# Fifth Sunday of Easter Rite of Confirmation

May 7, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion, Setting One, Lutheran Service Book



#### **Prayer before worship:**

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you this day thankful for your glorious resurrection. Scatter doubt and uncertainty, and confirm our faith and trust in you. Come into our midst this day with your life-giving presence and bestow upon us your saving peace. Amen.

+ + +

**Prelude** 

"Triumphant Spirit" (Nicholas Hanson) St. John's Handbell Ensemble

## **Ringing of the Bells**

Welcome

#### Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross made be made in remembrance of Baptism

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father, and of the ightharpoonup Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

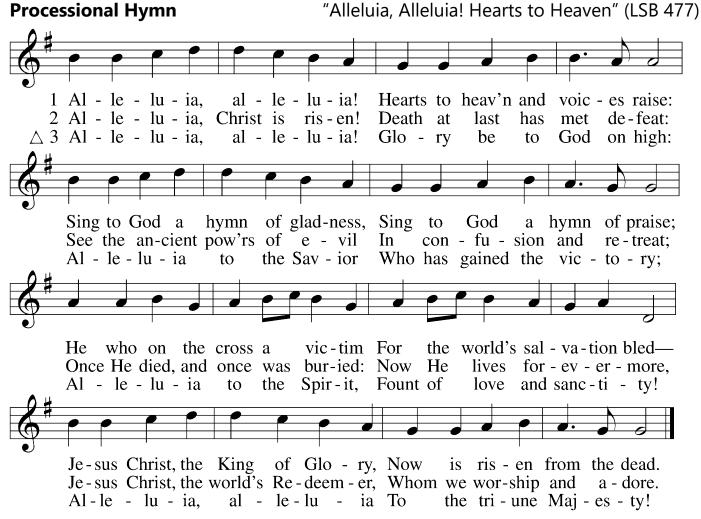
Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the 

→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

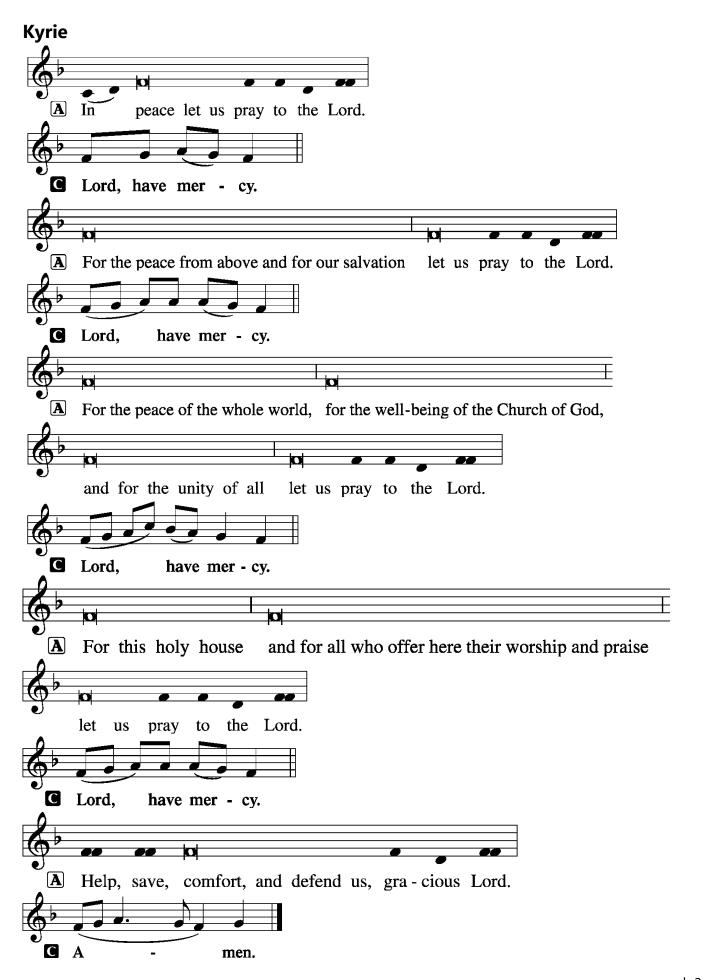
#### C Amen.

