Fifth Sunday of Easter + May 18, 2025
9:00 am

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue - Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998
https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

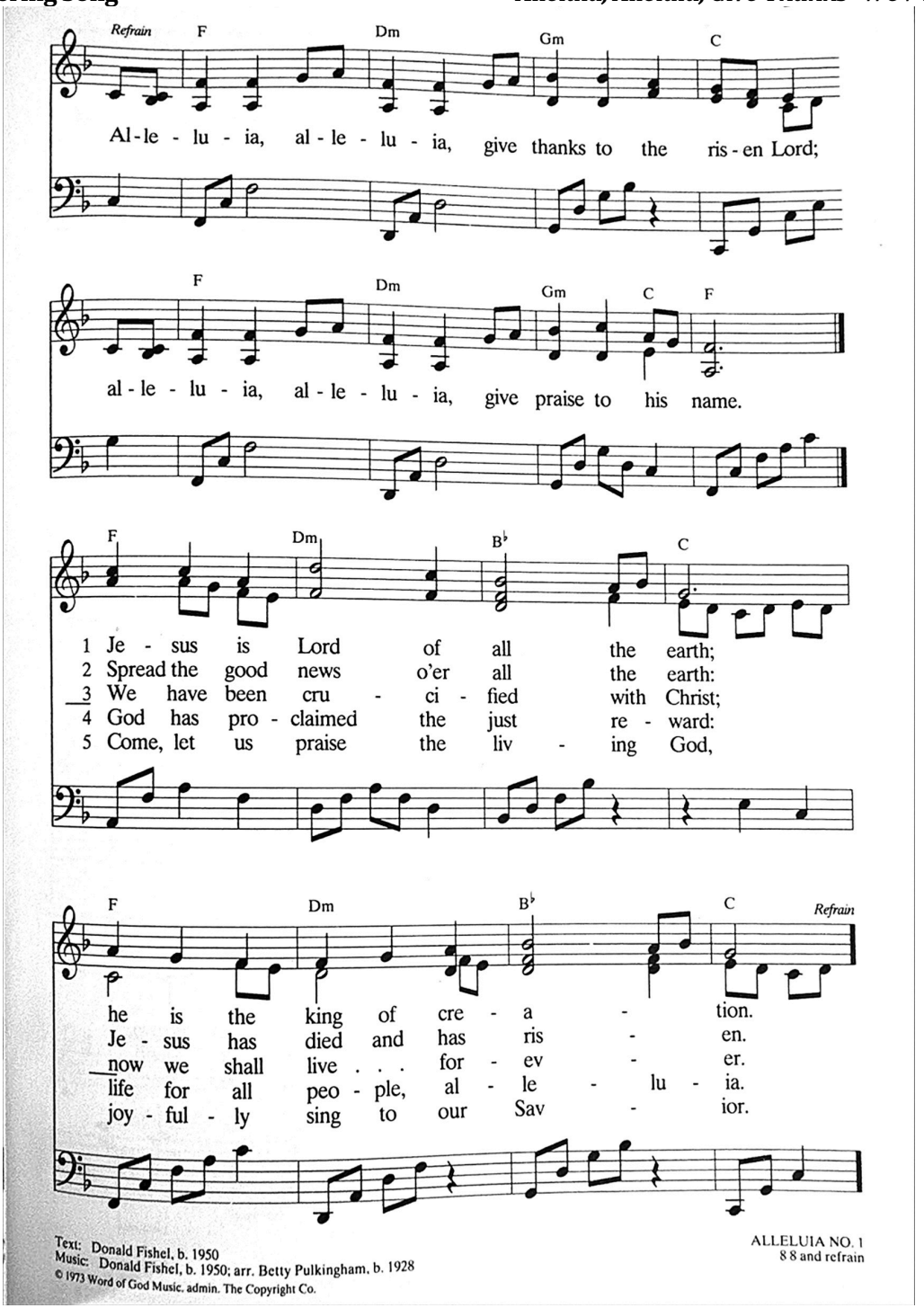
We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,

