The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major, BWV 547 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

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

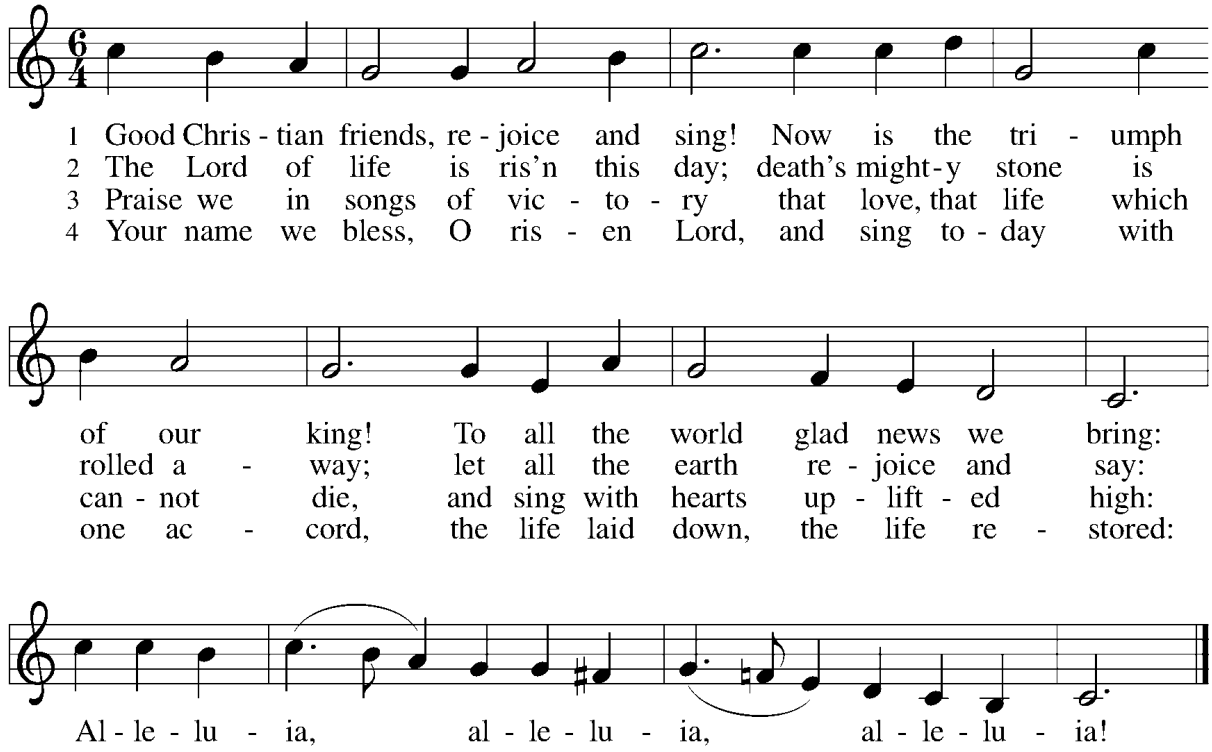
In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.
Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 385

