



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

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**Ascension of Our Lord**  
**May 12, 2024**

## **We Welcome You to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**PRELUDE**

*Morning Glory*

Tucker

**WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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!**

### **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.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

God unheld  
by work or wall;  
Power of love  
Beyond all lords of war:  
Lift us from dullness  
And cynical contempt  
Make us ready for your Spirit  
Of transforming fire;  
And turn our hearts  
To the mending of the world;  
Through Jesus Christ, the name above all names.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children are invited for a time together.*

## **HANDBELL ANTHEM**

*Trust & Obey*

arr. Mallory

## **READING: Acts 1:1-11**

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly <sup>11</sup>two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

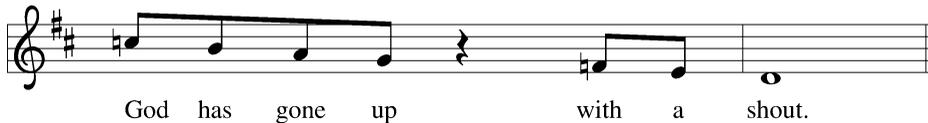
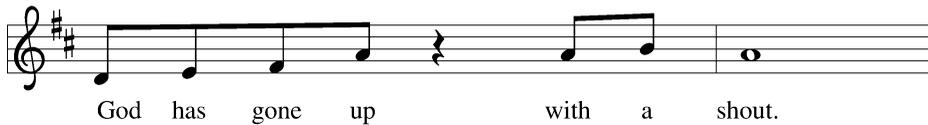
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 47

*The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.*

### Refrain



### Psalm Tone



- <sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.
- <sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:**  
**a great king over | all the earth,**
- <sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;
- <sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,**  
**the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves. R**
- <sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.
- <sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;**  
**sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered  
as the people of the | God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
who is high- | ly exalted. **R**

### **READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

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

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

<sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

<sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

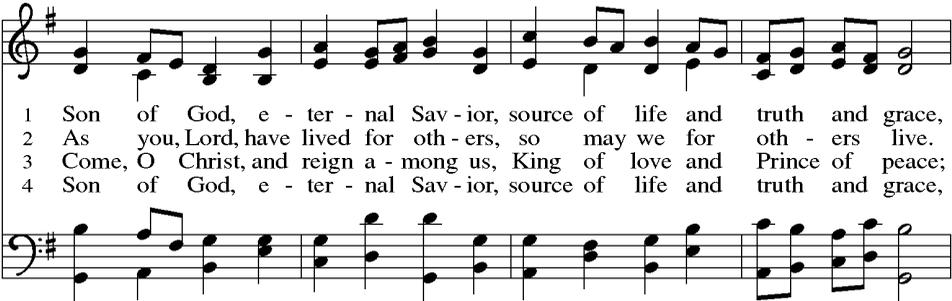
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

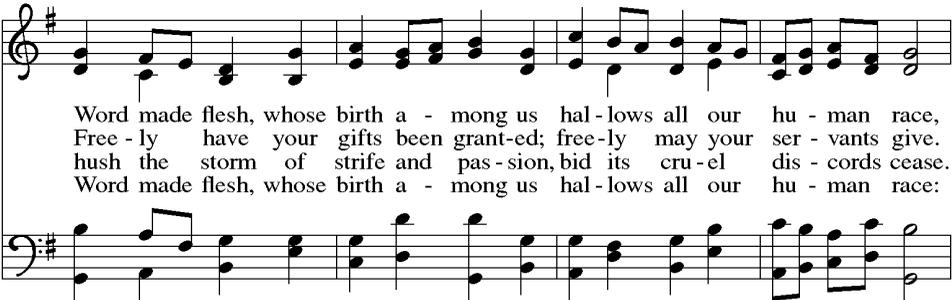
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #655 *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

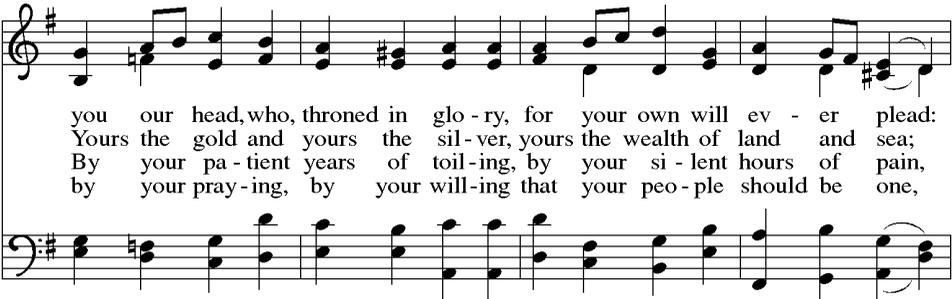
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