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,

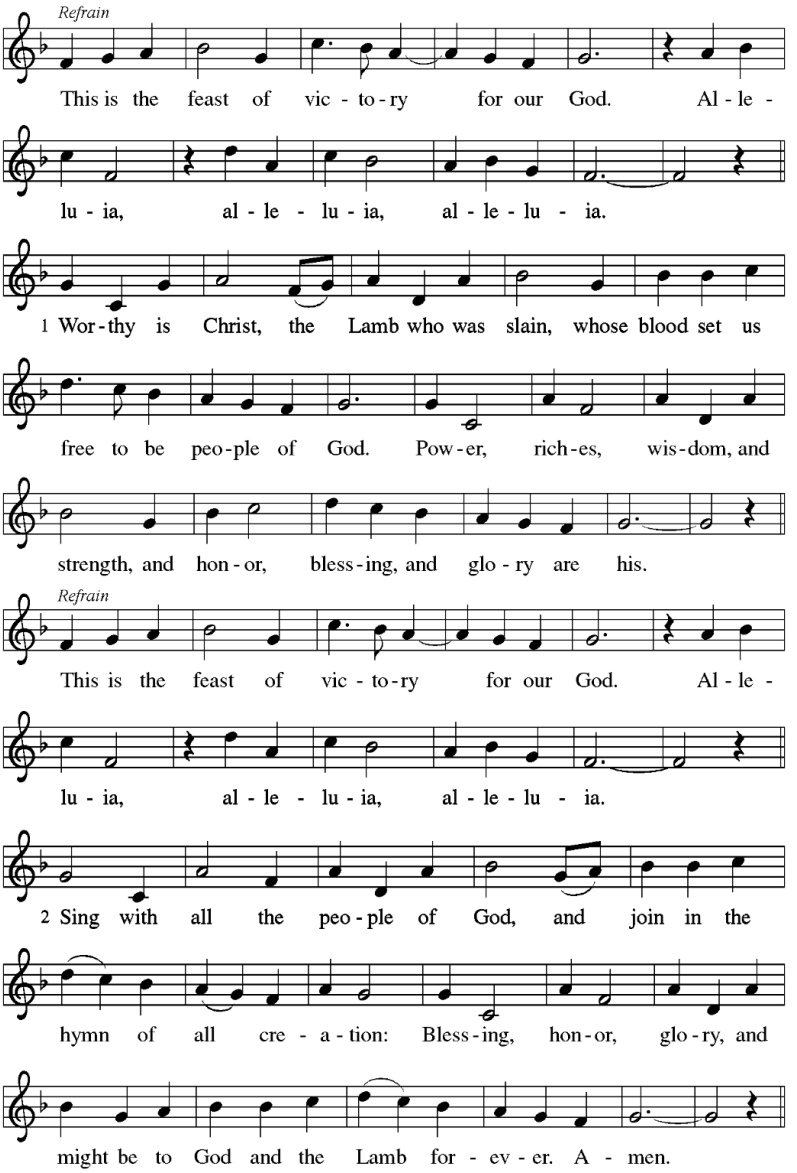
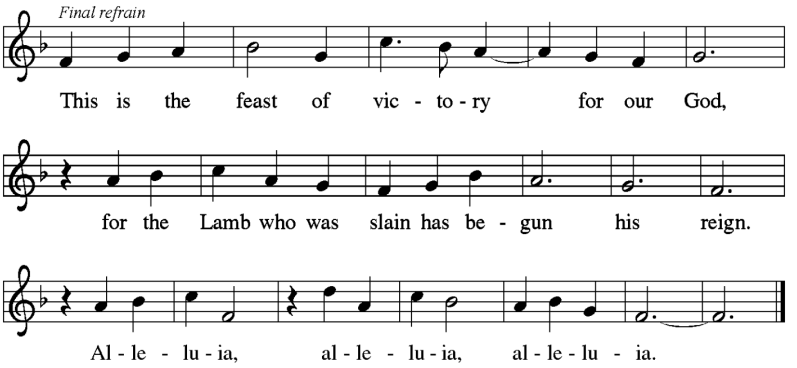
make us one as you are one.

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 Song ***"Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"*** *WOV #671*

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.

Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading **Acts 11:1-18**

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

The apostles and the brothers and sisters throughout Judea heard that even the Gentiles had
welcomed God's word. 2 When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized
him. 3 They accused him, "You went into the home of the uncircumcised and ate with them!"