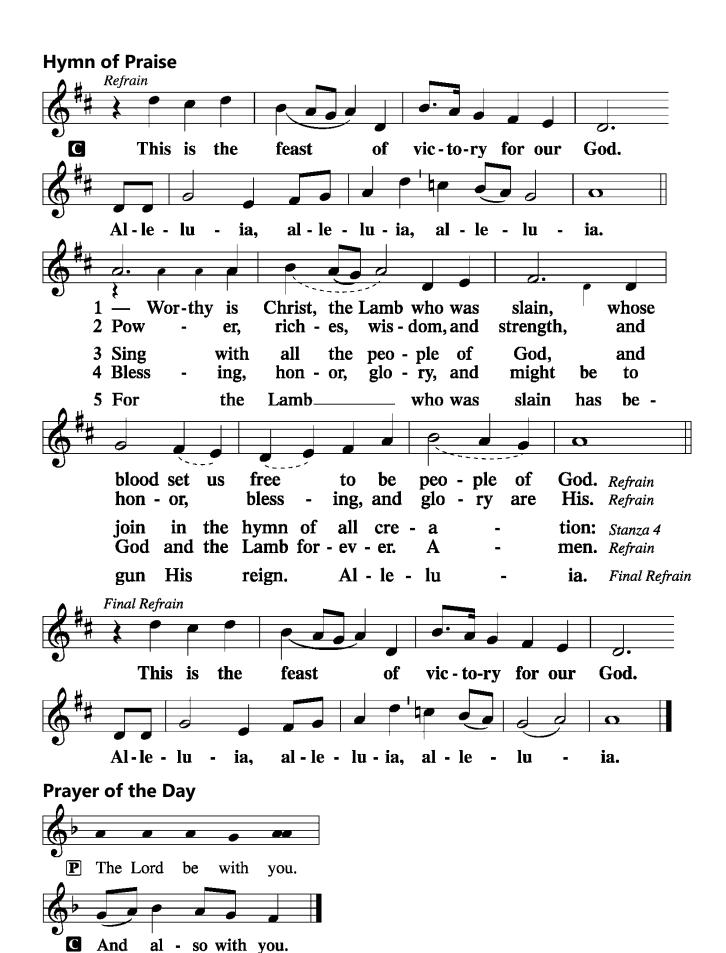


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## Greeting

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **G** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P 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.**





## P Let us pray:

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

#### C Amen.

## **Children's Message**

**First Reading** Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

<sup>1</sup>Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." <sup>5</sup>And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup>Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen [...].

<sup>2</sup>And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me [...].

<sup>51</sup>You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup>you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of

God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm** (read responsively)

Psalm 146

- Praise the LORD!

  Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
  I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- L Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
- L Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;
- who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
  The LORD sets the prisoners free;
- the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
  The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
  the LORD loves the righteous.
- The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Epistle 1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Alleluia and Verse**



Holy Gospel John 14:1-14

Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

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



<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

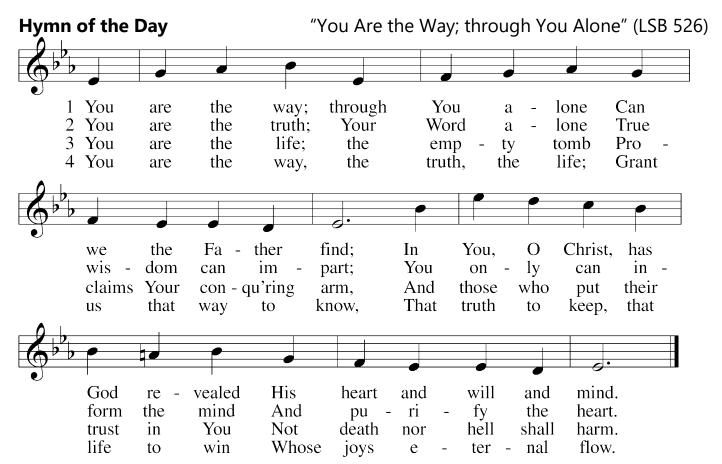
<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."



Sermon

"Chosen and Holy"



Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt. Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, 1615, Edinburgh Text and tune: Public domain

## **Prayers of the People**

P Rejoicing with all the witnesses of the resurrection, let us pray in confidence for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season of Easter each petition ends with the phrase: "Hear us, O God."

Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

The prayers end with the words:

- P In resurrection hope we commend to you all for whom we pray, trusting in the promise of new life; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
- C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

#### **Announcements**

#### **Rite of Confirmation**

Jennifer Hills, Director Discipleship, presents the Confirmands to the Congregational President with these words: "These people have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism and to identify themselves with the life and mission of this Christian community."

## Confirmands stand

The Congregational President, Denise Canter, addresses the Pastor: "I present to you these candidates for the Rite of Confirmation."

