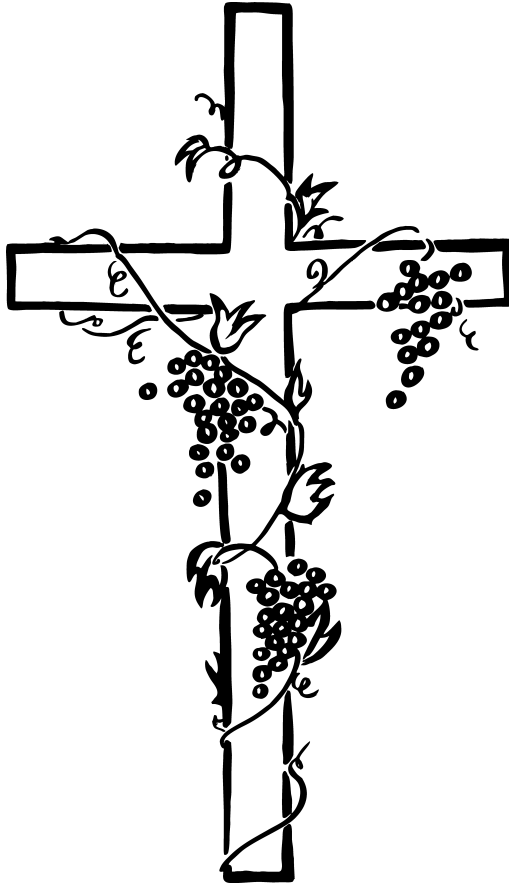


“Serving Christ as a welcoming community of  
grace, so all may know God’s love.”



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

ANDREA BATES, PASTOR

KYLE BATES, PASTOR

DAVID RHYNE, DEACON FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

ALL MEMBERS, MINISTERS

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

April 28, 2024

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ✠ Holy Communion Setting Four

## **PRELUDE**

*Wir Glauben all an einen Gott (We All Believe in One True God)  
Chorale Melody ~ J. S. Bach (chorale) ~ Samuel Scheidt (prelude)*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We stand*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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!**



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

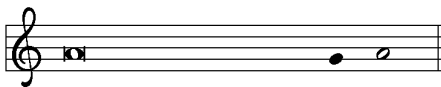
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## GREETING

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

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.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



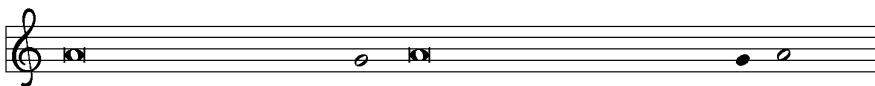
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



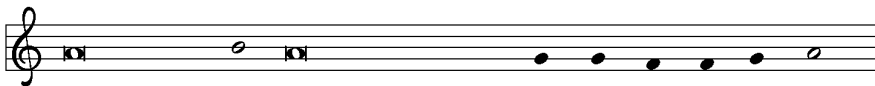
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



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

*Refrain*



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.

**Amen.**

## ❖ WORD ❖

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Pastor Bruce Booher**

## FIRST READING

**Acts 8:26-40**

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.

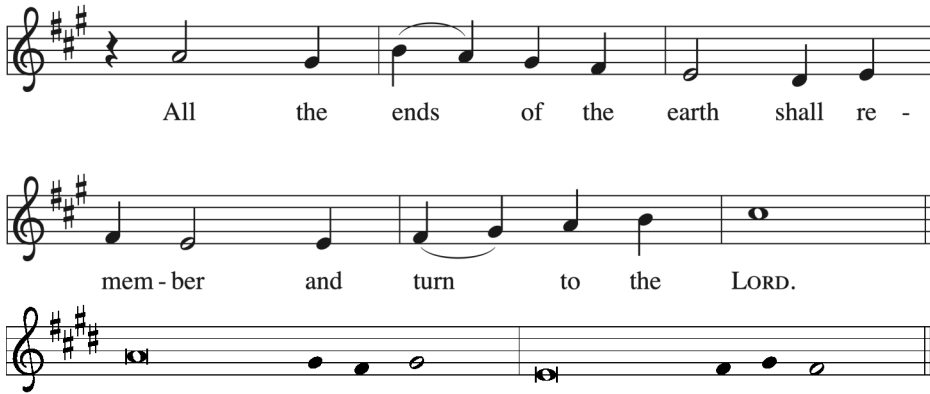
Who can describe his generation?

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup> down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup> fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup> tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup> yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The <sup>1</sup> LORD has acted!" **R**

## SECOND READING

## 1 John 4:7-21

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

**John 15:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit*

## SERMON

**Pastor Bruce Booher**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*We stand*

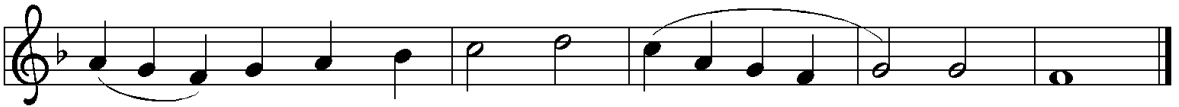




1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

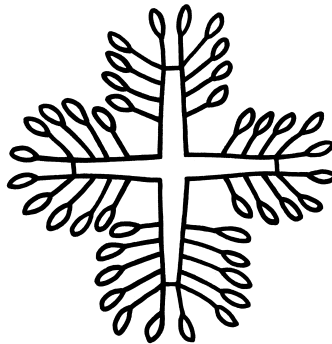


in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

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## **NICENE CREED**

*With the heavenly hosts and all the saints we confess the faith of the Church...*