4 Step-by-step, Peter explained what had happened. 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying when I
had a visionary experience. In my vision, I saw something like a large linen sheet being lowered
from heaven by its four corners. It came all the way down to me. 6 As I stared at it, wondering
what it was, I saw four-legged animals—including wild beasts—as well as reptiles and wild birds.
7 I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!' 8 I responded, 'Absolutely not, Lord! Nothing
impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 The voice from heaven spoke a second time,
'Never consider unclean what God has made pure.' 10 This happened three times, then everything
was pulled back into heaven. 11 At that moment three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea
arrived at the house where we were staying. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them even though
they were Gentiles. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered that man's house. 13 He
reported to us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and
summon Simon, who is known as Peter. 14 He will tell you how you and your entire household can
be saved.' 15 When I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as the Spirit fell on us in the
beginning. 16 I remembered the Lord's words: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized

with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God's way?" 18 Once the apostles and other believers heard this, they calmed down. They praised God and concluded, "So then God has enabled Gentiles to change their hearts and lives so that they might have new life."

At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.
2 **Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.
4 **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,
6 **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
7 Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;
8 **fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
9 mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;
10 **wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;**
11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world;
12 **young | men and maidens, old and | young together.**
13 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
14 **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,**
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading — Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud voice from the throne say,

"Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then the one seated on the throne said,
"Look! I'm making all things new."

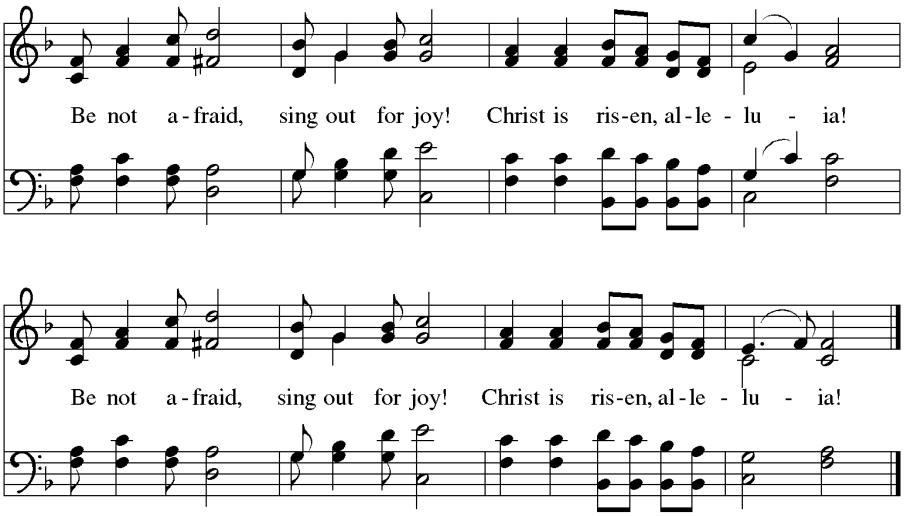
He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 Then he said to me, “All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To
the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

At the conclusion of the reading, the assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly may rise in body or spirit.



Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community
Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord

Gospel — John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples’ feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus’ community.

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Human One has been glorified, and God has been
glorified in him. 32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Human One in himself
and will glorify him immediately. 33 Little children, I’m with you for a little while longer. You will
look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—‘Where I’m going, you can’t
come.’