## Confirmands and their parents proceed to the altar

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, in Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from God's Word his loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been called to be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

- RI I do.
- **P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- **■** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- P 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. Amen.
- P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and to share in his Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

## R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

## **Parental Affirmation** (spoken to parents of Confirmands)

■ Each of these candidates for Confirmation represents a life that God has entrusted to your care. You brought them into a living relationship with God in Jesus Christ through the waters of holy Baptism. By your words and actions you have nurtured them and brought them to this the day of their Confirmation. In this, you are to be commended for your faithful exercise of God's stewardship of love. On this day of your son's Confirmation, both as a witness to them and as an assurance to this body of believers, I now ask you:

Will you continue in your role as primary care givers to your children by loving and supporting them as you are able, by modeling for them the importance of faith in your life, by encouraging their participation in the worship, continued learning and total ministry of this congregation, by praying for them and by helping them see and interpret their total life as ministry?

Parents: We will, and we ask God to help us.

## **Congregational Affirmation** (spoken to the congregation – please rise)

- P Will you, the members of this fellowship of believers, demonstrate for these Confirmands by your words and deeds the importance of growth and development in God's grace? Will you model for them lives of loving and dedicated service through worship, care and support of the life and ministry of this congregation? Will you share with them the tasks of ministry within this community of faith?
- **C** Yes, and we ask God to help us.
- P May our risen Lord Jesus Christ bless your affirmations, and may He bring these promises to fruition. Let us pray:
  Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit, you have made these young people your own sons and daughters. You have forgiven their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with your Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

#### **G** Amen.

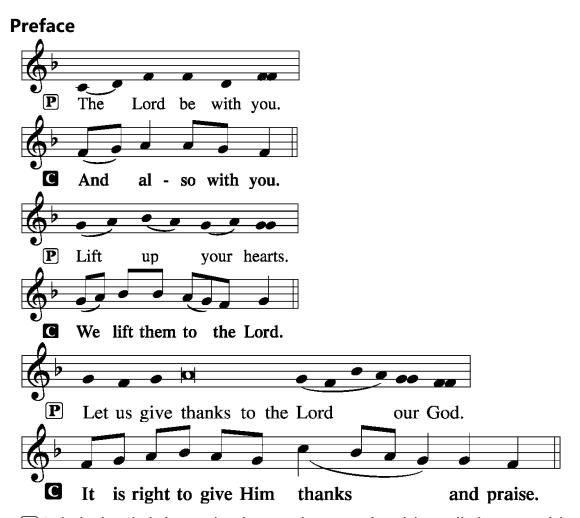
As each young person is confirmed, his or her parents participate in the laying-on of hands, thus indicating visibly that the parental role is ongoing in the life of each Confirmand. St. John's Confirmation Class of 2023 includes:

Nathaniel Anderson Caroline Ehlers Thomas J. Dreier Grace Rempe

#### Presentation of Confirmands' Gift

St. John's Confirmation Class of 2023 presents their gift to the congregation. Representing the congregation is our President, Denise Canter, who accepts this gift on the congregation's behalf.

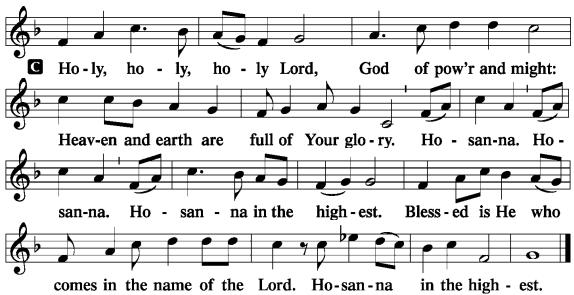
#### Service of the Sacrament



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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, cherubin and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



#### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

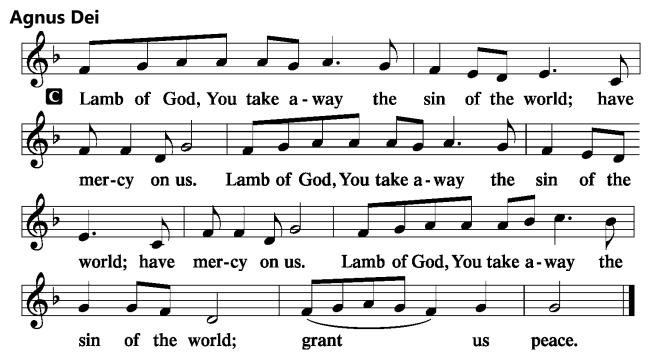
As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

## **A**men. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **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 of Holy Communion**

