



# Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ 28 April 2024 | 9:30am ✝

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Bethesda Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is located within the traditional lands of the Indigenous People of Turtle Island (North America), the first Americans. These are the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Assiniboine, and Dakota people. Today we are called to follow Jesus alongside of our neighbors of the sovereign federally recognized tribes of the Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth bands of the Ojibwa people. In affirming this land as the homeland of our Indigenous neighbors, we recognize the legacies of violence and cultural genocide that occurred alongside the displacement of their communities, as well as the responsibility we all share to not let these truths be buried any longer.

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# ✝ GATHERING ✝

## PRELUDE

Praeludium No. 1 for viola

Tyler Pyle, composer

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

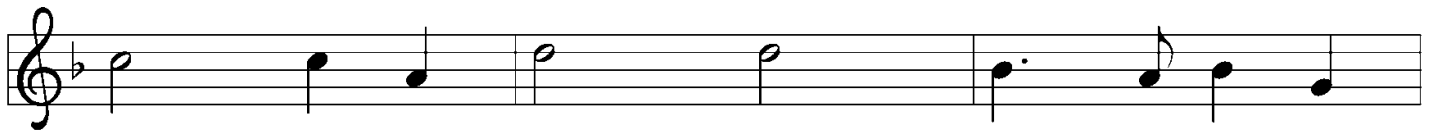




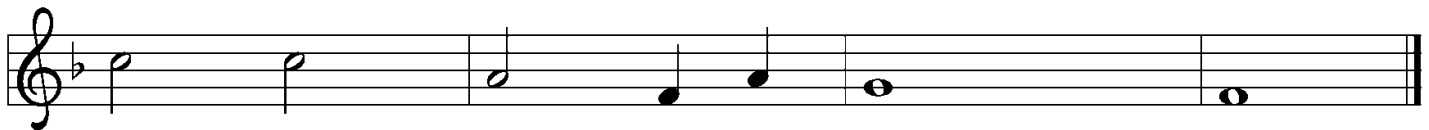
1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590 - c.1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982  
 Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950  
 Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.  
 Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# 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

ELW Supplement pg. 3

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

*Assistant:* Let us pray — to the Lord, have mer - cy,  
*Congregation:* Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have  
mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all... (Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live  
your Word... (Refrain)

*Assistant:* Help, save and de - fend us, — O God.  
*Congregation:* A - - - men.

Refrain:

*Congregation:*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



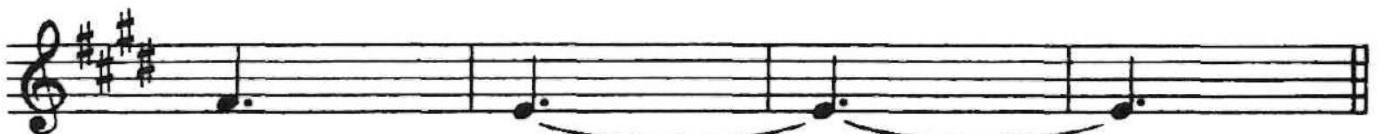
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and

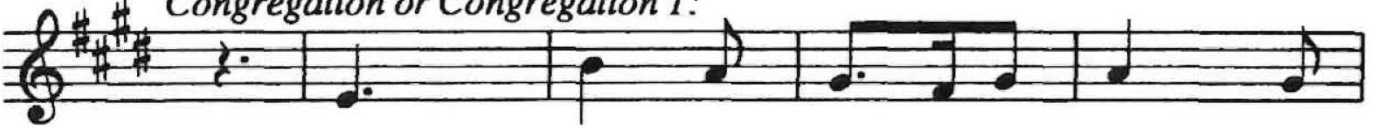


free - dom: praise and glo - ry for - ev -



er - more!

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*



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. \_\_\_\_\_ *to Refrain*

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_ *to Refrain*

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to make us peo - ple of God; to make

all things new. \_\_\_\_\_ *to Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

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### FIRST READING • Acts 8:26-40

*Lector* A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Lector* Word of God, Word of Life.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Lector* We will read the Psalm responsibly.