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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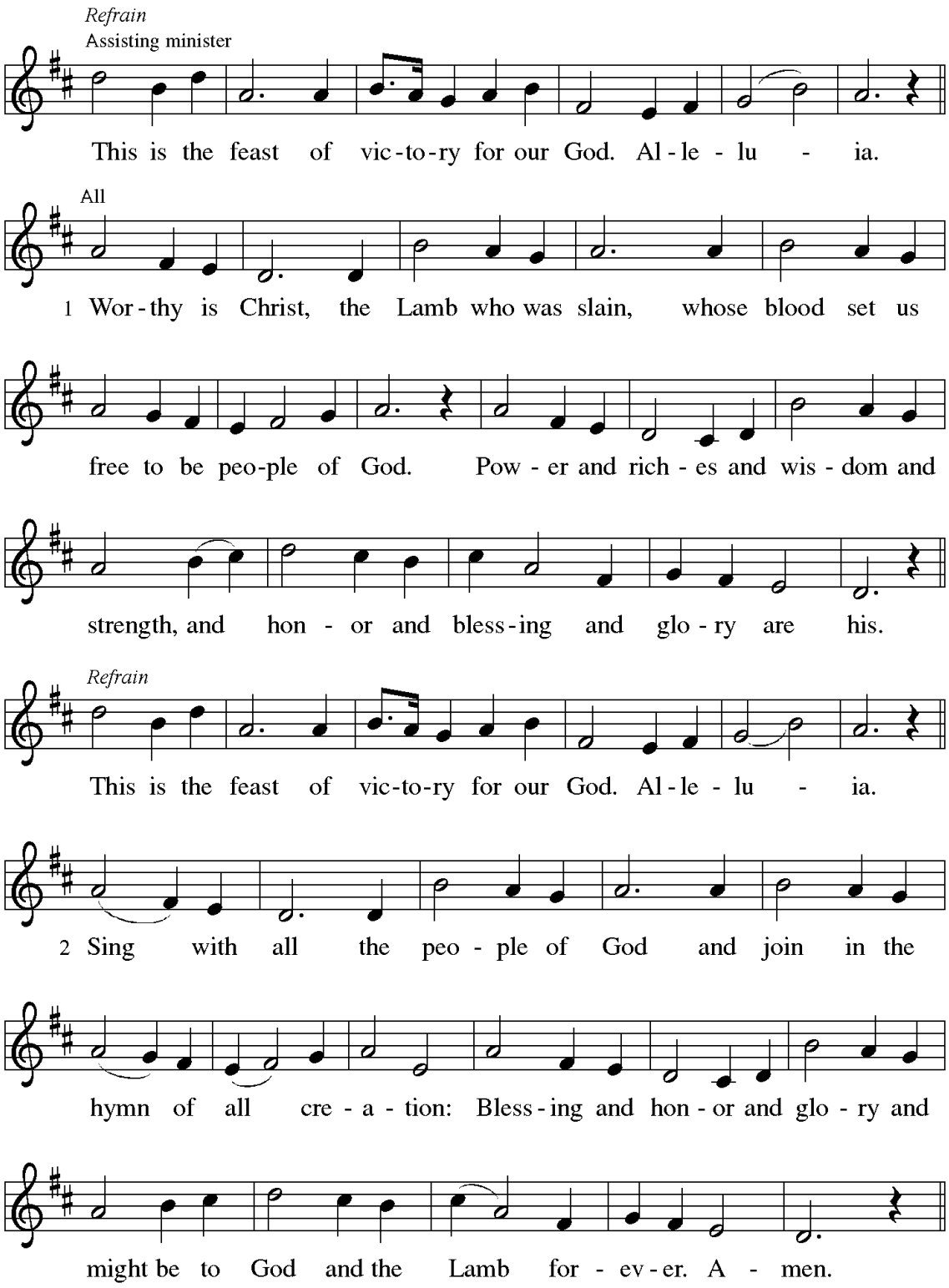
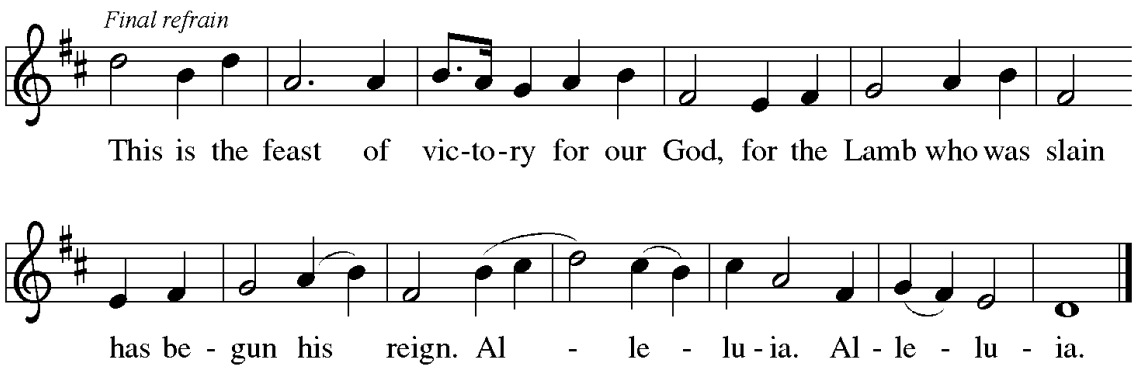
GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.
O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

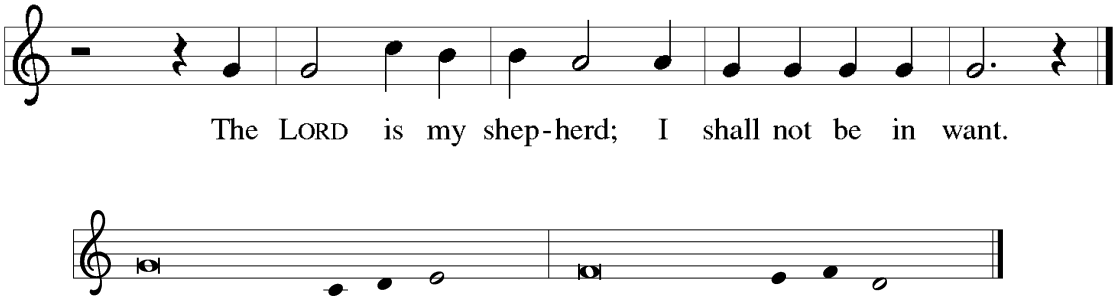
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 23

(8:45) Sung by the choir. *Anglican Chant: Edward Bairstow*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

(11:15)
The organ will introduce the refrain. Please repeat it. Please sing all the verses of the psalm. Subsequent refrains are sung only once where indicated by ***R.***



1**The LORD | is my shepherd;**
I shall not | be in want.
2**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures**
and leads me be- | side still waters.

