Order of Worship
Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Third Sunday of Easter. The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Paul Fey

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

In the name of ☩ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.
Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

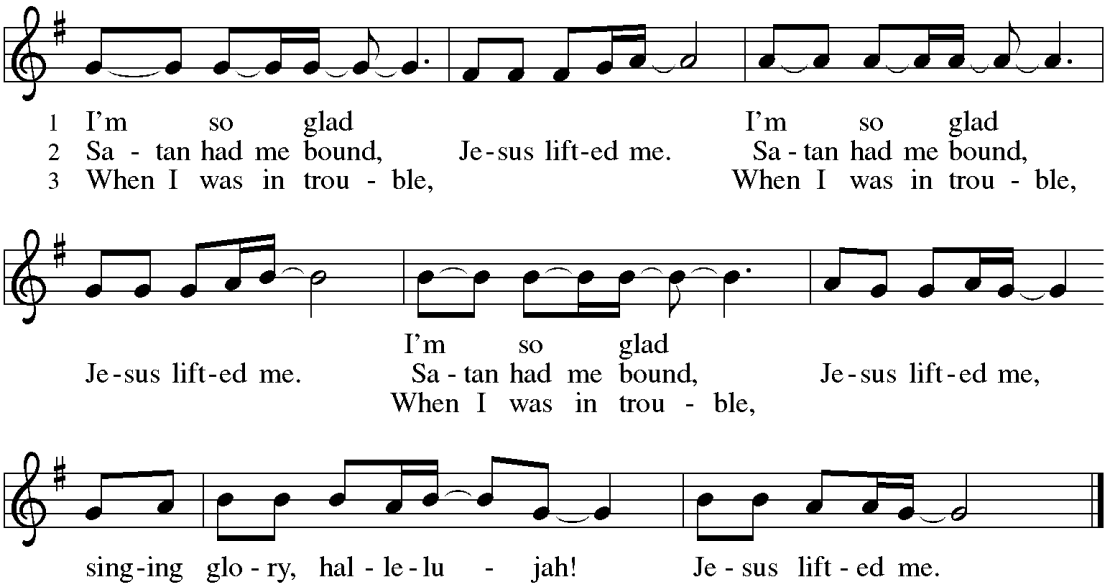
Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

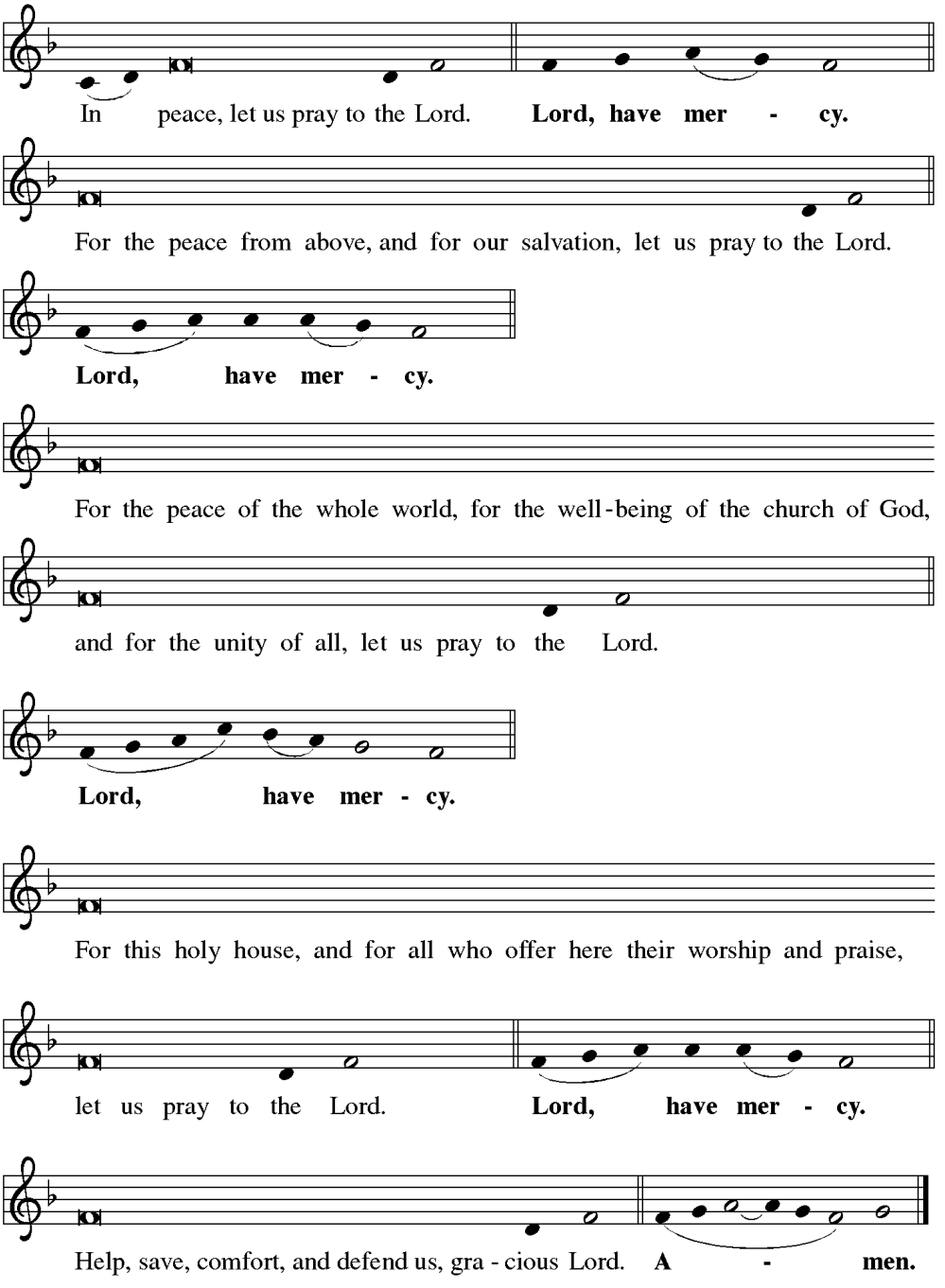
GATHERING HYMN *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* ELW 860



GREETING

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 above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

[1] Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to
the high priest [2] and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that
if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them
bound to Jerusalem. [3] Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [4] He fell to the ground and
heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" [5] He asked,
"Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are
persecuting. [6] But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to
do." [7] The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard
the voice but saw no one. [8] Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were
open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into
Damascus. [9] For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

[10] Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him
in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." [11] The Lord said to him,
"Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a
man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a
vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might
regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about
this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; [14] and here he
has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." [15] But the
Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my
name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; [16] I myself will
show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." [17] So Ananias went
and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord
Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain
your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [18] And immediately something like
scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was
baptized, [19] and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, [20] and immediately he
began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30 (Read Responsively)

[1] I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
[2] **O Lord my God, I cried out to you,**
and you restored me to health.
[3] You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
[4] **Sing praise to the Lord, all you faithful;**
give thanks in holy remembrance.
[5] God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.
[6] **While I felt secure, I said,**
"I shall never be disturbed.
[7] You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
[8] **I cried to you, O Lord;**
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,
[9] "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
[10] **Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;**
O Lord, be my helper."
[11] You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
[12] **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;**
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

[11] Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, [12] singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

[13] Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!"
14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** p. 142

***GOSPEL: John 21:1-19**

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

1 After he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem, Jesus showed himself again to
the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered
there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in
Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to
them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went
out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know
that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?"
They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the

boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. [7] That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. [8] But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

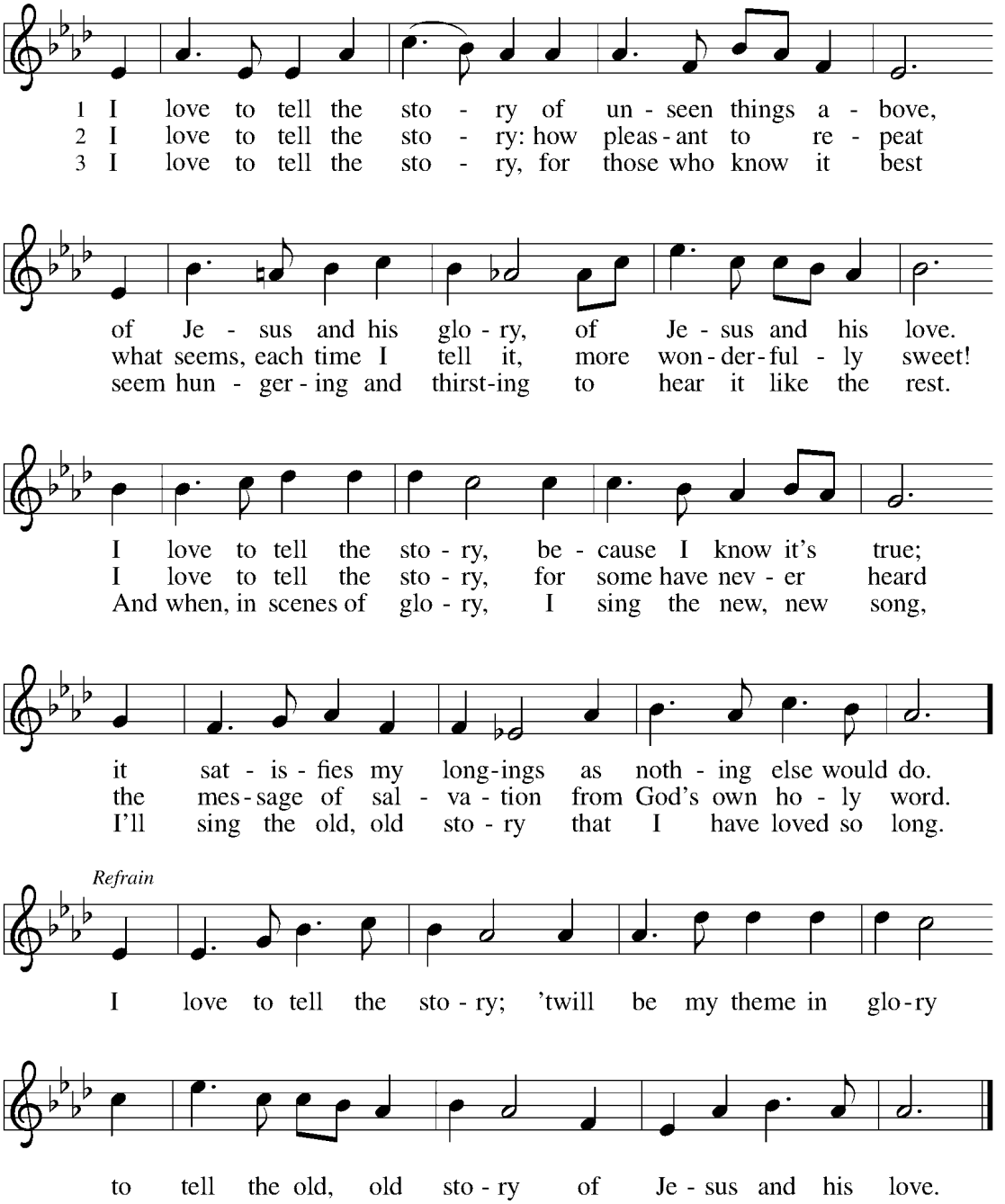
[9] When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. [10] Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." [11] So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. [12] Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. [13] Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. [14] This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

[15] When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." [16] A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." [17] He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. [18] Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." [19] He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

SERMON **The Rev. Dr. Jeannine Sweet**

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *I Love to Tell the Story* ELW 661



***APOSTLE'S 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. We bless Pastor Cruz in her spiritual walk was she takes up the mantel of Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care *especially Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, Brooklyn, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Tom & Leona, Avery, Doris, Natalie, John, Tim, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Mary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max*. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