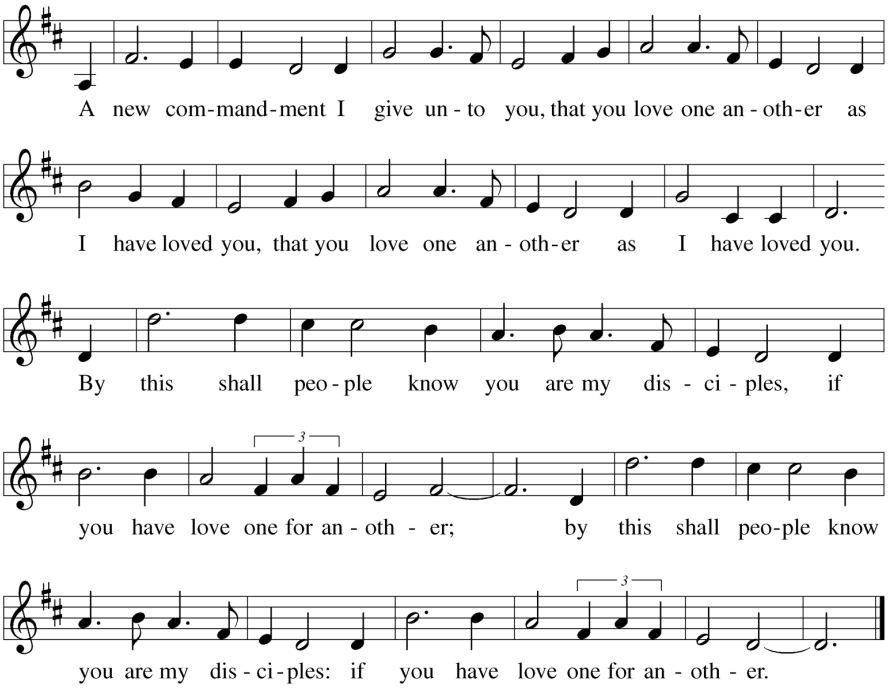
34 “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must
love each other. 35 This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each
other.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"A New Commandment"*** *WOV #664*



Text: John 13:34–35
Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation Of Baptismal Candidate

The candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.
The assembly is seated.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for the candidate, in turn, present the candidate:

S: I present Arthur Clarence Ritzman for baptism.

Katie and Adam, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have Arthur baptized into Christ?
Parents: I do.

As you bring Arthur to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in him hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to help Arthur grow in the Christian faith and life?
Parents: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:
Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Arthur in the Christian faith
as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
Sponsors: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:
People of God, do you promise to support Arthur pray for him in his new life in Christ?
We do.

Profession Of Faith
The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors of baptismal candidates.
The assembly may join in the responses.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.
Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things…
The presiding minister continues to give thanks for God's saving work through the waters of baptism. At the conclusion of the prayer the Assembly responds: **Amen.**

Baptism

Arthur Clarence Ritzman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

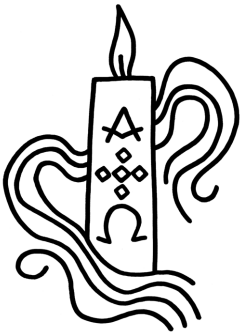
Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:
Sustain Arthur with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.
Arthur Clarence Ritzman, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the sponsors of the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.



Let us welcome Arthur Clarence Ritzman, the newly baptized:

We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise
to God and bearing God's creative and
redeeming word to all the world.

The Assembly may welcome the newly baptized and new members with applause.

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.
Each petition ends with: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Darlene Sorensen, Erna Joswig Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Marie Miller, Sandy Monefeldt, Pat Quale, Estie Marnell, Tim LaPointe, Michelle Haws, Sheila Fair, Cherie Julius, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Merlin Gandrud, Chuck Julius, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Missy Hoffman, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs.

Sharing of the Peace

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

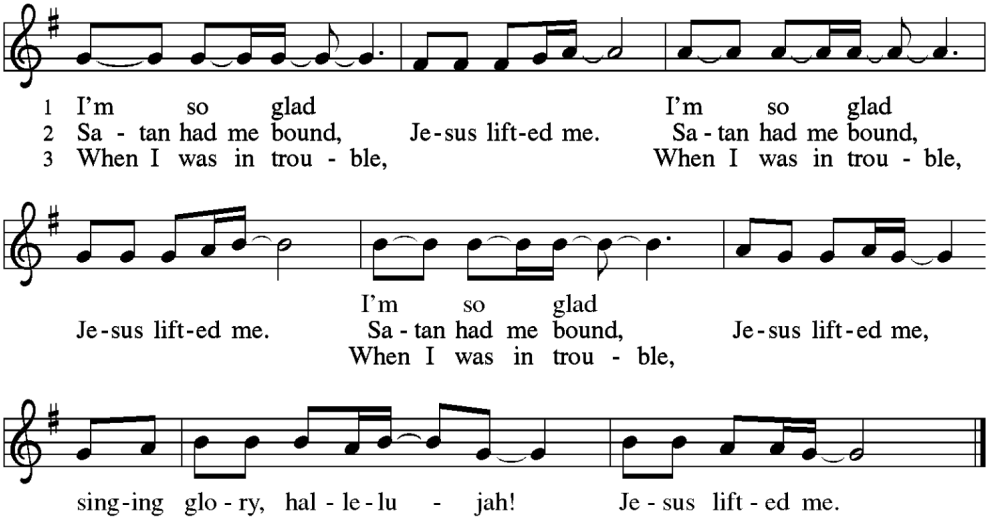
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