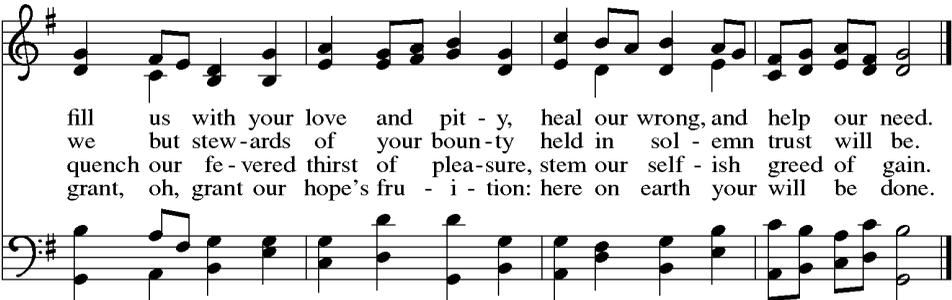
1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

## 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

*Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.*

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.*

We pray for the church and all ministers of the gospel, that the Spirit will empower them to be your witnesses throughout the earth. Keep all teachers and missionaries under your care and guide them as they proclaim your word to the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of creation and for all your creatures: for zoos, nature preserves, and conservation organizations, for endangered species, and for those who work to protect all that you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those who govern: for all countries, regions, and people in crisis or at war. Bring your peace on earth, in our homes, and in our hearts. In Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, tend to all recovering from disasters; raise up and equip leaders to build peace, stability, and harmony. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For all in any need: for exiles, refugees, and those fleeing war and poverty, for those who suffer from individual and institutionalized racism. For those who grieve, and for those near death. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation and for its concerns: for visitors, for those who are absent, for those in prison, for the homebound, and for those who travel. Enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now rest in you. Following the example of Matthias, Erik, and all those who have died in the faith, strengthen us to share your good news in the world. 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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Reconciling Works [www.reconcilingworks.org/ric](http://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric) and our CLC Youth attending ELCA Youth Gathering [www.elca.church/gathering](http://www.elca.church/gathering).*



*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](http://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](http://our CLC app) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](http://clcvalpo.org/app)).*

**OFFERTORY (8:00 am):** *Trio on 'Children of the Heavenly Father'* Ruiter-Feenstra

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am):** *Ain-a That Good News* Dawson

*I got a crown up in-a that Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! I'm a-goin' to lay down this world, goin'-a shoulder up my cross, goin'- a take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news! I got a harp up in-a that Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! I got a robe up in-a that Kingdom, ain'-a that good news! I got a Saviour in-a that Kingdom, ain'-a that good news!*

## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

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.**

## 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*

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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff contains 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff contains 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We 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.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

# 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.



**COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #483    *Here is Bread***

Here is bread, here is wine  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
Break the bread, drink the wine  
Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
Know his grace, find his peace  
Feast on Jesus here

***Refrain***

*In this bread there is healing  
In this cup there's life forever  
In this moment, by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here*

Here we are, joined in one  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
We'll proclaim, till he comes  
Jesus crucified ***Refrain***

Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

**ELW #494    *For the Bread Which You Have Broken***



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.  
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631  
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

*When all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.*

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**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #826

*Thine the Amen*



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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*Children join the pastors to send us in mission*

**DISMISSAL**

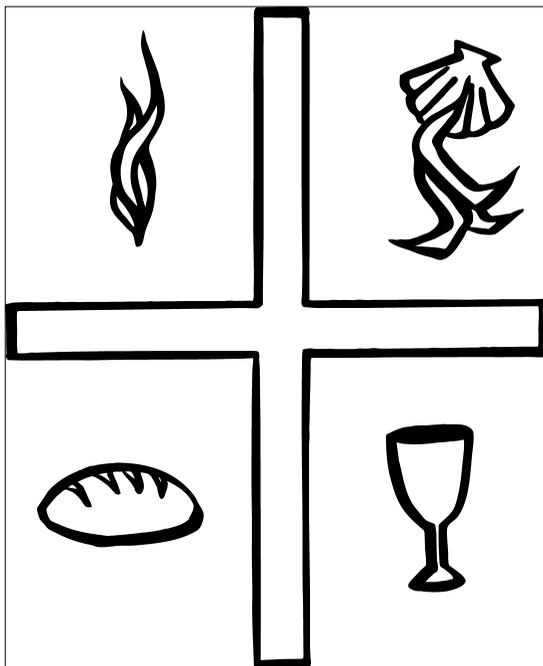
*Children:* Alleluia! Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata in Seven*

