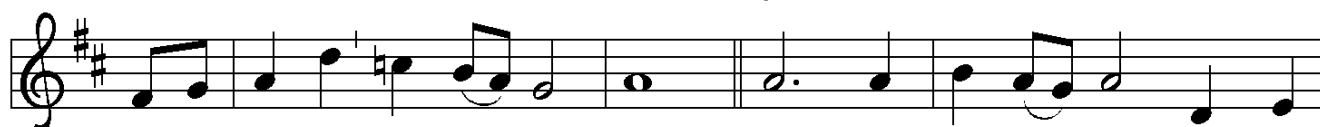
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



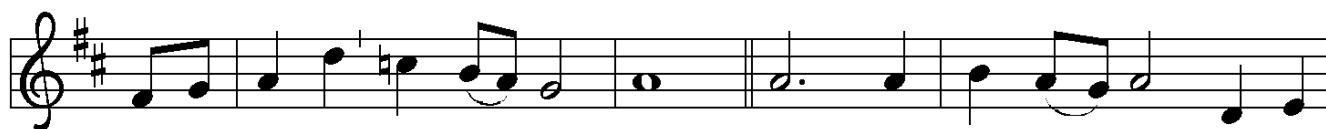
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



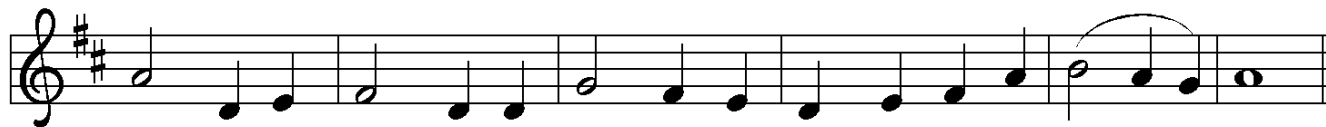
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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,

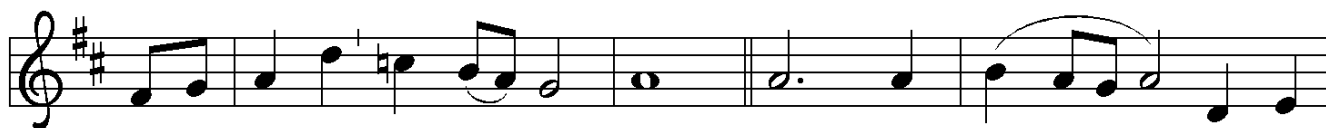


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



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

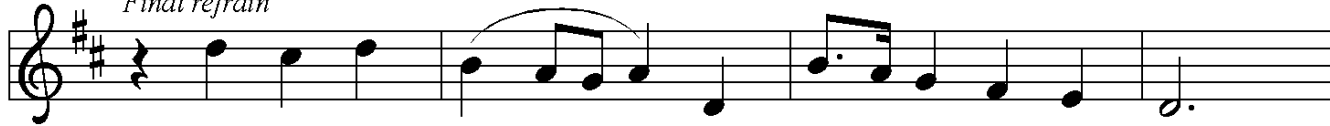


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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**

**C O 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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

## **THE HOLY WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

*Acts 11:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> 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."

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 148*



<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,**  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they | were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**



<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, | snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup> mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts | and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and | flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young | men and maidens,**  
**old and | young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and  
heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for**  
**all | faithful servants,**  
**the children of Israel, a people who are near**  
**the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

*Revelation 21:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he 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." <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said

to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Pg. 142*

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 13:31-35*

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Pete

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*ELW #377 "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" vs. 1, 2, & 5*

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!  
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!  
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

#### *Refrain*

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 2 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.

#### *Refrain*

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 5 City of God, Easter forever,  
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels,  
sing with creation to God the I AM!