There are many ways to give to support Redeemer! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the left with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



Text: African American spiritual
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

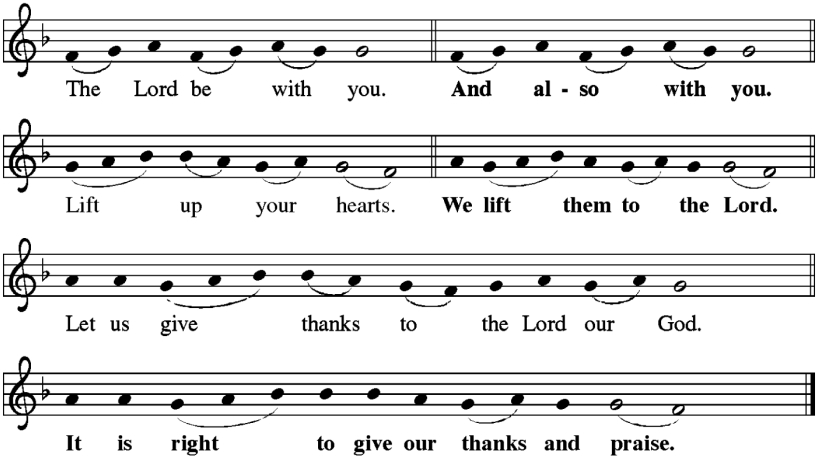
Offertory Prayer

The assembly may rise in body or spirit.

Let us pray. Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

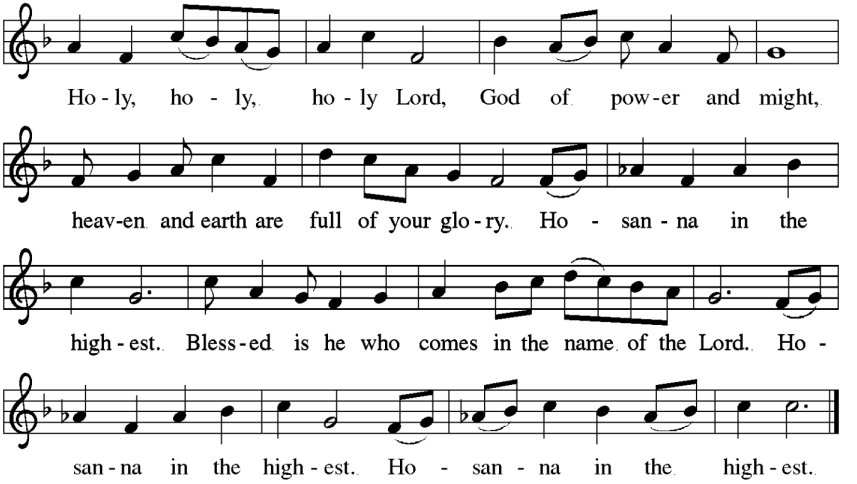
Great Thanksgiving



The Presiding Minister continues:

Creating God, you made the earth as a place of encounter.

… anticipating your eternal praise, we bless you in everlasting song.