## PSALM • Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING • 1 John 4:7-21

*Lector* A Reading from the First Letter of John.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us.

<sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom



they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Lector* Word of God, Word of Life *All* **Thanks be to God**

*Lector* We rise for the reading of the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Supplement pg. 7

*Congregation:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

*Presider* The Holy Gospel according to John.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*Presider* The Gospel of our Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY • Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



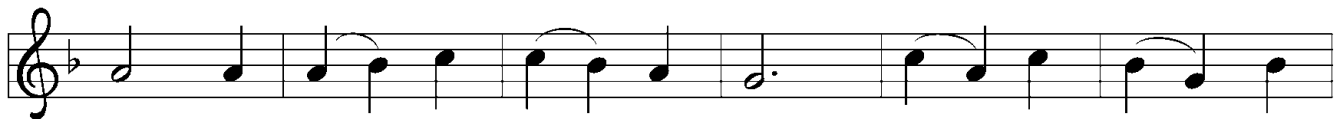
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith...

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Presider* Hear us, O God

*All* **Your mercy is great.**

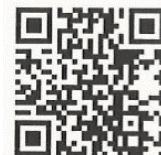
# SHARING OF THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

*All* **And also with you.**

## ✝ MEAL ✝

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed by the ushers during the musical offering. You may also scan the QR code to the right to explore online giving options or contact the church office for more information.



## MUSICAL OFFERING

Tyler Pyle, piano

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

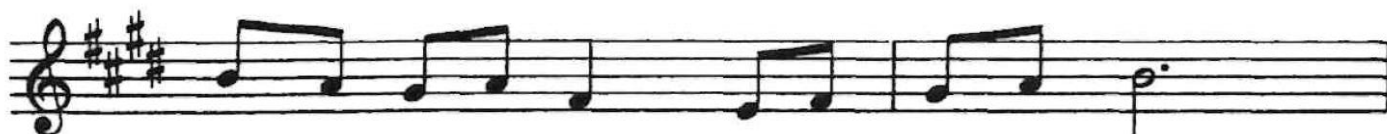
As the Grains of Wheat

ELW Supplement pg. 9

Refrain:  
Congregation:



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



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

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

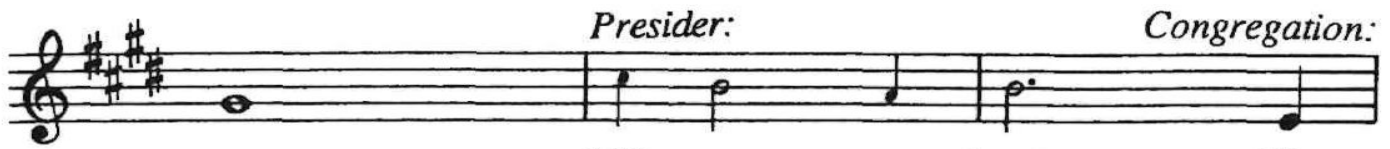
Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
 May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.  
 Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ,  
 our true vine. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW Supplement pg. 10



The — Lord be with you. And — al - so with



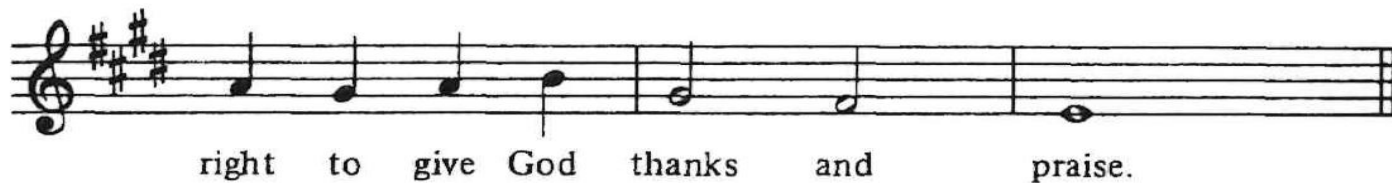
you. Lift up your hearts. We



lift them to the Lord. Let us give



thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Supplement pg. 10

*Congregation:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting...

