## Fourth Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday

April 21, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.





## **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** 

"Folk Tune" (Percy Whitlock)

**Ringing of the Bells** 

Welcome

#### **Confession and Absolution**

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

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the 

  → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** 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.

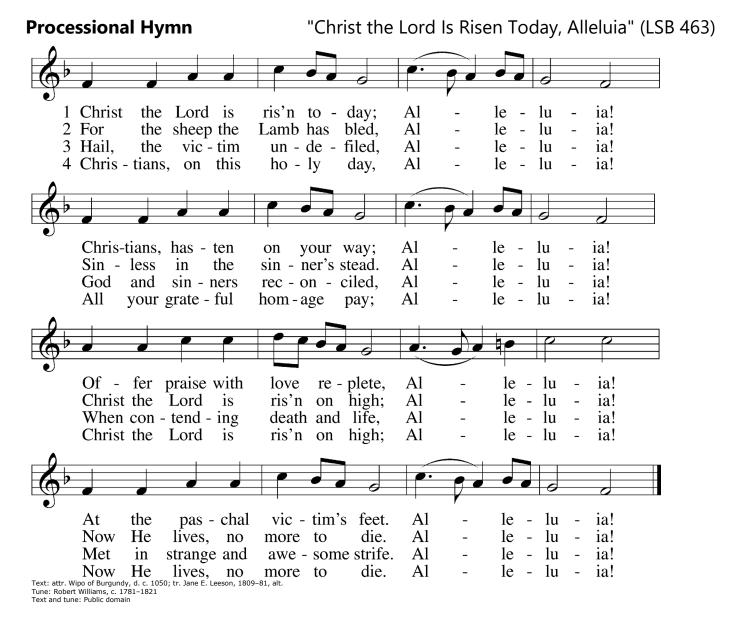
Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

- **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.



## 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.
- **C** And also with you.







## **Salutation and Collection of the Day**



## P Let us pray:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### **G** Amen.

First Reading Acts 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

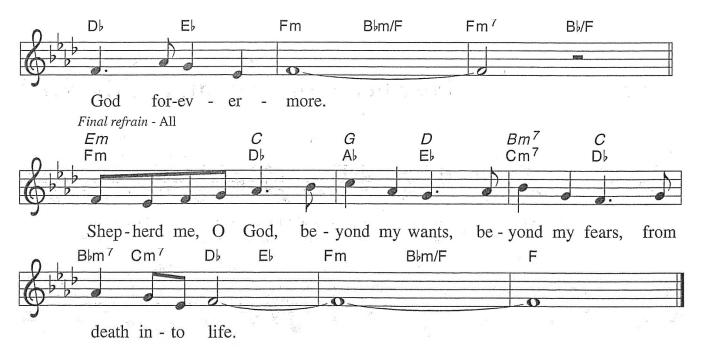
<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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

## **C** Thanks be to God.







**Epistle** 1 John 3:16-24

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

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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

Thanks be to God.

#### Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel John 10:11-18

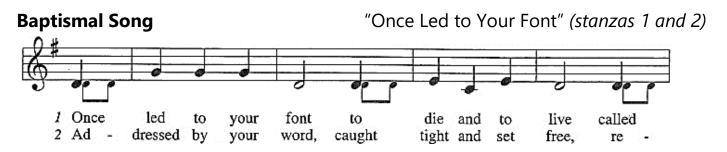
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

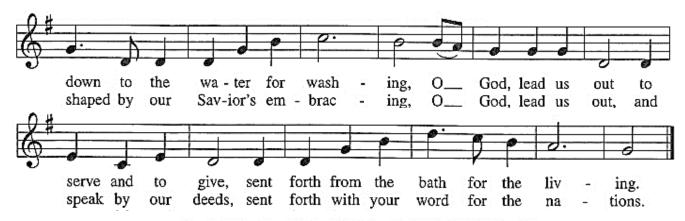


<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."



#### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM





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2005

P Holy Baptism today is given for Ethan Helmer Heller, child of Laura and Christian Heller. Serving as Baptismal officiant is the Rev. Toby H. Heller. Serving as Ethan's sponsors are Joseph and Rachel Riley.

#### **Presentation of Baptismal Candidate**

R We present Ethan Helmer to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

#### The Address

## The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism

- In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?
- R I do.

**The Thanksgiving** The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font

- P The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## **The Flood Prayer**

This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.

- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.
- By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.
- In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.
- He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the 

  → Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.
- To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

#### The Renunciation

Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.

- I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R 1 do.

**The Profession of Faith** *Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.* 

- 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 God the Son, Jesus Christ?
- 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.

**The Washing** *The pastor baptizes the candidate(s) with these words:* 

P Ethan Helmer, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**The Laying on of Hands**The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Ethan Helmer: 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.

**G** Amen.

**The Sealing** The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized withoil prepared for this purpose. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:

- **P** Ethan Helmer, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

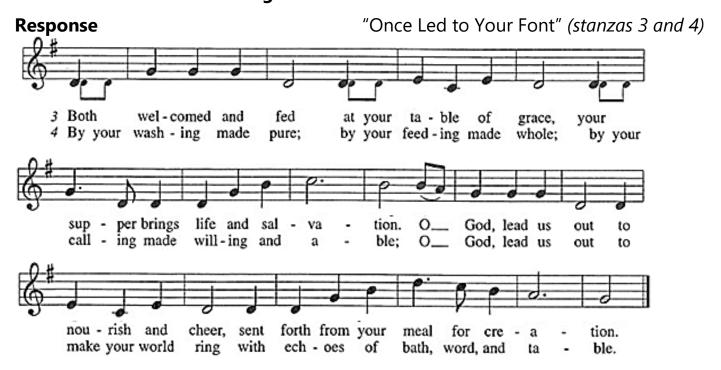
A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

- Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- P Finally, let us pray for the parents of this child:
  O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon Ethan's parents, Laura and
  Christian. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them
  teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their
  own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation you have given to them,
  through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

#### The Welcome

# Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:

- I Through Baptism, God has made this child a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.



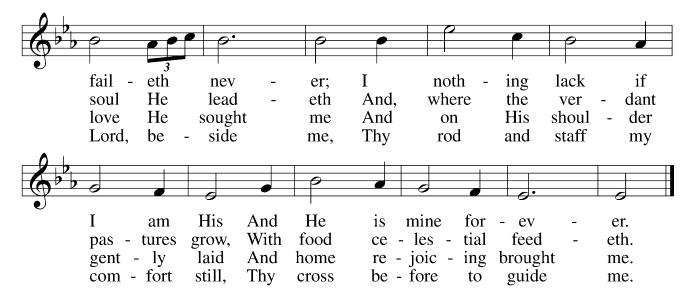
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#### Sermon

"One Flock, One Shepherd"





- Thou spreadst a table in my sight; 5 Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- And so through all the length of days 6 Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. 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.

## 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**

## **Offertory Prayer**

- Let us pray: Blessed are you,
- O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Service of the Sacrament**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **C**Amen.

#### 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.

## **G** Amen. 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

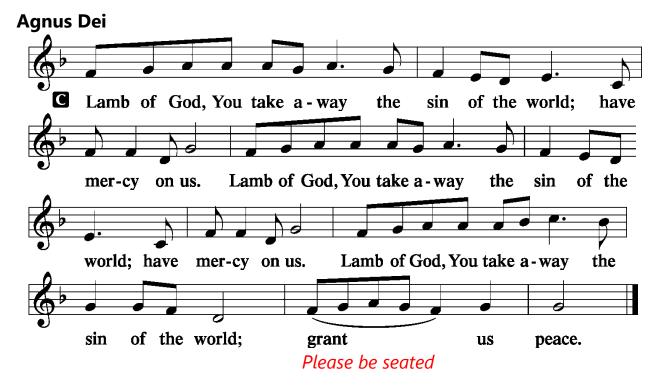
passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **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.

#### **Pax Domini**

- The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C 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.

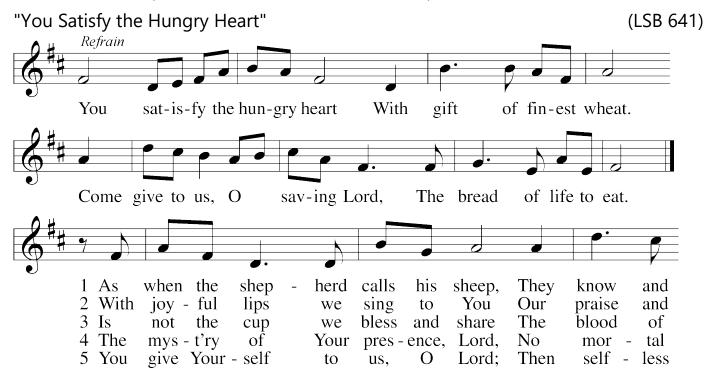
For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

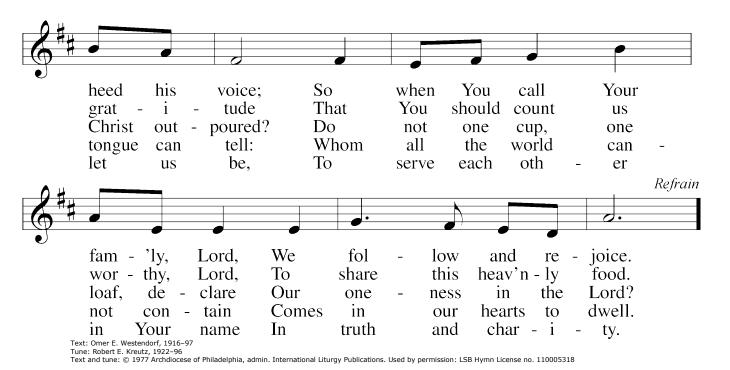
#### **Music at Distribution**

Choir of St. John's "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" (William Bradley Roberts)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care; In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will; Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.







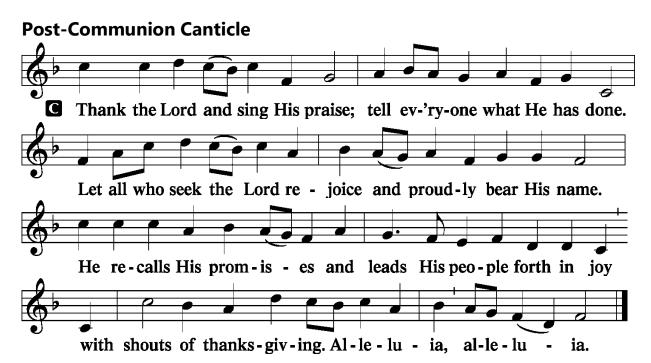
Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

- 6 Now no more can death appall,
  Now no more the grave enthrall;
  You have opened paradise,
  And Your saints in You shall rise.
  Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
  This alone can sin destroy;
  From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
  Newborn souls in You to be.
  Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
  Savior, by whose death we live,
  Spirit, guide through all our days:
  Three in One, Your name we praise.

#### Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Dismissal**



#### **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.

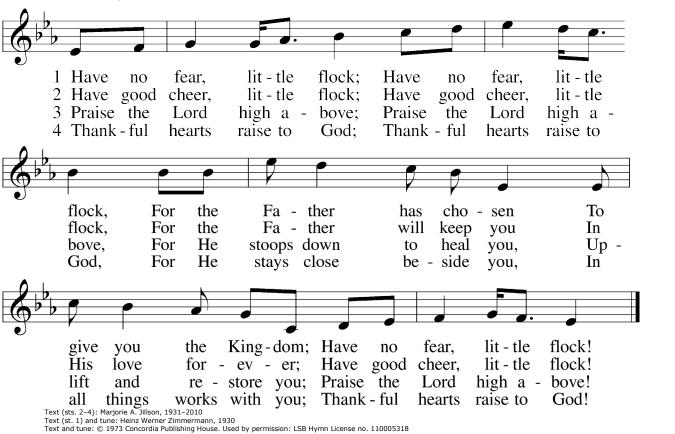
#### **Benediction**

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.



"Have No Fear Little Flock" (LSB 735)



**Postlude** 

"Toccata in Seven" (John Rutter)

+ + +

## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Baptismal Officiant Rev. Toby H. Heller

Welcome Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Stacey Crosson

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Gavin Stiens
Crucifer Pheonix White

Usher Mike Waring

Fred Esposito

Altar Care Andrea Godwin
AV Operators Scott Budzien

Larry McCormick

Welcome Host Joe Godwin Nursery Andi Hassett

+ + +

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To download our SJLC app text: "APP" or "App" or "app" to (877) 776-1304



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in donation to the flower fund.

+ + +

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Midweek Update, scan this QR Code



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# St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Director of Discipleship Jennifer Hills, DCE

Director of Music David Leahey

Office Administrator Michelle May

Finance Administrator Jennifer Smith

Communication Specialist Jacqueline Fuller

## **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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