Rutter



## Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Sam Venstrom	Audrey Crill
Lector	Gail Lutze	Tim Malchow
Prayer Assistant	Paige Reichardt	Grace Safrin
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Amy Knauff Holly Knauff
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Bob Luckett	Justin Pearson Chuck Schaefer
Sound/Light	Tony Reinhold	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	-----	Daniel Gibson-Even
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Youth Handbell Ensemble Kathy Stefans, cantor Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	Angela Wehner	
Communion Table	Barb Clements Terry Albrecht Helen Arvidson	Diana Ahlbrand Marilyn McGawn Marla Niksch Lori Schwartz

## COMMEMORATIONS

Week of May 12, 2024

### **May 14**

#### **Matthias, Apostle**

After Christ's ascension, the apostles met in Jerusalem to choose a replacement for Judas. Matthias was chosen over Joseph Justus by the casting of lots. Little is known about Matthias, and little is reported about him in the account of his election in Acts 1:15-26. Matthias traveled among the disciples from the beginning of Jesus' ministry until his ascension. His task, after he was enrolled among the eleven remaining disciples, was to bear witness to the resurrection.

Matthias was formerly commemorated on February 24, though the reason for that date is not known. More recently the Roman Catholic Church moved the celebration to May 14, so that it falls after the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, when Matthias was chosen as an apostle.

### **May 18**

#### **Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

Erik, long considered the patron saint of Sweden, ruled from 1150 to 1160. He is honored for efforts to bring peace to the nearby pagan kingdoms and for his crusades to spread the Christian faith in Nordic lands. He established a protected Christian mission in Finland that was led by Henry of Uppsala. As king, Erik was noted for his desire to establish fair laws and courts and for his concern for the poor and sick. Erik was killed by a Danish army that approached him at worship on the day after the Ascension. He is reported to have said, "Let us at least finish the sacrifice. The rest of the feast I shall keep elsewhere." As he left worship he was killed.

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, & Nepal.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the peoples of these nations – the diversity of their cultures, languages, and art, and their resilience
- the breath-taking beauty of these lands – the mountains in all their grandeur, overflowing rivers and green paddy fields
- all those who work for the churches and their institutions, especially in places where natural disasters strike

We **pray** for:

- efforts of governments and others to build up these nations' economies
- those who have lost families and homes in earthquakes and other disasters as they struggle to rebuild their lives, homes and infrastructure
- those who contribute to religious harmony and advocate for the minority voice of Christians, especially amid religious and ethnic tensions
- religious and government leaders that they will make it possible for all peoples to live in justice with peace and harmony
- these small nations which depend on other countries and are often threatened by interests of their bigger neighbours

### *Stewardship Snippet*

**John 17:18** – [Jesus prayed to God about his disciples,] “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

*Because we live in an evil world, we can be tempted to withdraw, shut down, and disengage. But Jesus sends us steward/disciples out into the world, to be bearers of God's love and light. We engage the world God loves.*

## A Hard Blessing

She chopped deeper into her friend's thicket of grief and fear with these words: "This is a hard blessing for you, a privilege you never imagined or wished for; losing everything you've gained is an unhopd-for freedom few people receive." The winnowing encouragement pressed beyond the shocking rupture in his settled life. Bereft, one word commanded every spark in his mind, every contraction of his heart: *gone*.

What is there left to believe in when loss hollows your soul? How can courage be found? How can one imagine, let alone trust, that there will again be joy when the tomorrow you hoped for disappears like a wilderness trail after sunset?

Whatever can be made of the ascension account told in Luke and retold in Acts, there is no missing the severity of loss experienced by the disciples. It was a breath-hardening stupor that descended, making senseless Jesus' community of ragtag vagabonds. At the same time, the disciples were challenged to carry on anew after their Lord's strange departure. Even as there was grief and fear for the disciples, there was also "great joy" (Luke 24:52). Despite loss, still there was "power from on high" (Luke 24:49) and the Holy Spirit to accompany them (Acts 1:8). But, we can imagine, these gifts of joy and power were not gained without struggle and uncertainty: a hard blessing.

The last marvelous word of wonder in this Jesus story does not settle on his departure but on his arrival; not from whom he has gone but to whom he comes; not on the emptiness of loss but in the wholeness found in being claimed by God's love. The enduring wonder of Jesus' divine contradictions is not discovered in a supernatural flash—"Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?" (Acts 1:11)—but rather in the daily witness of God's grace and hope, which abound "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

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Portions from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare.