



Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023

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Lakeland, FL 33801
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The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Rev. Pamela Smith

Welcome to the Third Sunday of Easter

We rejoice that Easter is not merely one Sunday but instead extends for 50 days. We call this season "The Great Fifty Days!" The joy of our worship last Sunday in the Festival of the Resurrection last Sunday continues today. Our worship is the foundation of our life together through which we are nurtured in the faith, grow as disciples of Jesus and offer ourselves in service to others in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

We hope that you will find much in our worship and fellowship that captures your interest and wonder -- perhaps the beauty of the stained glass images or the handcrafted cross behind the altar, the music of the band will touch a special chord for you. You may want to visit our Memorial Garden to enjoy God's good creation in the beauty of the native plants as well as the gurgling of the fountain surrounded by the remembrance of many on whose shoulders we stand. After services, we invite you to join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall where we can visit with one another.

Whether you are a regular worshiper with us, a seasonal resident, or a visitor, we welcome you because God's grace extends to all.

May God bless our time together!

Pastor Pam

Some Practical Things:

- **Children:** All children, even those who chat or cry or squawk, are welcome here. Some may enjoy one of the children's activity bags that an usher can provide.
- **Restrooms** are located outside of the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate this Sacrament every Sunday. All baptized Christians are welcome at this, the Lord's Table. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- **Offerings:** Those who desire to give an offering can do so using the envelopes in the pew, the "Give" button on our webpage or the Tithely app. We are happy to provide assistance with any of these if that would be helpful to you. Thank you for your generosity.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At
the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us
heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower
us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and
love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain ELW 363

(vs 1,2,5)

(Next page)

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
 with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal;
 who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

GREETING

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],
³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 116:1-4, 12-19 *(Read responsively by full verse)*

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave¹ came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

¹²How shall I repay the LORD

for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed
me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The

things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Hear Our Prayer



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet.

Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day, particularly: *Sara, Arlene, Sherry, Mabel, Mike, Anna Mae, Kaden, Julie, Carole, Carol G., Anne, Lydia, Paul, Wil, Betty, Scott, Ron, Flo, Terry, Doris, Dottie, Theresa, Marian, Ian, Tim, Betty, Julie, Henry, Mary, Greg, and Max.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

You may place your offerings in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Alternatively, some are using the [Tithe.ly](#) app for online giving or are using their bank's online banking option. Whichever way you choose to give, we are grateful for your stewardship and generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING SONG *As the Grains of Wheat* ELW 396

(Next page)

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



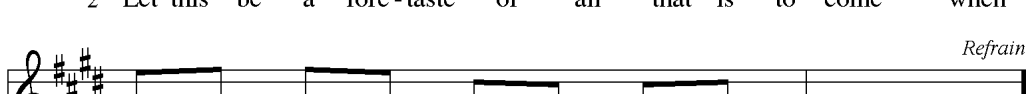
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



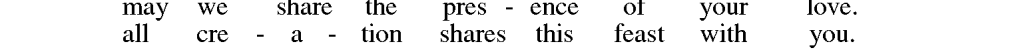
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

This is the day that in joy and delight we join with all the angels of heaven and all the creatures on earth to sing our praise and thanksgiving to you, all holy and mighty and glorious God. For Christ is risen:
Christ is risen indeed.

This is the day that you gave light to the earth.
This is the day that you saved the Israelites through the sea
and with your pillar of fire led them to freedom.
Now every night is as bright as day, and that light is Christ:
Thanks be to God.

This is the day that you broke the chains of death.
This is the day that, marrying heaven to earth,
you washed away sin, rescued us from evil, and brought us your peace. The
Lamb who was slain has begun to reign,
for Christ is risen:
Christ is risen indeed.

On the night before he died,
our Lord Jesus Christ 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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

On this day send us the power of your Holy Spirit.
Revive us with the body and blood of our risen Savior.
Illumine our lives with your presence,
and shine your Morning Star over the whole human race,
for that light is Christ:
Thanks be to God.

All holy and mighty and glorious God,
radiant Father, victorious Son, and shining Spirit,
we bless your salvation, we sing of your mercy,
and we praise your victory through all time and space,
for Christ is risen:

Christ is risen indeed.

Amen and amen.

Amen and 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the head of the aisle where we receive the host. Then to either side of the pastor is first, a chalice for intinction and second, a common cup for drinking. Please indicate to Pastor if you prefer grape juice as a chalice for intinction is available as well. Gluten free bread is available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take
 a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - - men.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484



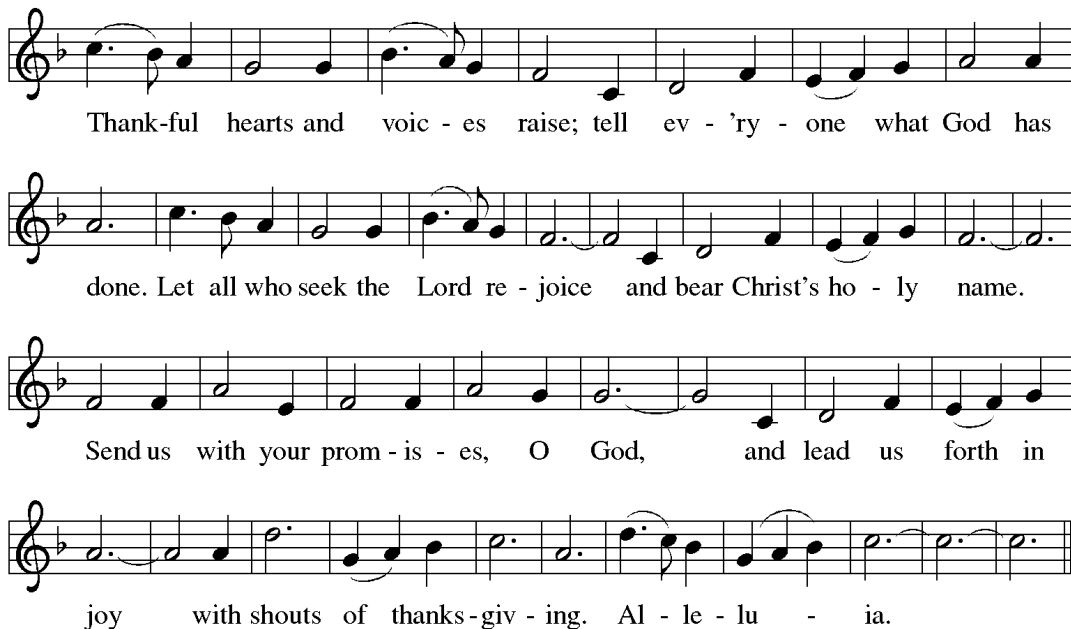
- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life
together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus'
name.
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

SENDING HYMN

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

ACS 933



1 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel
2 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel



spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ
spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ



ris - en from the dead! Sing of the sun from dark - ness ap -
ris - en from the dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to



pear - ing; sing of the seed from bar - ren earth green - ing;
danc - ing; sing now the mys - t'ry, hope of our glo - ry;



sing of cre - a - tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the
sing with thanks - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia! Sing now of



stream from Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing of the saints in
fast - ing turned in - to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa - vor



wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia!
last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Come You Faithful Raise the Strain. Text: John of Damascus, c.696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music Johann Horn, 1490-1547.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly: Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Music: W. Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825; arr. hymnal version. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. arr. ©2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded: Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997. Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996. Text and Music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

As With Grains of Wheat: Text: Didache, 2nd century; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen, Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

Over recent months we have added video and audio equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and also to have them available for later viewing through our website. Likewise, we may use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.