

# SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 3, 2026 at 10:30 am**

***Welcome to the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!***

***The Day:*** *The world of today offers many promises and premises that have been broken and debunked. It's hard to know who to trust, who to listen to. In this worldly wilderness, how do we know the way? In today's gospel, Thomas also professes that he doesn't know the way. Jesus answers Thomas with clarity for Thomas in his time, for us in our time, and for all time.*

## **PRELUDE**

*Please silence electronic devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.*

*Stand*

## **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** 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.
- G** 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,

**G** **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.

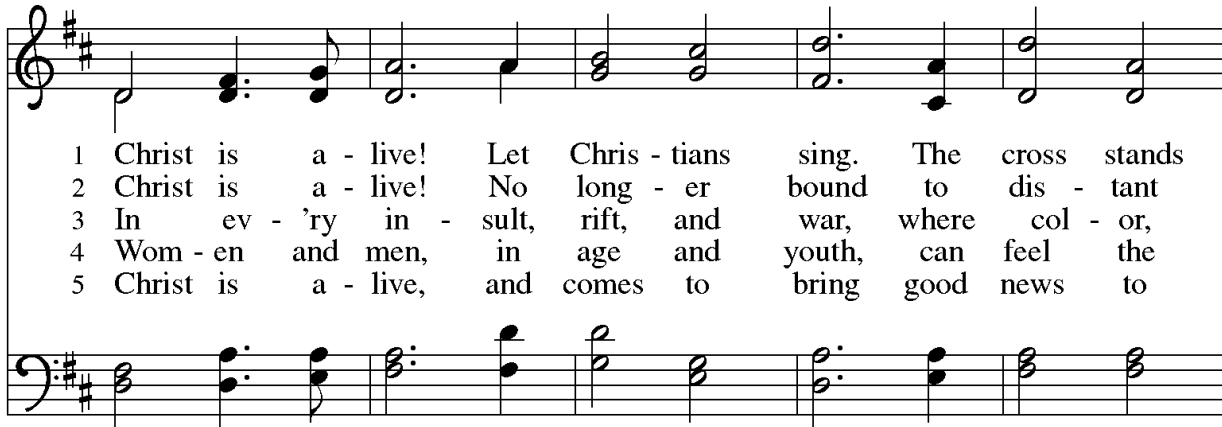
**G** **Amen.**

*The assembly follows the ministers into the church. The Procession begins.*


# GATHERING HYMN

ELW #389

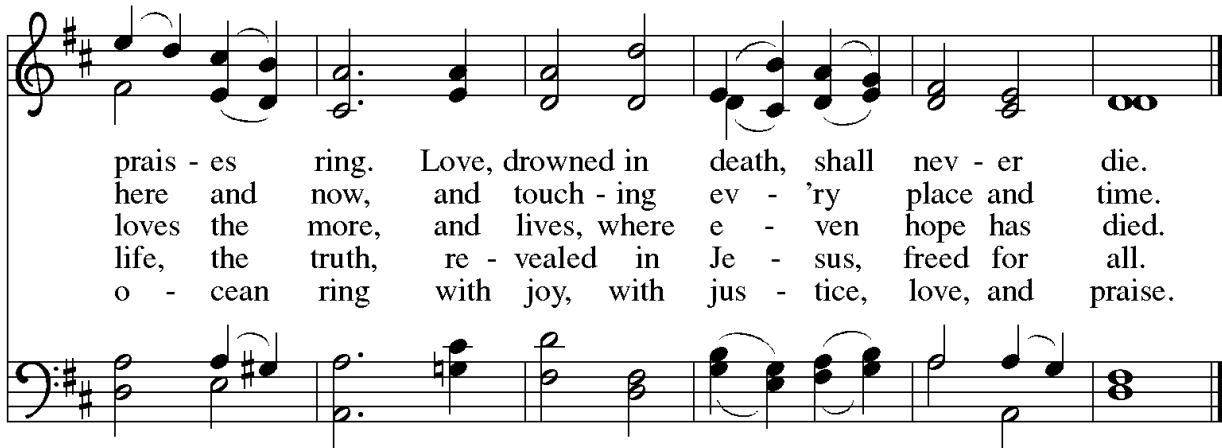
## CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