3**You restore my | soul, O LORD,**
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

5**You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;**
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

SECOND READING Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 1They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

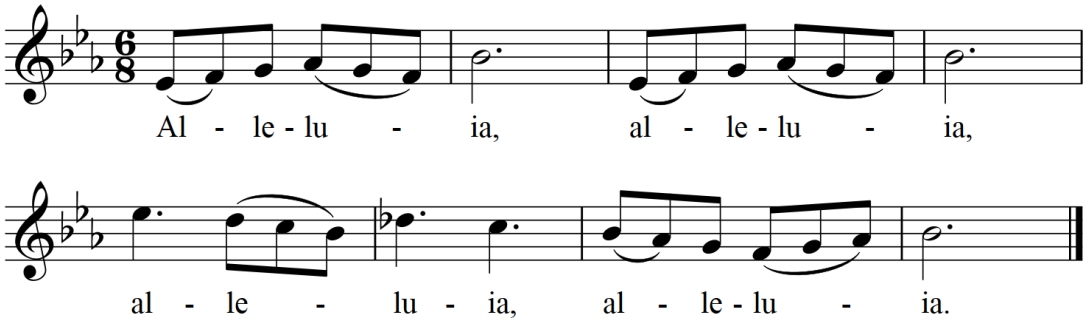
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

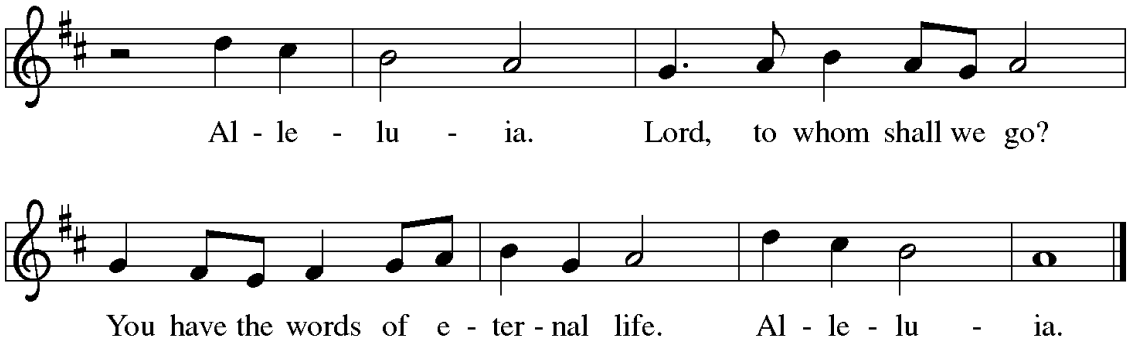
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
(8:45)



Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Choir: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. (John 10:14)
All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

(11:15)



GOSPEL John 10:22-30

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the tenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

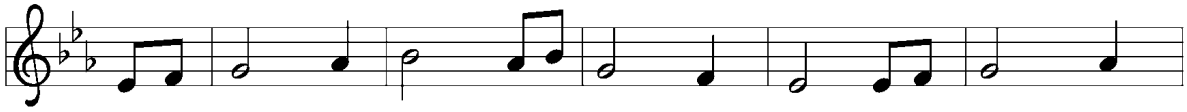
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miller

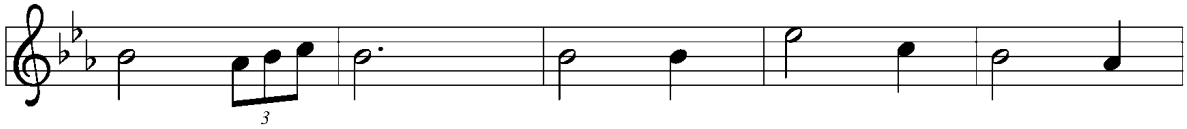
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 502

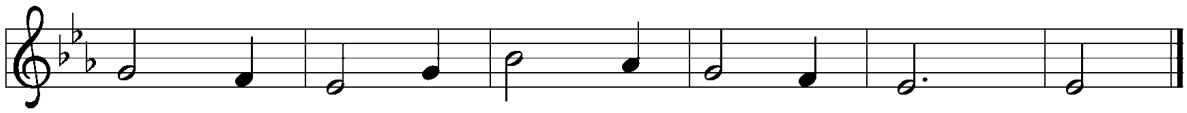
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: St. Columba, Irish tune

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

After each potion of the prayers:
God of life,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:
In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The risen Christ stood among the disciples and said, "Peace be with you."
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app.
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:45)

The Song of the Tree of Life

Unto him that overcometh shall be given of the tree of Life
which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.
On either side of the river groweth the Tree of Life,
the Leaves of the Tree are for thy healing.
In the midst of that fair City flows the river of Water of Life clear as crystal
Who so will, let him take of the Water of Life freely.
Who so drinketh of this water shall never thirst.
Take thou the Leaves of the Tree of Life.
So shalt thou enter in through the Gates of the City.