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the

#### Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

## **Music at Distribution**

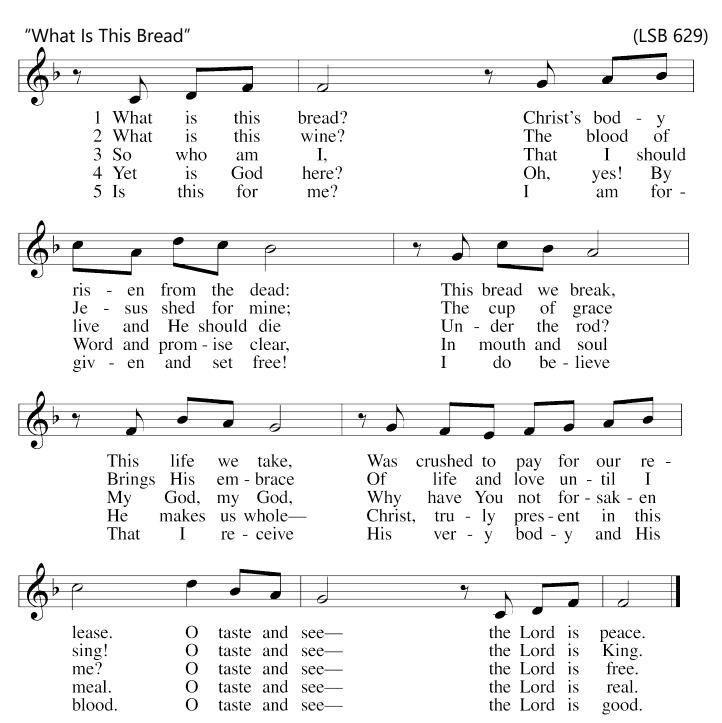
Choir Anthem

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (J. S. Bach) St. John's Handbell Ensemble



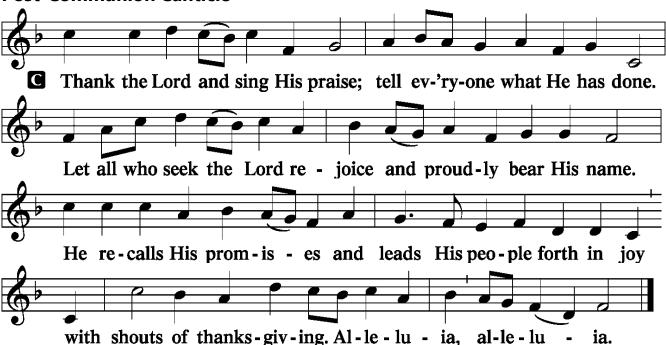
Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga wisor, 1873, Sweden Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

(Distribution Hymn on the next page)



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#### **Post-Communion Canticle**



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

**L** Let us pray:

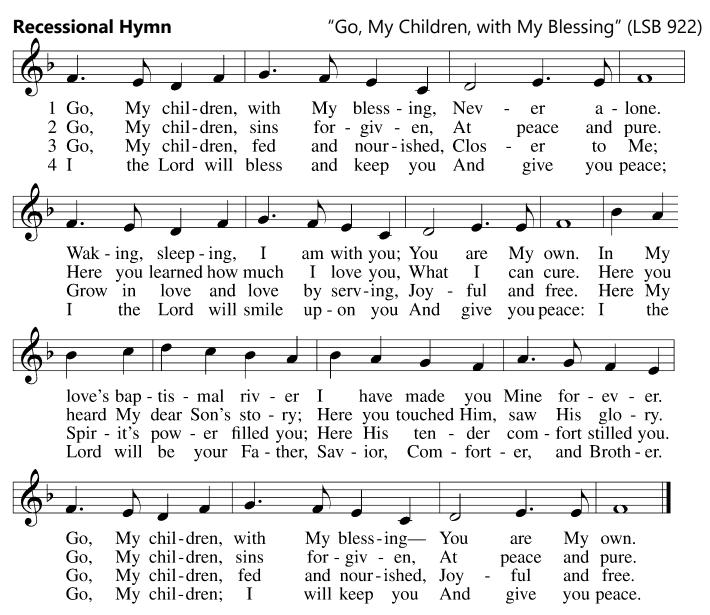
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## C Amen.

#### **Benediction**

- **P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and 

  → give you peace.
- C Amen.



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#### **Postlude**

"Sortie in E Flat" (Lefebure-Wely)

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## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Michelle Guilfoil

Communion Lay Assistant Jennifer Hills

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Sofi Hills

Crucifer Giulianna Vazquez

Ushers Fred Esposito

Joe Godwin

Altar Care Cathy Long
AV Operator Greg Auld

**Greer Putnam** 

Welcome Host Benjamin May

Nursery Barbara Gilliland

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This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

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To view the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, *Midweek Update*, scan this QR Code



## Acknowledgments

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