ANTHEM *The Easter Gift* Tina English arr. John Purifoy

***OFFERING SONG** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* ELW 181

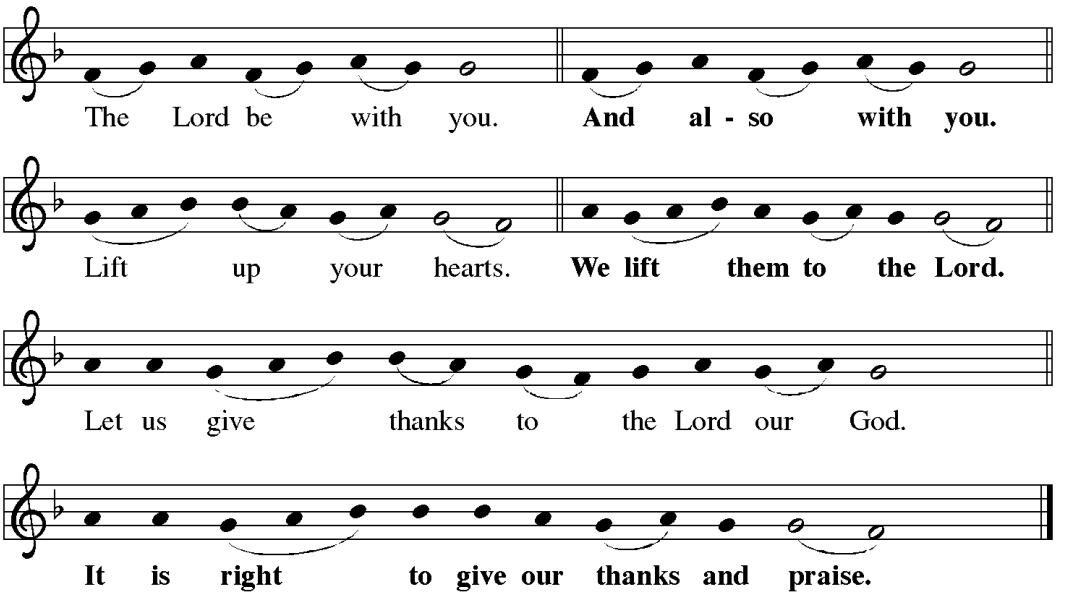
***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