# THE 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



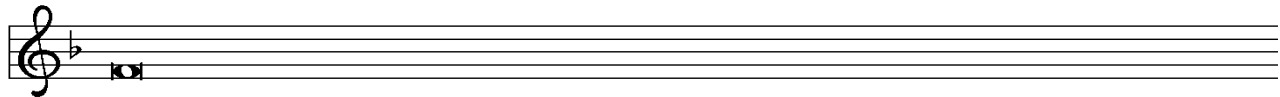
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



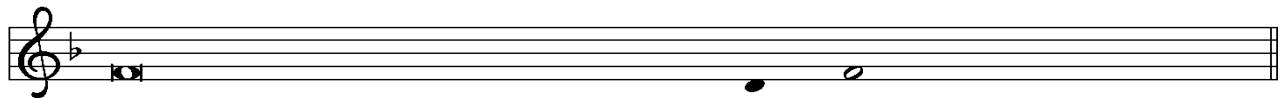
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



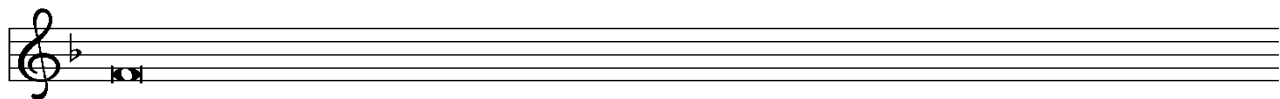
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



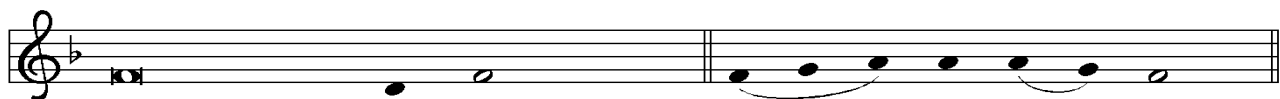
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



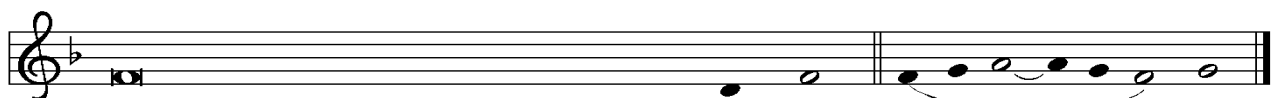
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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.**

## CANTICLE 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. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
*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

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

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL**

Chuck Freas, President

Scott Jennings, Vice President

Mitzi Eberhardt, Secretary

Doug Neale, Treasurer

Leslie Kollmeyer

Tracy Roberts

Jenny Thomas

## **BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

Lauren Beatty, Berry College

Nate Borchers, Georgia State University

Kimberly Cardinale, Emory University

Kwoineh Haba, Emory University

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Pastor Beatty**

### **FIRST LESSON**

**Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

**L** A reading from the book of Acts, the 7th chapter, beginning at the 55th verse.

<sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out

with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;



deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me;  
make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and  
my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,  
for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who |  
persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.**

## SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:2-10

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

**L** A reading from 1st Peter, the 2nd chapter, beginning at the 2nd verse. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA VERSE

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

**John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

**P** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 14th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

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

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> in my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have Told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you

say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**“WTL”**

**Pastor Beatty**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #798

## WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



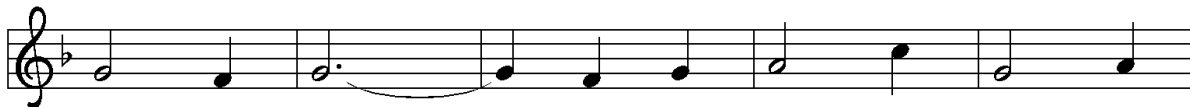
your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
mean in you and you in me?"  
sound in you and you in me?"  
grow in you and you in me.