Text: adapted from the Book of Revelation
Music: from *Pilgrim's Progress*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

CLARINET VOLUNTARY(11:15)

from Sonata for Clarinet, op. 167 — Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

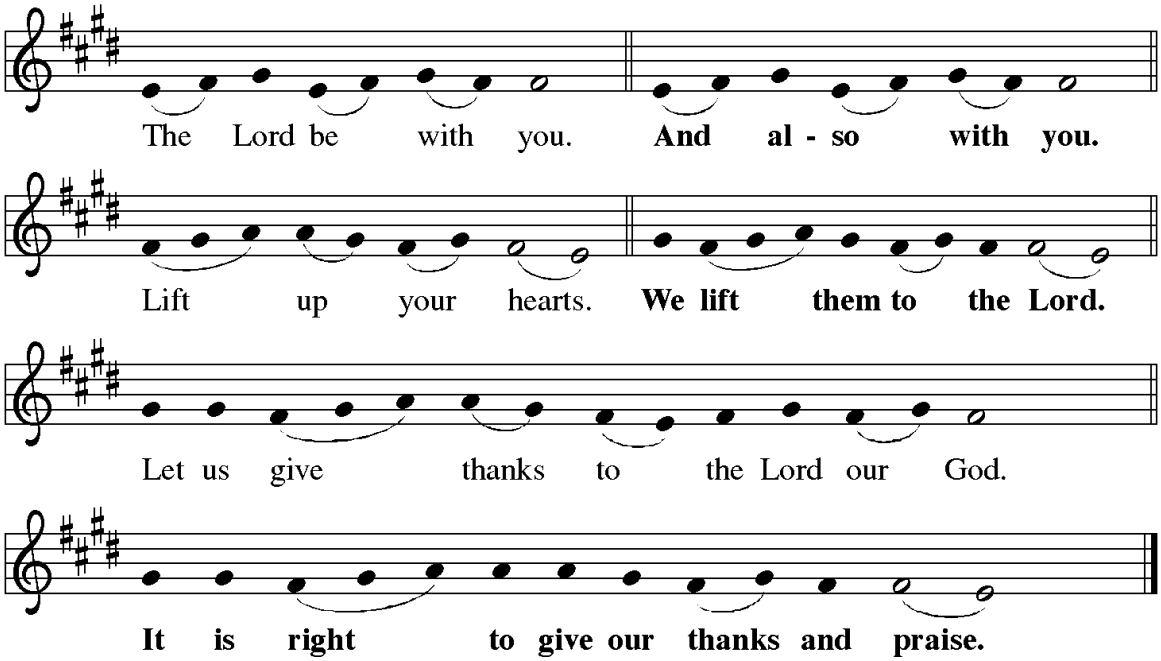
II. Allegro animato

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

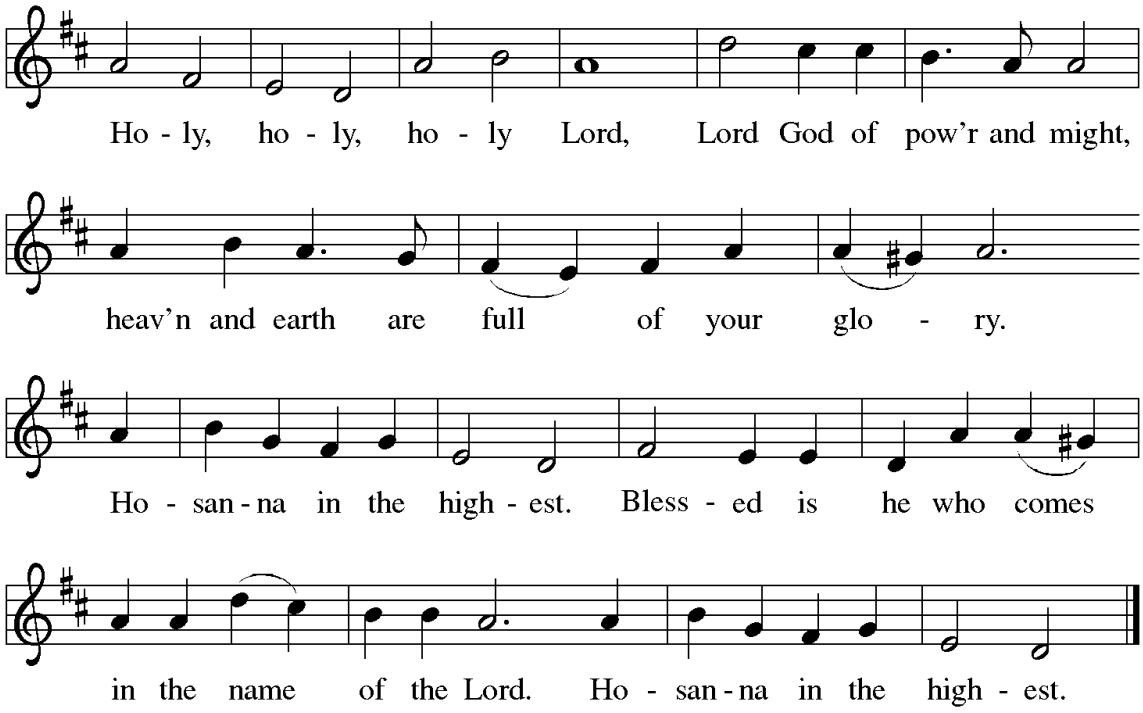
Let us pray.