#### *Refrain*

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.  
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places (*local or regional places may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (*especially*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (*especially Erik, King of Sweden*). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

**WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES & OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY CANTICLE *ELW #186 "Create in Me"*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

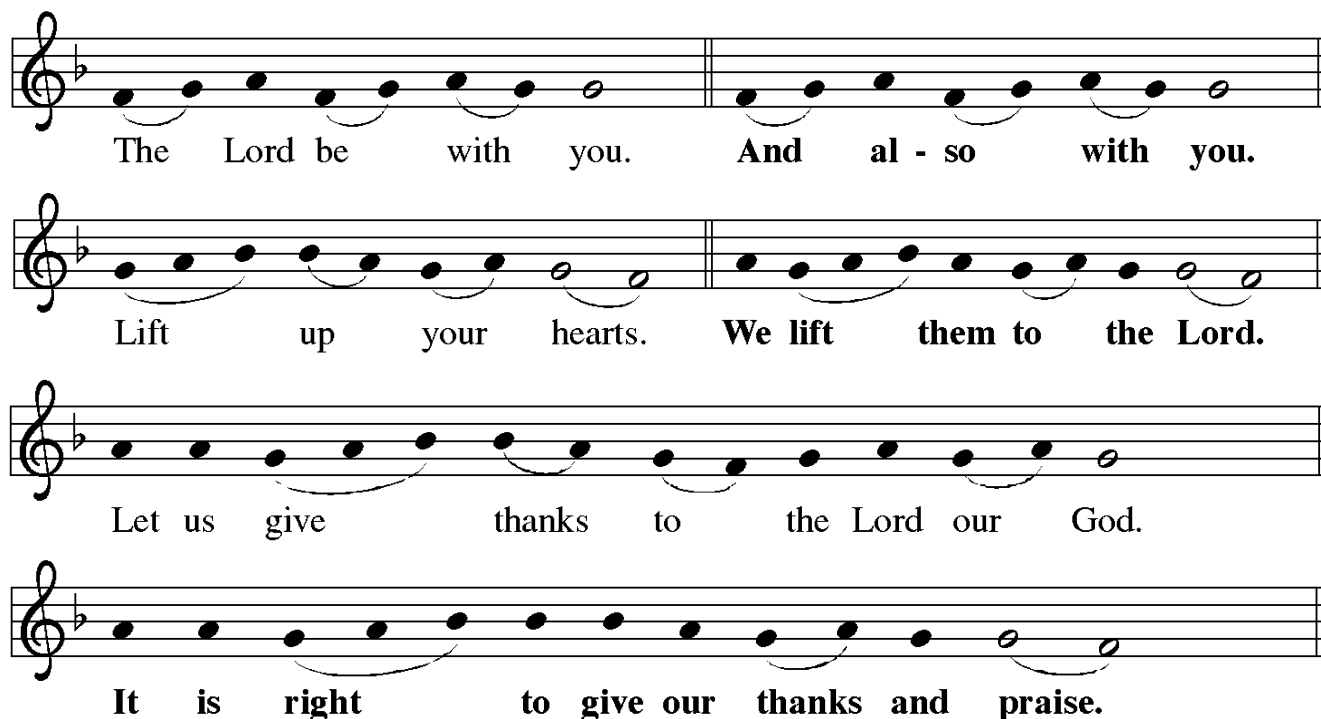
**A** Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**C** Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Pg. 144*



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.