**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

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 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,  
**hear our prayer.**

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 and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving 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 that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. 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.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other  
in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,  
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,  
including care of those in need.*

## OFFERING ANTHEM

**ADULT CHOIR**

*Beloved, Let Us Love One Another* – Van Denman Thompson  
Cynthia Trout– Soloist

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. Herein is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son to atone for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us we also ought to love one another. If we love one another God abideth in us, and his love is made perfect in us. God is love, and whoso abideth in love abideth in God and God abideth in him. Beloved, let us love one another.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Be Not Afraid*

**ELW 388**

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is written on the upper staff, and the accompaniment is written on the lower staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with the same key signature and time signature. The melody and accompaniment are repeated, and the lyrics are placed below the notes.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**



## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us, healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all honor and glory is yours,  
almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's Table, following the direction of our ushers in the center aisle. Please kneel at the rail as able and we will offer bread and pre-filled cups of either wine or white grape juice. Then, we will collect empty cups, and you may return to your seat by the closest side aisle.*

*Those unable to consume wine or bread/wafers are assured that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for you in, with, and under each element. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.*

## COMMUNION SONG



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



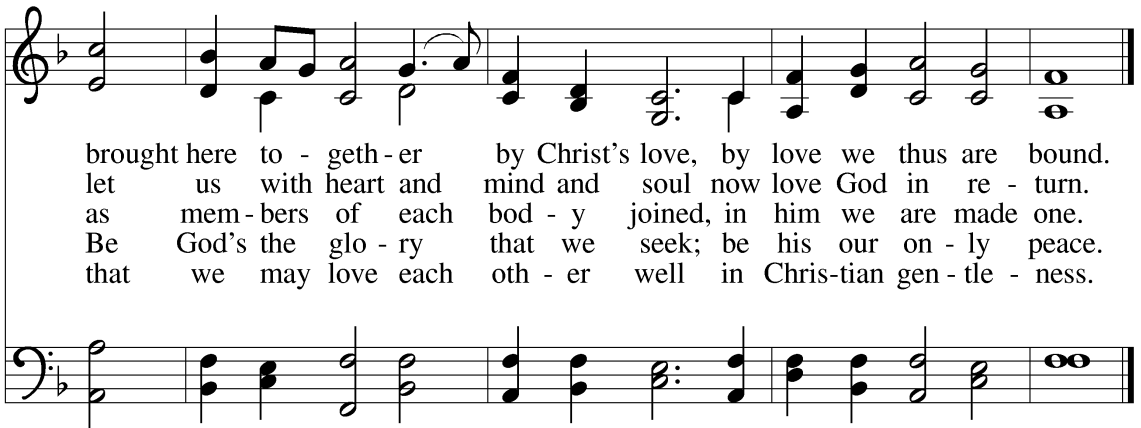
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.







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.

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*We Stand*

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

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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 ❖

**BLESSING**

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

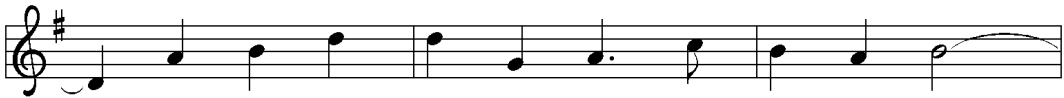
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **Amen.**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## DISMISSAL

*Children are invited to join worship leaders at the entrance to the sanctuary for the dismissal, speaking the words "serve the Lord!"*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Wir Glauben all an einen Gott* – J. S. Bach



## SERVING TODAY

**8:30**

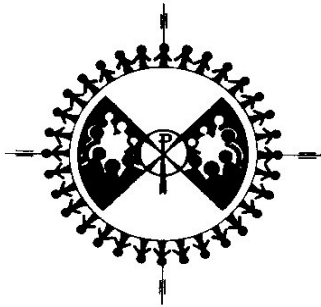
Altar Guild  
Greeters  
Assisting Minister  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Nursery Caregivers  
Recording Ministers  
Safe Hospitality

Geneal Cantrell & Hannelore Schuetterle  
Tonjia Groblewski  
Marie Castagnaro  
Pat George  
Dorsey Finn  
  
Kevin Wallace

**11:00**

Grethe Bunes & Jackie Frederick  
Cynthia Trout  
Emily Bugay  
John Thomas Bugay  
Gentry Family  
Ronney Dixon  
Jeff Forrester

The logo of St. Michael Lutheran Church graphically portrays our congregation's sense of identity and purpose. It depicts the People of God gathered around Christ -- the traditional "Chi-Rho" monogram in the center -- and surrounded at every point of the compass by the people in the world, among whom Christ sends us to live and to serve. As we gather and scatter each week, Christ makes us different, and empowers us to make a difference. While our congregation has called those with particular gifts to equip us for our ministry, each Baptized member of St. Michael Lutheran Church is God's minister in this place and



### STAFF

Andrea Bates	Kyle Bates	David Rhyne	Ellen Bradshaw	Johnny Watson
Pastor	Pastor	Deacon	Administrative Assistant	Facilities Maintenance

### COUNCIL

Fred Baus	Marie Castagnaro	Stan Metzger	Jennifer Fenske
John Fulmer	Julie Gibson	Averi Ulmer	Adam Miles
	Mary Long	Sandy Sughrue	Matt Wofford

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