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

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:



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.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosostros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

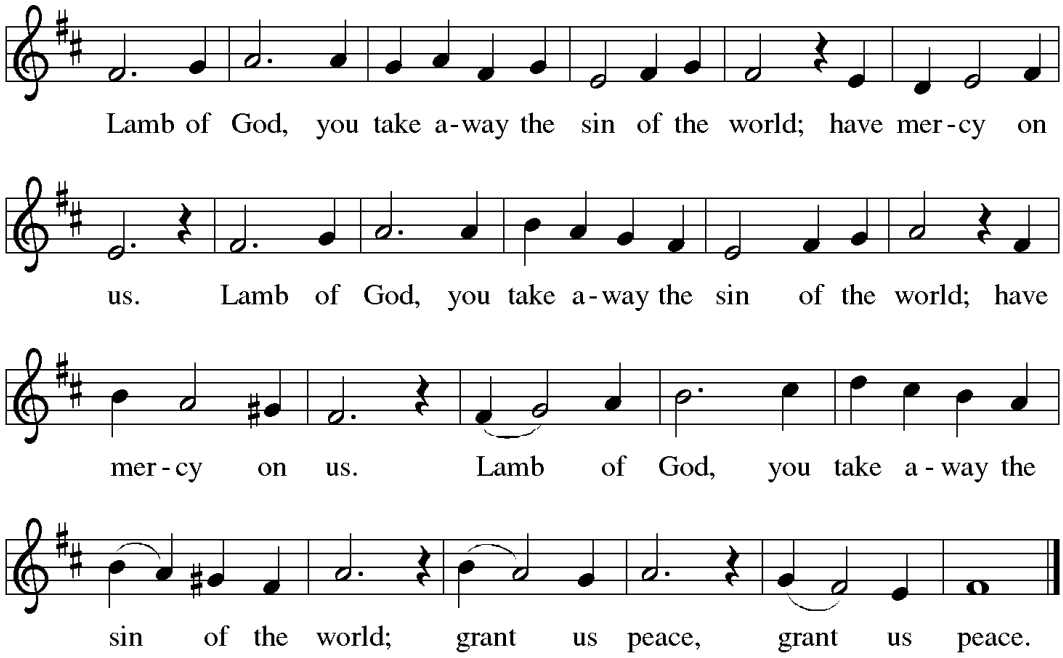
COMMUNION

When communing, kindly receive the communion elements from the servers. The servers will then step back. At that time, please remove your mask and partake of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then proceed to the appropriate station to deposit your individual cup.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

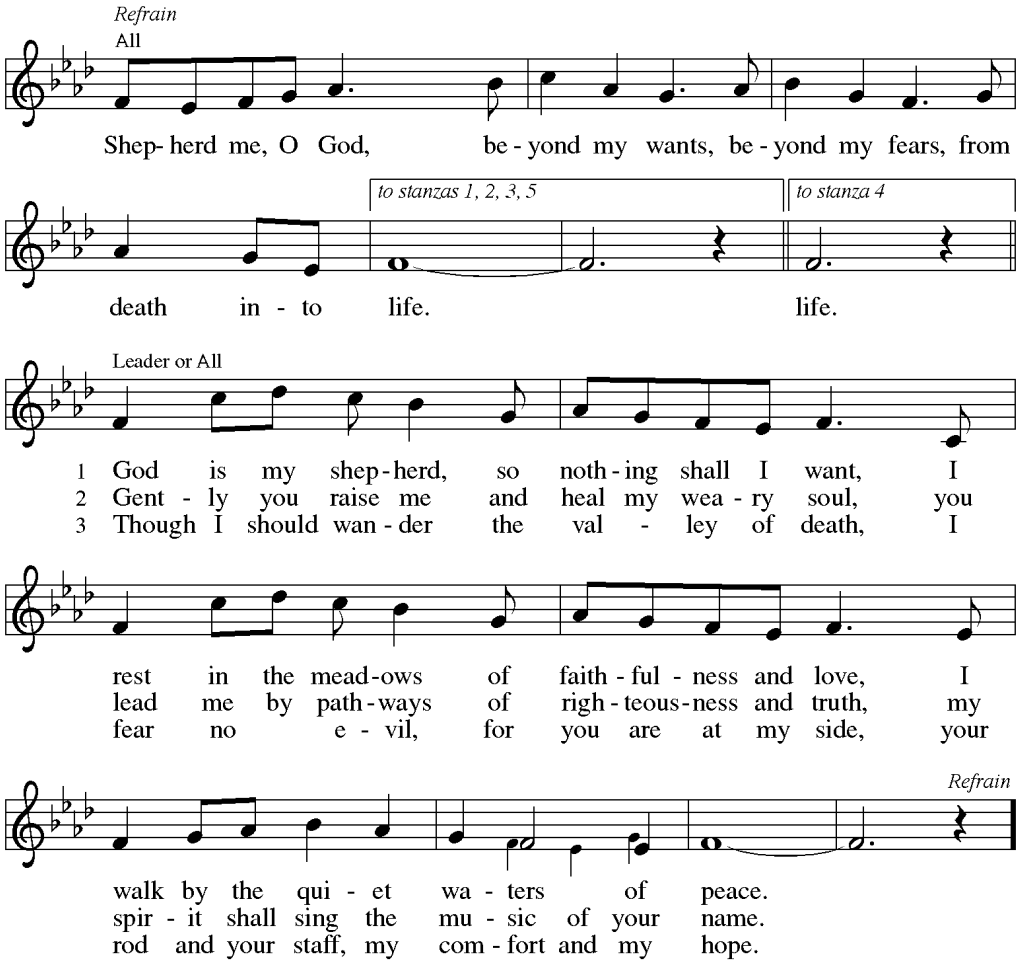
The communicant may say:
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN• ELW 780