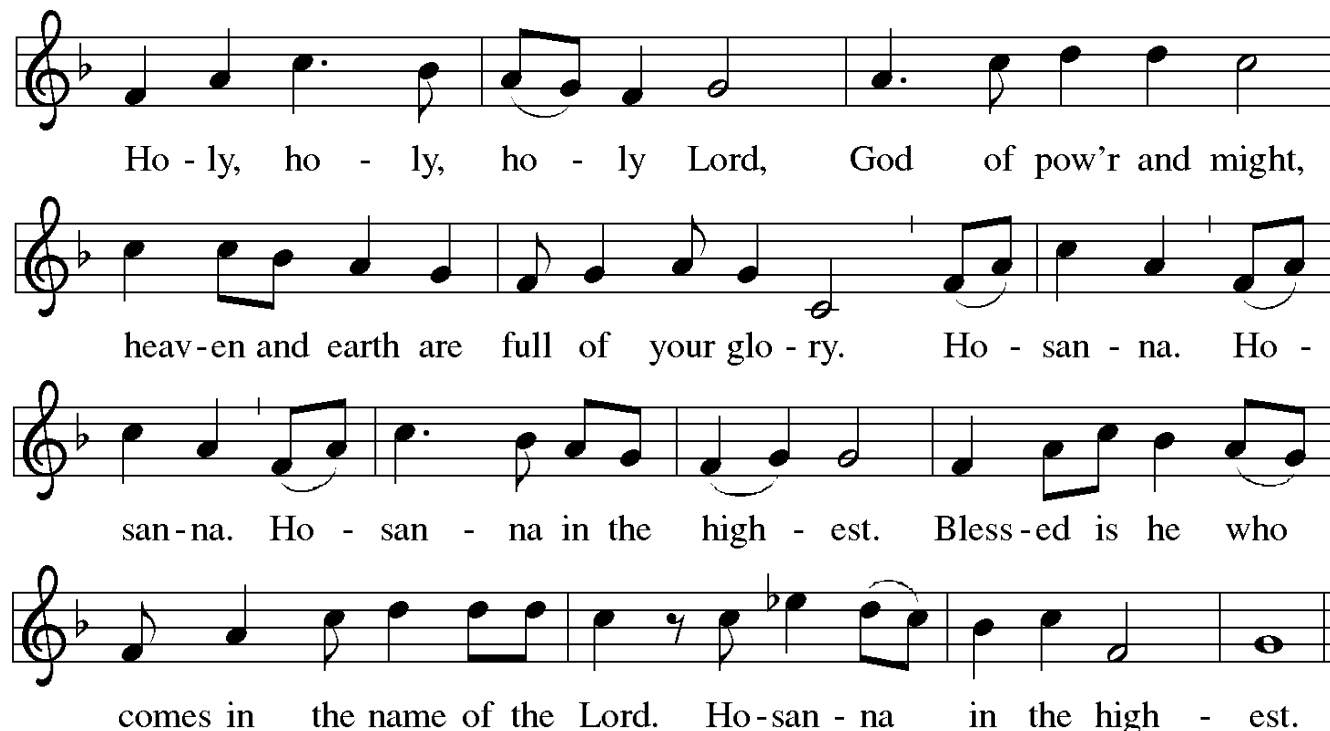
The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and half notes with slurs.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal 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:

## SANCTUS "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

Pg. 144



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.

## 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

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 COMMUNION

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

## LAMB OF GOD

*Pg. 146*

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.

## **HOLY COMMUNION OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**

*We are celebrating Holy Communion during the service this morning. We believe that Christ is truly present in this meal of bread and wine. All are welcome at table. Small children who have not yet received communion instruction are welcome at the table to receive a blessing. Those who prefer not to receive wine may take white grape juice supplied in the inner circle of the communion tray, gluten free wafers are available, just let your server know you wish to receive gluten free.*

## **MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION**

*Instrumental*

## **TABLE DISMISSAL**

P Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

**C Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*ELW #554 "Lord, Your Hands Have Formed" vs. 1 & 3*

- 1 Lord, your hands have formed this world,  
ev'ry part is shaped by you—  
water tumbling over rocks,  
air, and sunlight: each day's signs  
that you make all things new.
  
- 3 Like a mat you roll out land,  
space to build for us and you  
earthly homes and, better still,  
homes for Christ: the truest sign  
that you make all things new.

## **DISMISSAL**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

## **POSTLUDE**

Amanda Boykin

Thank you to those serving today:

## **READER**

Ruth Brown

## **ASSISTING MINISTER**

JoAnn Fuchs

## **CANTOR**

Tessa Dorsett

## **USHERS**

Charles Schulze & Kevin Hughes

**ACOLYTE**

Ryder Fuller

**COUNTERS**

Helen Patterson & JoAnn Fuchs

**SUNDAY SUPERVISOR**

Ruth Brown

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Abigail Boykin

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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