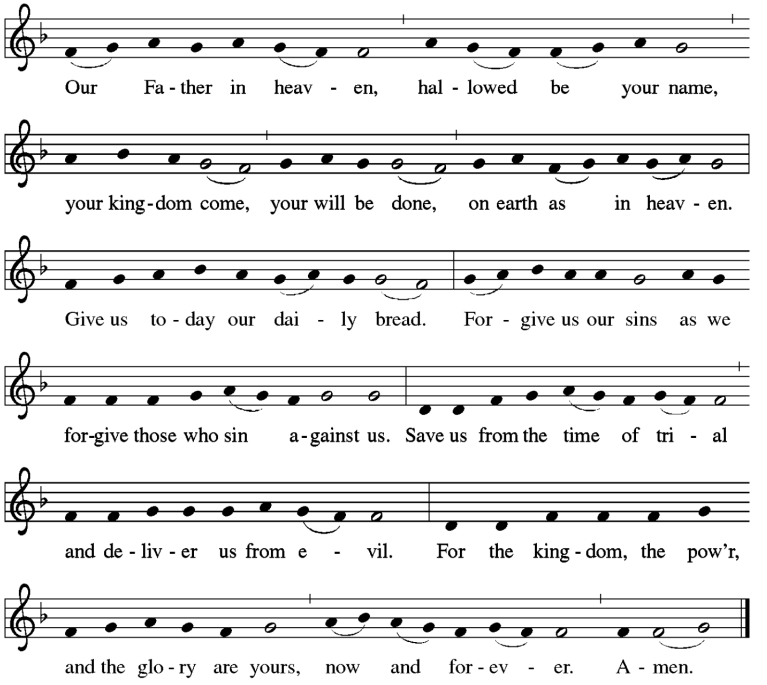


The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.
The Assembly responds when prompted:

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

The Lord's Prayer

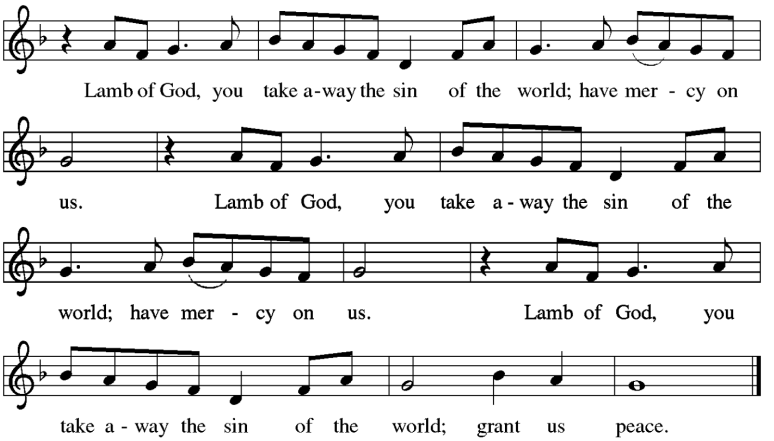


Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words.