Shepherd Me, O God



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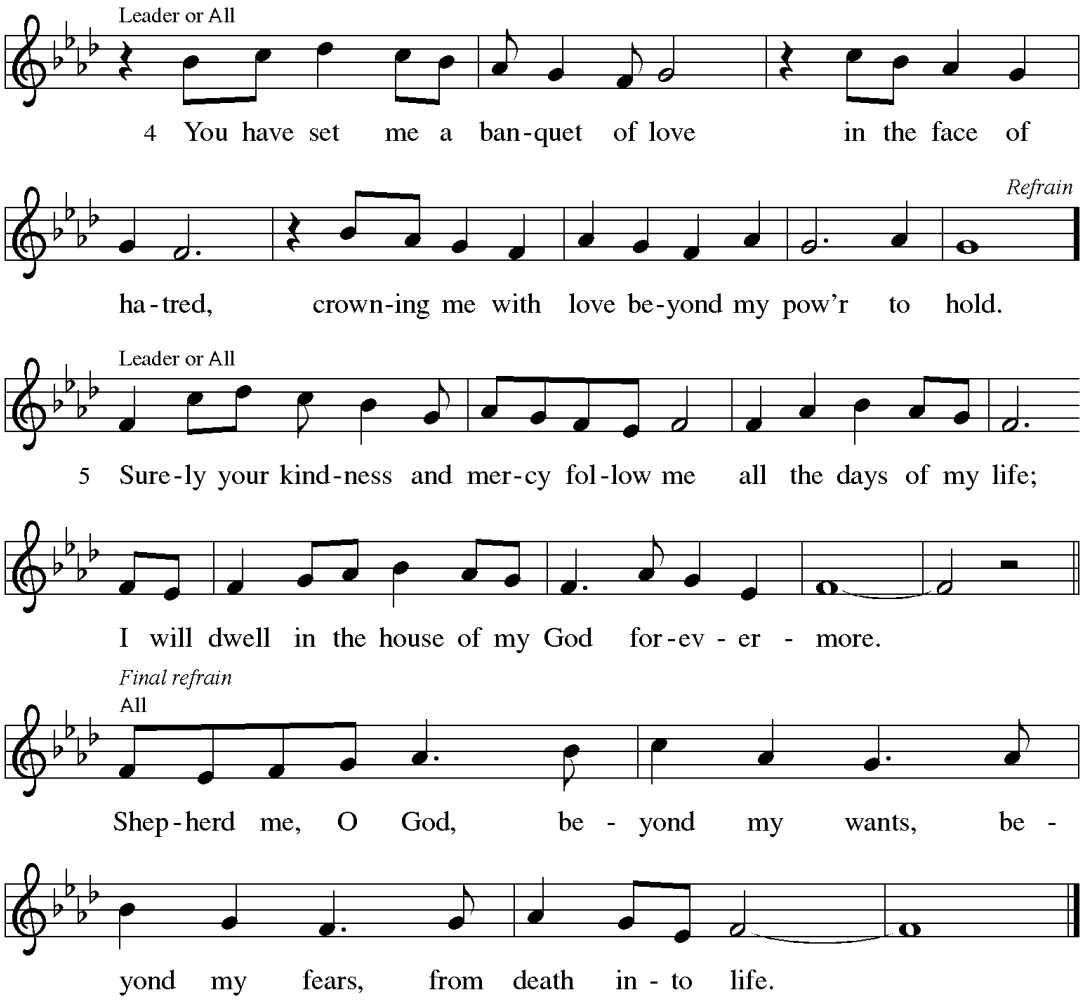

