

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

28171 West Highway 64 PO Box 851

Canton, Texas 75103

www.holycrosscanton.com

Pastor Mark Huston

903-603-5071

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18 2025

Divine Service, Setting Two

As We Gather

The Fifth Sunday of Easter bears the traditional name of Cantate, from the Introit's "Oh sing to the Lord a new song." Not only people but all creation is urged to break out in song. Throughout our worship today we will do just that, for the resurrection news cannot be left to quiet contemplation. Though it was difficult for Peter to convince the others, when they realized Gentiles had received the Spirit, they rejoiced. The vision of heaven in Revelation has no more pain or sorrow; what can be left but joyful singing?

At the end of Jesus' talk to the disciples, He promises "I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). When we are filled with such joy, singing is inevitable. Much of today's worship has us singing a few (or all) of the stanzas of familiar hymns. Let us join the joyful multitude in heaven and earth!

768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray



1 To God the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray
2 O sweet - est Love, Your grace on us be - stow;
3 Tran - scen - dent Com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,
4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light;



For the true faith need - ed on our way
Set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow
Help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed
Teach us Je - sus Christ to know a - right



That He may de - fend us when life is end - ing And from
That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er, Ev - 'ry
That we may not fal - ter nor cour - age fail us When the
That we may a - bide in the Lord who bought us, Till to



ex - ile home we are wend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!
strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!
foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!
our true home He has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. Worship Supplement, 1969, alt.; (st. 1): German, c. 13th cent.; (sts. 2-4): Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 98:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things! *
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

C The LORD has made known his sal- | vation; *
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

P He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel. *
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

C Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth; *
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

P Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre, *
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

C With trumpets and the sound | of the horn *
make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things! *
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

Kyrie

LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



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



C 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.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



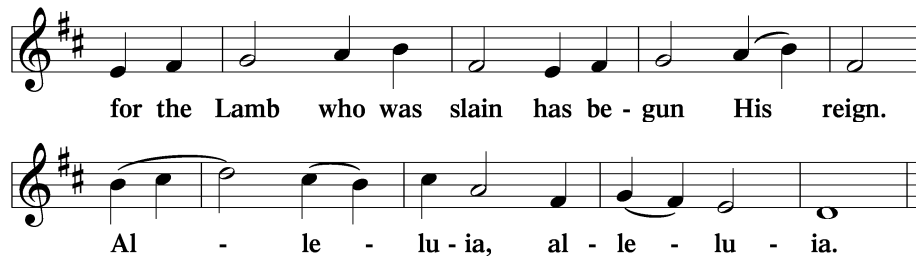
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 11:1–18

R The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 11.

¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Revelation 21:1–7

R The Epistle is from Revelation, chapter 21.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them

as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.



P ¹²[Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phantly go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
 Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

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

Lord of heaven and earth, in the glorious resurrection of Your Son, You have given the promise of our own resurrection. As we await the Last Day, calm our hearts and strengthen our faith through our sorrows.
 Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, You have promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit who makes known to us all truth and keeps us in Your Word. Grant to us, O Lord, faithful pastors who will teach us Your Word and devoted church workers who will serve us in Your name. Bless those preparing for church work vocations, and inspire many to follow Your call. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You bless the anguish of childbirth with new life according to Your good and gracious will. Sustain all mothers with child and those with young children. Bless Your Church, the mother of all Your faithful children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, You hold all people accountable for the responsibilities You have given them. Bless our president, our governor, the Congress and legislature, and all judges and magistrates. Guide them to serve according to Your will and for the common good of all. Raise up those with heroic virtue who will defend our liberty. Protect those who defend us in the armed forces, even as You give peace to the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Alpha and Omega, You pledge to bring all things to their perfect consummation. You will bring heaven to earth and banish sorrow, sin and death. Sustain [_____ *and all*] those now in tribulation. By the comfort of Your Holy Word, increase their faith and see them through their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy Lord, You have given us both bread for the body and Christ, the bread of life. Prepare us now to receive with faith and thanksgiving His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin. Unite us that we may believe and confess one faith, and bring us to that day when we shall be one people together at the table of our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

977 *I Will Sing My Maker's Praises* sts. 1–2

Stand

Offertory

LSB 176



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further studv. see Matthew 5:23f.: 10:32f.: 18:15–35: 26:26–29: and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C 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.

Distribution

756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, For I am
 5 Now in Christ, death can - not slay me, Though it might,

With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.
 May be great, They will not de - feat me.
 Trust Him still When He sends me sad - ness.
 His dear lamb, He, my Shep - herd ev - er.
 Day and night, Trou - ble and dis - may me.

Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows
 God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,
 I am His be - cause He gave me His own blood
 Christ has made my death a por - tal From the strife

For me won When His life was giv - en?
 All my woes Knows how best to end them.
 Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
 For my good, By His death to save me.
 Of this life To His joy im - mor - tal!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; (sts. 1-3): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 4-5): tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955

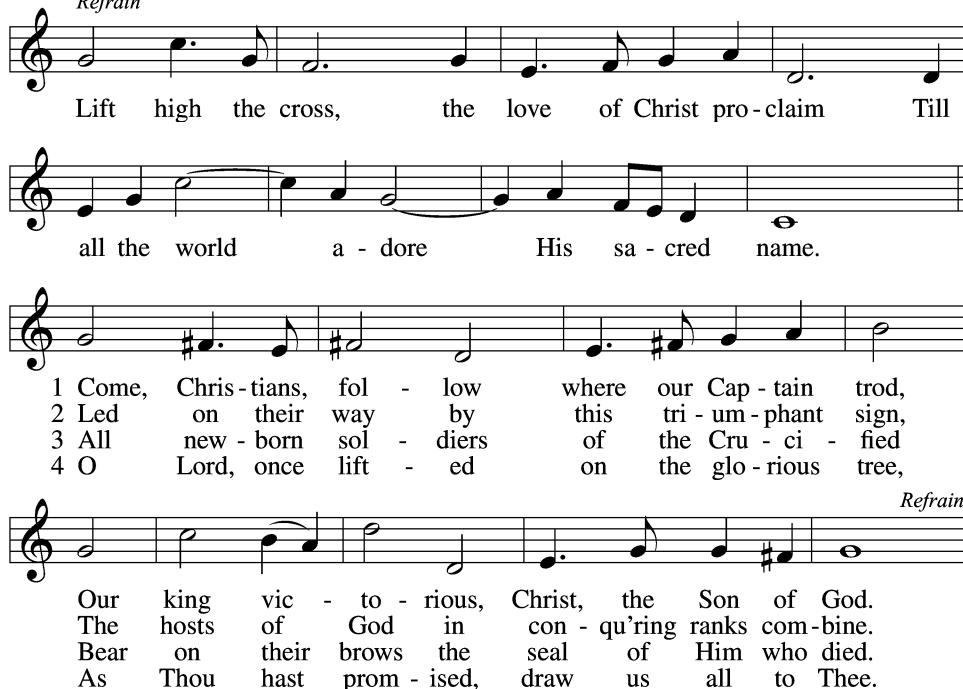
Tune: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-76

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Text (sts. 1-3) and tune: Public domain

837 Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
 all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain
 Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

sts. ref-6

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

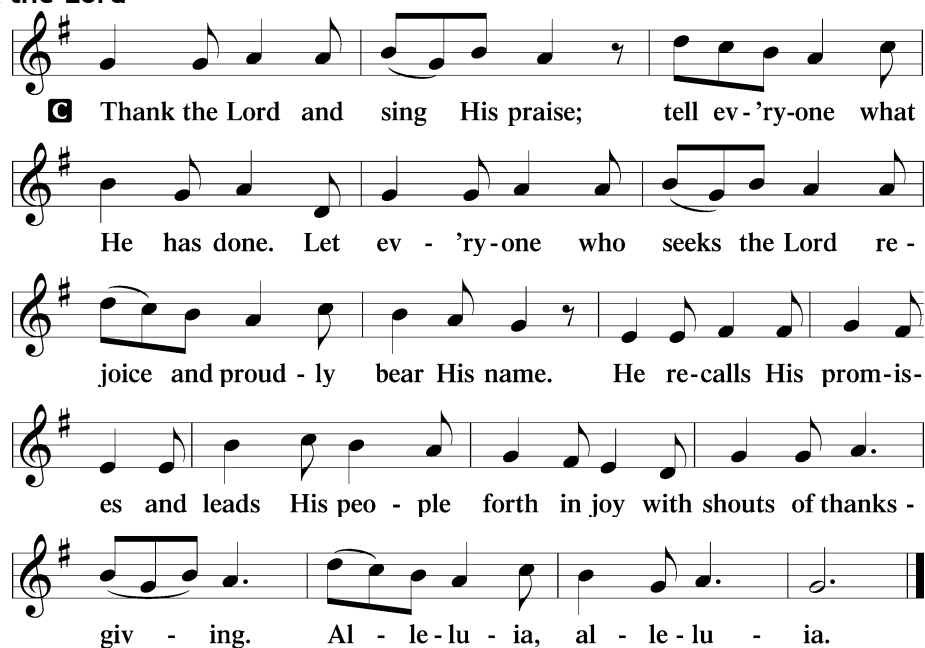
6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt.
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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Stand

Thank the Lord

LSB 181



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

818 In Thee Is Gladness

1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of
sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -
heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where-fore the
wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -
cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for
pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him
To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying Deuteronomy.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying Nehemiah.

Church Council next meeting is **May 18** at **8am**.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **June 14** at **9am**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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