Communion Song

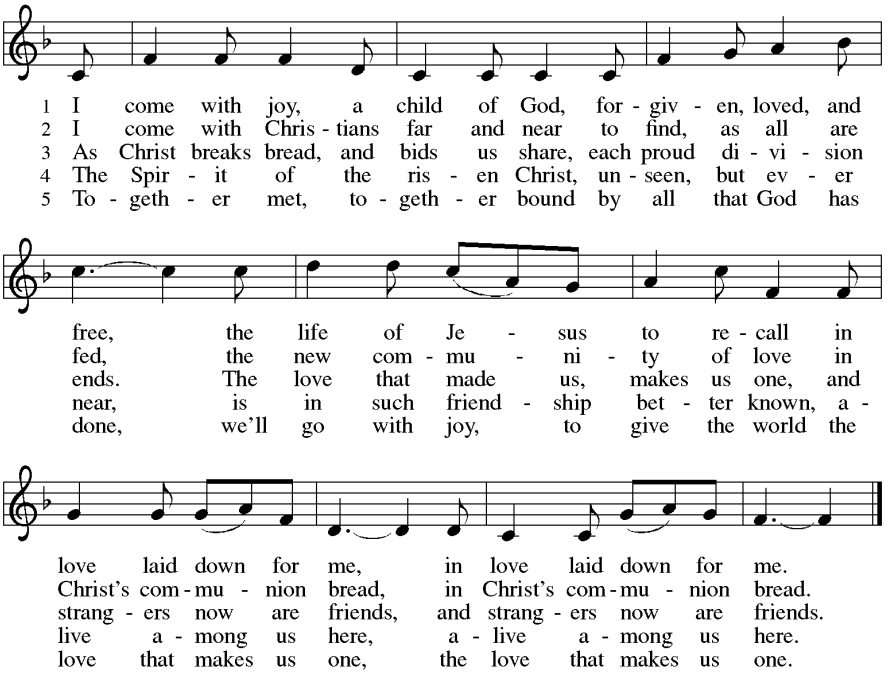
"I Come With Joy" *ELW #482*

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

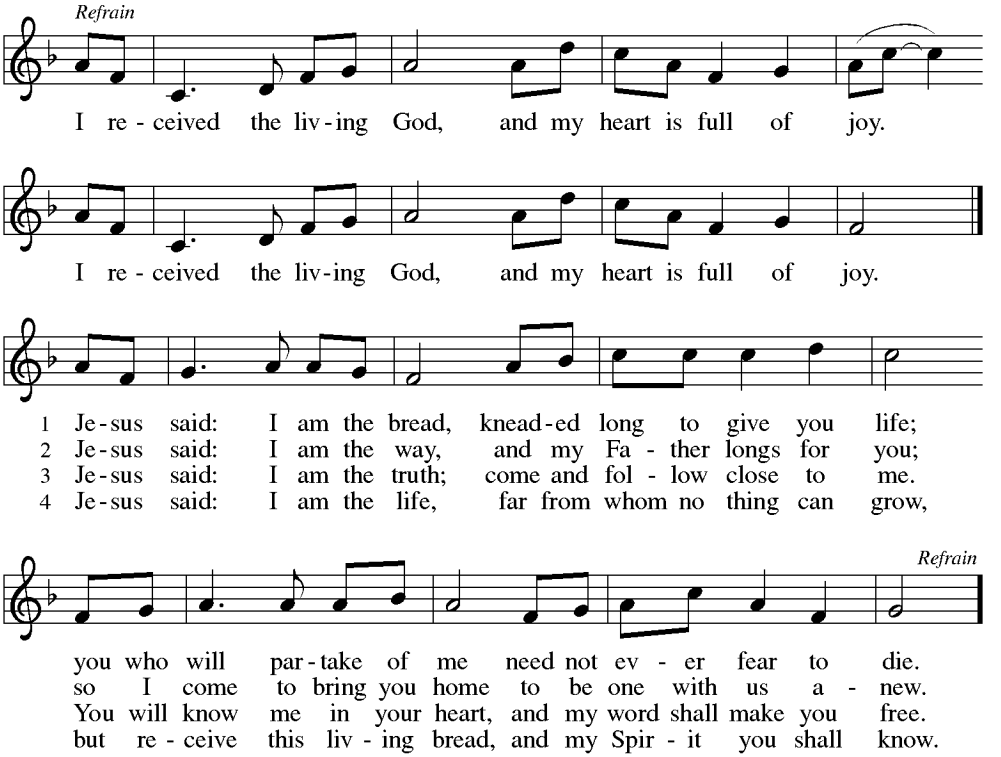
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"I Received the Living God"*** *ELW #477*



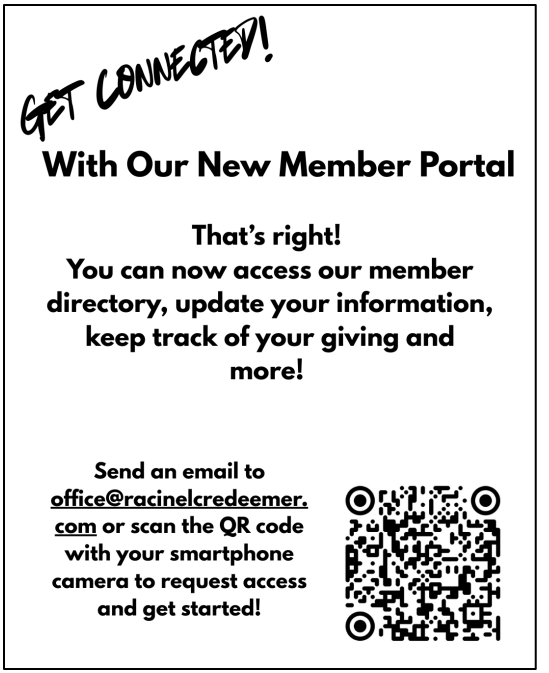
Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Nancy Vandewinckel
	Matt & John's Anniversary
Usher:	Jim Kasprovich
Assisting Minister:	Sean Fair
Readers:	Sheila Fair
Altar Guild:	Nancy Vandewinckel & Marilyn Rentz
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James



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