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
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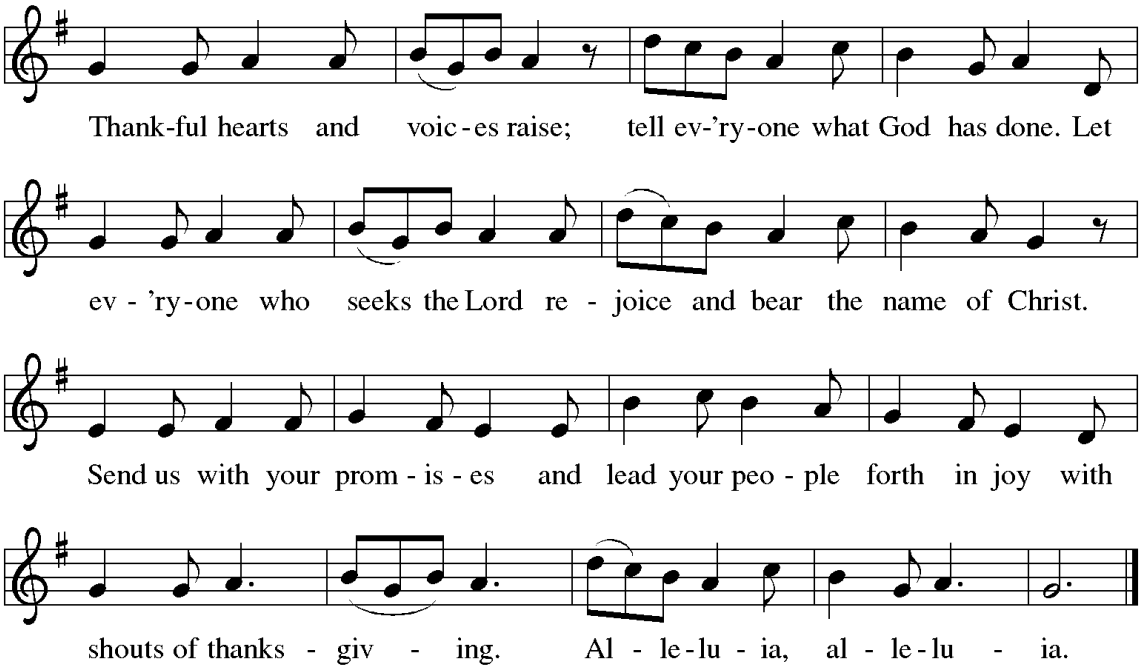
Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST– COMMUNION CANTICLE



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

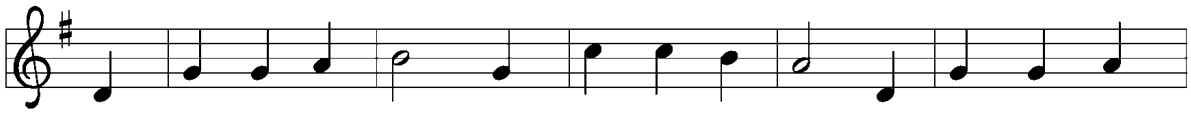
SENDING

BLESSING

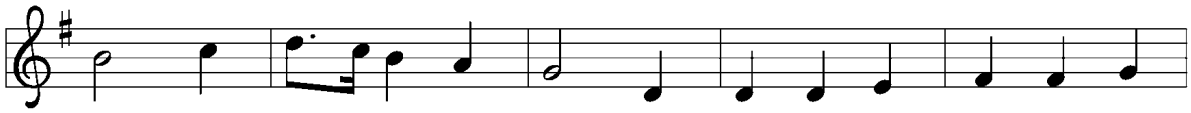
God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ● ELW 825

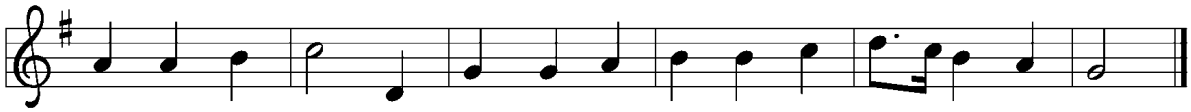
You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Tell what God has done.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547 J.S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER
Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries (*11:15)

READERS
8:45 a.m. Scott McKay, *Saint Luke Financial Secretary*
11:15 a.m. Thea Woehr, *Saint Luke Council Member*

MUSICIANS
Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*
Schola Cantorum (8:45)
Alden Newsome, *Clarinet* (11:15)

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, May 8—Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:45 AM **Holy Communion**
10:15 AM SLSHY
Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
Affirmation of Baptism Class
Sunday School
11:15 AM * **Holy Communion**
5:00 PM **San Lucas Misa Online**

MONDAY, May 9
8:00 AM CDS Classes
1:30 PM CDS Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Yoga
7:00 PM ESL Class

TUESDAY, May 10
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Mary/Martha Circle (Hybrid)
7:00 PM Reformation Bells
7:00 PM ESL Class

WEDNESDAY, May 11
6:30 AM Zoom Faith Connections
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women In Community (Zoom)
1:30 PM Zoom Program Staff Meeting
7:00 PM ESL Class
7:30 PM AA
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, May 12
8:00 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM CARing Project
7:30 PM Zoom Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, May 13
8:00 AM CDS Classes

SATURDAY, May 14
8:30 AM Zoom Men's Group
9:30 AM AA

SUNDAY, May 15—Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:45 AM **Holy Communion**
10:15 AM SLSHY
Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
Affirmation of Baptism Class
Sunday School
11:15 AM **Holy Communion/Holy Baptism**
3:00 PM San Lucas Gospel Meditation

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed
** in person only*

Upcoming Commemorations

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416
Sunday, May 8, 2022
When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)
Sunday, May 8, 2022
Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760
Monday, May 9, 2022
When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

Matthias, Apostle
Saturday, May 14, 2022
Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.

Saint Luke Update
5/8/2022 Edition

CHRIST IS RISEN!

A BLESSED EASTER SEASON. Yes, Easter is not just one day but a week of weeks, that is 7 weeks. The risen Christ appears to us in many ways—let us keep watch. How wonderful to have this hope in our midst.

THIS MORNING we hear from Kathy Bergeron, Council member and liaison to the Stewardship Committee. Kathy will have a brief temple talk for us but if you have not turned in your Faith Commitment Card for 2022, kindly do so today. Simply go to www.saintluke.us and click *Giving*. You may also pick up a paper card next to the offering plate at the entrance.