**P** With one voice let us confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

## **INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

***P/A** Lord in your Mercy,      **C** hear our prayer.*

**A** Heavenly Father, through the gift of Holy Baptism you have bound us to the death and resurrection of Christ, and you have adopted us as your newborn children, and you feed us with pure spiritual milk. Grant to your one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church the strength

to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices for the life and salvation of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire church workers, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. We especially pray for our own Pastor Mark. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** Holy God, your power brought all things into being and still preserves what you have made. Continue to bless and protect Donald, our president; the Congress of the United States; Brian, our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Lead them to honor you and your purpose, establishing order and justice, and encouraging virtue. Give them wisdom and moderation to lead for the well-being of all the nations. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** You O Lord, are the giver of the peace that passes all understanding. Grant us the wisdom and strength to seek your peace and grant to all the nations of the world that gift of peace. We pray especially for Ukraine, Iran, Israel, the Middle East, and those suffering persecution in Africa and around the world. Bring all conflicts to a swift resolution that all may know peace. Lord in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer

**A** Father of glory, your Son declared himself to be the way, the truth and the life. Bless all who have requested our prayers, especially those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. *(after silence count to 10)* May Christ himself be their way of salvation, their truth amid doubt, and their life amid death. Grant them a sure

and steadfast hope in the good news that he has prepared a place for them with you, where pain and sickness are no more and all things are made new. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** O Lord, we thank and praise you for your servant Stephen, whom your Son has received into his glory. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. May we also follow in their path of faith and love, until we are gathered with all your saints into the many dwelling places that you have prepared for our eternal home. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**G** Amen.

## PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** And also with you.

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Peace be with you.*

**R** *Peace be with you.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING

*The ushers collect our gifts of tithes and offerings, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.*

*Stand as gifts are presented.*

## OFFERTORY



**C** 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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

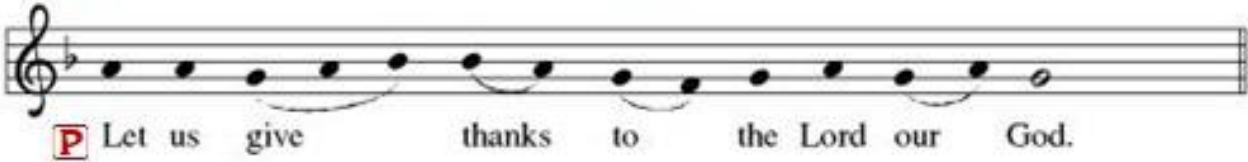
# GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

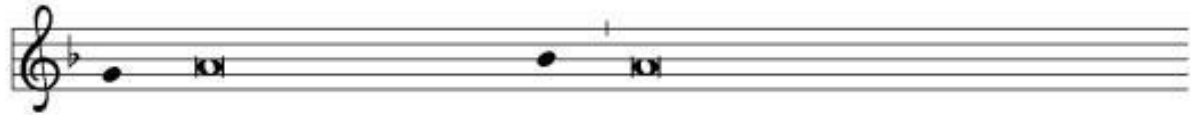
# PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection



of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself



to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,



and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.



And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the



res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,



and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing 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** Heavenly Father, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life. We give you thanks for his glorious resurrection and ascension to fulfill your holy will and to accomplish all things for us and for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's dying and rising until he comes again.

**C** **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**  
**Alleluia!**

# 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.**

*Sit*

# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## AGNUS DEI

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.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

IN THE SINGING

ELW #466



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,  
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,  
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

# O BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

ELW #480

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims  
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er  
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed  
stream - ing, from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come  
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -  
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and  
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.  
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.  
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

*Stand*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P** Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen ✝ you and keep you in God's grace.

**G** Amen.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**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.

**G** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

**P** May God the Father who raised Christ from the dead, open to you the gate of everlasting life.

**G** Alleluia!

**P** May God the Son who burst from the grave, give you joy as you celebrate his resurrection.

**G** Alleluia!

**P** May God the Holy Spirit who brought you to new birth in baptism, fill you with strength and peace.

**G** Amen. Alleluia!

*Sit*

**Farewell and Godspeed:**

Kimberly Cardinale

Kwoineh Haba

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

# SENDING HYMN

ELW #543

## GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

## **DISMISSAL**

**A** Love The Lord!

**G** **Live The Mission!**  
**Together!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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