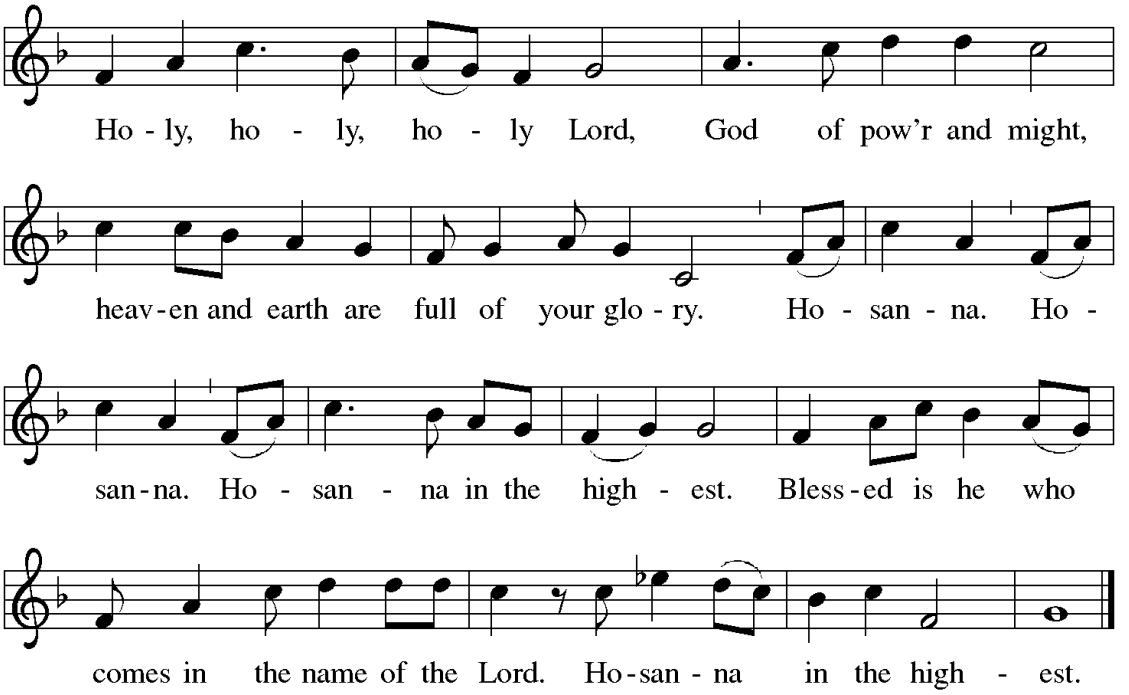
DIALOGUE p. 144



***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** p. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

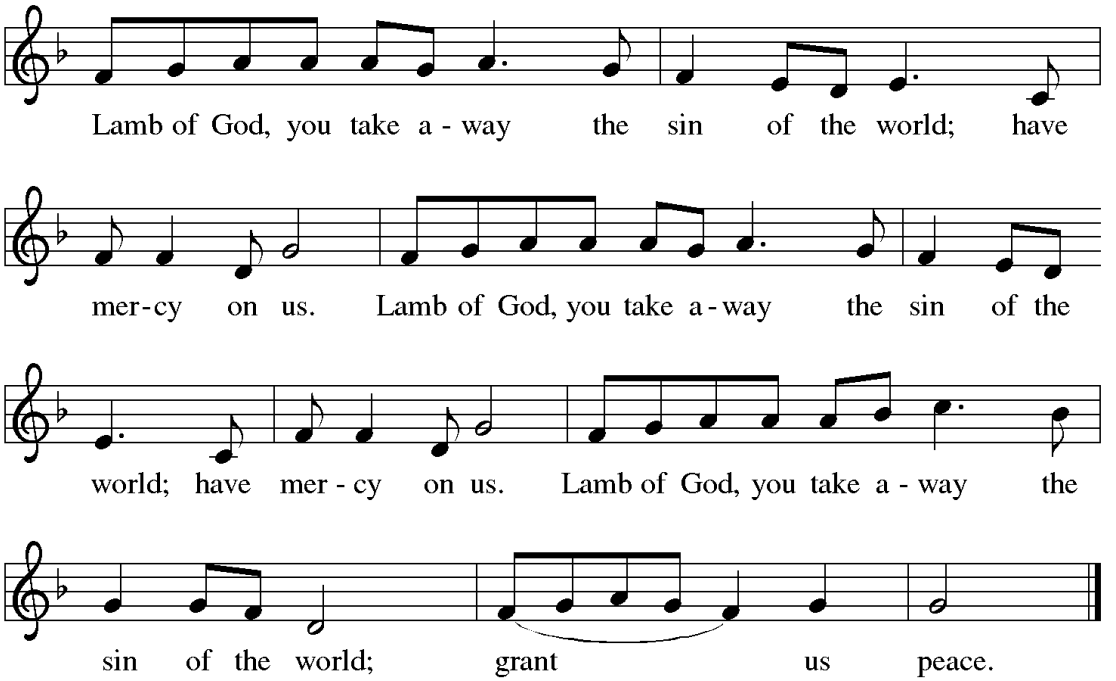
***LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD p. 146



COMMUNION

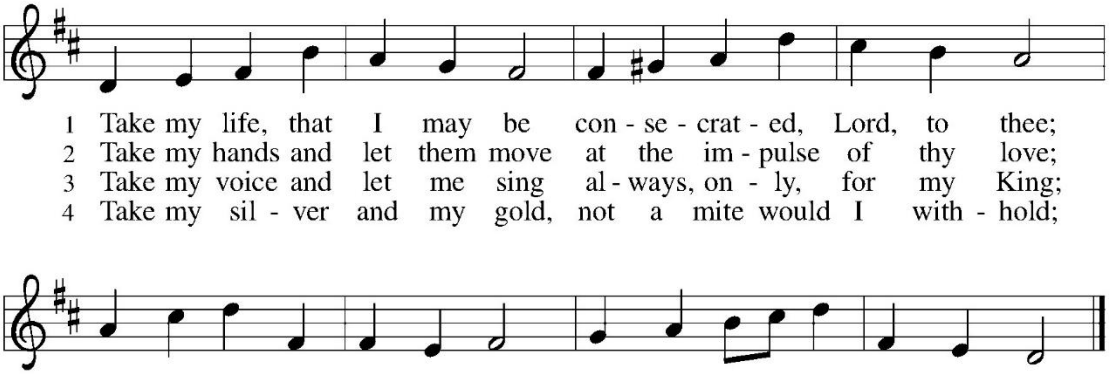
The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to 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.

COMMUNION HYMNS *What Wondrous Love Is This* ELW 666
Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685

(next page)

What Wondrous Love Is This

Take My Life, That I May Be



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

***TABLE BLESSING**

Let us pray.
Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Bless us now.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! (Sing 3 times)* ELW 875

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

*DISMISSAL

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

POSTLUDE *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* *arr. Lani Smith*

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