TODAY WE ALSO GIVE thanks for all who provide motherly love. We celebrate with many but also mourn with the hearts of many. Let us give thanks for all who provide God's nurturing love, and serve mothering roles in our lives.

DID YOU KNOW that if you miss worship you can go back and view services? They are all at www.saintlukeonline.us Simply scroll down and you will see the bulletins and services.

WELCA IS SPONSORING THE ANNUAL BABY CARE KIT collection for Lutheran World Relief. During the month of May you are invited to bring donations to church or contribute financially. A list of needed items is located on the credenzas in the narthex. Also, to contribute financially, you may do this electronically on the Saint Luke website or also checks are most welcome. Thank you.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK—IN PERSON! Register today and thank you for sharing this information on neighborhood listservs. ***FOOD TRUCK VBS-ON A ROLL WITH GOD*** is the theme of Vacation Bible School (VBS) which will take place **in person** at Saint Luke June 27-July 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Children who were 4 by 9/1/2021 through current 5th graders are eligible to attend. The children will play games, hear Bible stories, make crafts, participate in service projects, work with various science experiments, and more! Registration is available online at www.slvbs.us. Questions should be directed to Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER serving as a reader on Sunday morning? If you might be able to do so, please email stluke@saintluke.us and note which service, the 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD:

June 5 Annual Meeting (hybrid)

June 12 Affirmation of Baptism (11:15 a.m.)

HE IS RISEN, INDEED!

Today's Music

HYMN NOTES

Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing

Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955

The author, former headmaster of Eton and from 1921 chaplain to the king of England, had Vulpius' rousing tune in mind when he wrote this new text for Easter. Few new hymns for that season succeed, but lines such as "the life laid down, the life restored' help to remind us of the eternal freshness of the Easter message.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

The King of Love my Shepherd is

Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

Baker's hymn is not just another metrical version or paraphrase of Psalm 23, bur rather treats if freely and gives it a distinctively Christian framework. Christ, the Good Shepherd, is the center of the setting, and the Cross, (a symbol of Christ's laying down his life for the sheep) is followed by a sacramental emphasis on the Lord's table and the Eucharistic chalice. You might enjoy comparing this setting with "The Lord's my Shepherd," "In heavenly love abiding," and "Savior, like a shepherd lead us." - Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Shepherd Me, O God

Marty Haugen, b. 1950

This hymn was commissioned by Ken Mervine and St. Ann's Church, Raritan, New Jersey, where Mervine was the music director. Haugen was not attempting a direct translation of Psalm 23, but a version that would serve as an alternative. He says that "after several attempts to construct a refrain closer to the original text," his wife, Mary, suggested "making 'shepherd' a verb rather than a noun, as it might be an easier way for communities far from sheep and shepherds to understand the image." Written in 1985 for a Roman Catholic community in the refrain-stanza from typical of that period, Haugen's intent was "for the stanzas to be sung by a cantor or small schola or choir." However, as he notes, many communities have chosen to have the assembly sing everything. The first four stanzas are constructed so that is possible without words tripping them up by wandering off in different rhythms from stanza to stanza.—ELW Hymnal Companion

You servants of god

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Four hymns from the collection had the strange title, "Hymns to be sung in a Tumult" and refer to the absurd and slanderous accusation that the Wesleys were attempting to overthrow the Crown. Their meetings were broken up, their people mobbed, plundered, and dragged before magistrates. As Frank Colquhoun has written, "We can readily picture the small but heroic Methodist bands facing the fury of their enemies with a triumphant song like this upon their lips." The hymn is now a hymn of praise extolling God's sovereignly and magnifying the glories of Christ.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude & Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547—Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

On 8 May 1747 Bach gave a recital on the Wagner organ in the Heiligegeistkirche, Potsdam. The Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV547, dating from around 1744, is the last of his works in the genre and may well have been performed on that occasion. The lilting prelude, over an ostinato bass figure, has melodic connections with Cantata 65 (1724), while the fugue is one of the most concentrated he wrote, replete with contrapuntal devices all stemming from the material of the first bar. A supreme climax is engendered by the very late entry of the pedals in augmentation, a series of declamatory chords (looking back to those in the prelude), and a notably long tonic pedal coda.—Robin Langley

Choral Anthem: The Song of the Tree of Life—Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This morning's anthem by Vaughan Williams, 'The Song of the Tree of Life,' is a revised version of one of the songs from his setting of John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress as an opera. Vaughan Williams adapted the words of 'The Song of the Tree of Life' from Revelation 2. In these words, the author of Revelation, Bunyan, and Vaughan Williams link the death on the Cross with the Tree of the Life, the Crucifixion outside Jerusalem with the hope for the New Jerusalem. In The Pilgrim's Progress, we find a return to the idea of a spiritual journey that also attracted Vaughan Williams to Walt Whitman in A Sea Symphony. His music to Bunyan has a moving restraint, an inner spirituality, a strength and a conviction that show the composer gripped by the text and responding in an inspired and ecstatic fashion.—Patrick Comeford