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: ...

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread...

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*Presider* The risen Christ is made known to us... Come and eat at God's table.

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*Communion is served in the front of the sanctuary. Please exit the pew using the exterior aisle and circle around to the center aisle to pass by the baptismal font. As we make the journey to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are reminded of the sacrament of Baptism. If you are unable to come to the front, please let one of the ushers know and we will make sure the sacrament is made available to you. No one is required to commune. Alternatively, you are welcome to accept the blessing of the meal in prayer.*

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## LAMB OF GOD

ELW supplement pg. 13

(next page)

t:

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,

*Final time:* t:

mer-cy on us. (Additional verses are below) Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Additional invocations:**

you break the chains of hatred and fear:  
 you are the way of justice and peace:  
 you are the way of mercy and love:

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

We Are An Offering

ELW 692

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
 lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
 all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
 We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
 we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
 Music: Dwight Liles  
 Text and Music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

## Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sag-es from thee.  
take my in-tel-lect, and use ev-'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

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.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.  
Music: Patmos, William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God . . . Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All:* **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

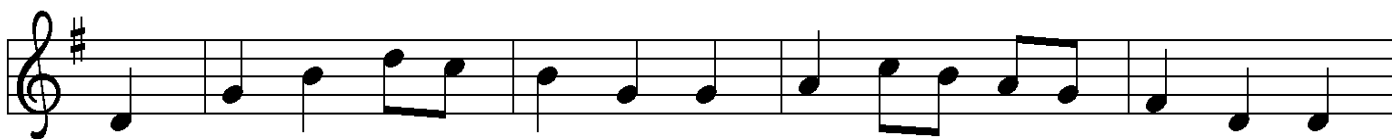
*Presider:* ..... † bless you now and always.

*All:* **Amen.**

## † SENDING †

### SENDING HYMN • Let All Things Now Living

ELW **881**



1 Let all things now liv-ing a song of thanks-giv-ing to  
2 God rules all the forc-es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

## DISMISSAL

*Presider* Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE • Isles of the Blessed

Tyler Pyle, composer

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, AND PERMISSIONS

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## SERVING TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Steve Wold
PREACHING	Kristina Dernier
ASSISTING MINISTER	Arland Jacobson
LECTOR	Willy Jacobson
SACRISTAN	Sharon Holman
MUSICIAN	Tyler Pyle
COMMUNION SERVERS	Willy Jacobson, Mary Wenaas
COUNCIL PERSON ON DUTY	Sharon Olson

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR Sixth Sunday of Easter

- **May 5, 2024** -

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

## THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH


✠ **April 21 - 28, 2024** ✠

TODAY:	9:30 am	Worship - Pastor Grant Vanderford
MONDAY:	10:00 am	Lectionary Study, Lounge
TUESDAY:	7:00 pm	Bethesda Choir
WEDNESDAY:	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Reading Religiously Group, Lounge Confirmation
THURSDAY:	12:30 pm	Bethesda Quilters
FRIDAY:	9:00 pm	N.A. Meeting
SUNDAY:	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:45 am	Worship - Pastor Grant Vanderford Coffee Fellowship Sunday School, Lounge

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The Concordia Choir, Chapel Choir, and Kantorei, conducted by Michael Culloton, will be performing 'Considering Matthew Shepard' in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew's murder on Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 pm in Memorial Auditorium on Concordia's campus. This work by Craig Hella Johnson features a wide variety of musical styles to tell the story of Matthew, and to help us all understand the impact his death still continues to have in the world today. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased at [www.ConcordiaCollege.edu/MatthewShepard](http://www.ConcordiaCollege.edu/MatthewShepard).

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# mother's day luncheon

**SATURDAY, MAY 4  
ALL WOMEN INVITED!  
RSVP IN THE OFFICE**