## Third Sunday of Easter (Confirmation Sunday)

May 4, 2025 – 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.

+ + +

Welcome

**Prelude** 

"Folk Tune" (Percy Whitlock)

**Ringing of the Bells** 

#### **Confession and Absolution**

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

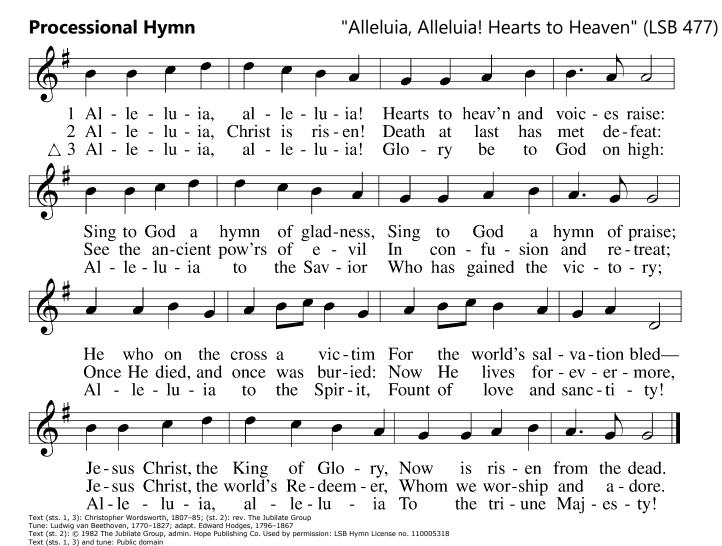
- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father, and of the ightharpoonup Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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.

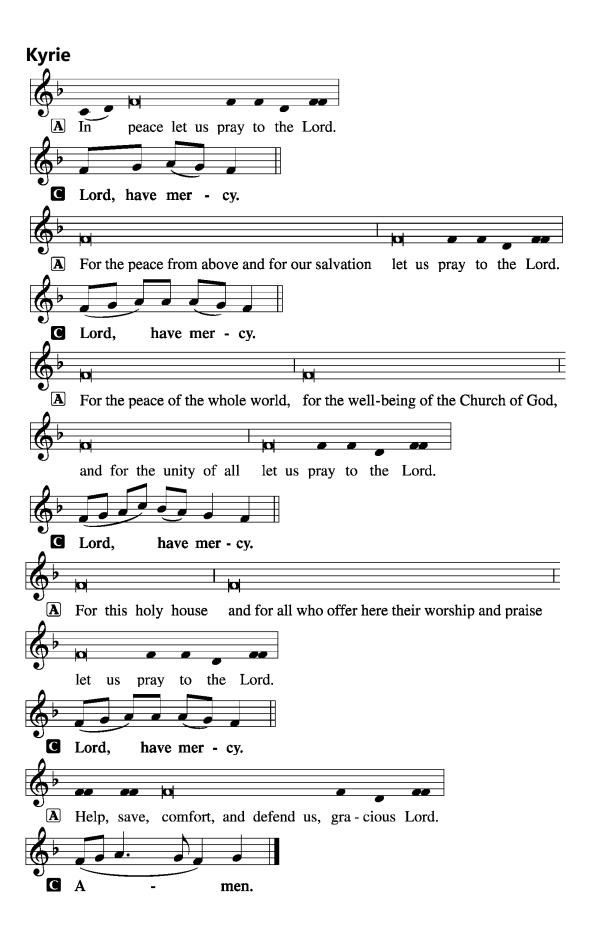
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C Amen.



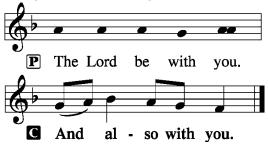
## Greeting

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- **©** 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.





# **Prayer of the Day**



## P Let us pray:

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## C Amen.

First Reading Acts 9:1-22

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
  - Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm** (read responsively)

- I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
- L O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
- Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.
- I For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

  Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- E By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:
- "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
- G Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!
  O LORD, be my helper!"
- I You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
- C that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
  O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**Epistle** Revelation 5:1-14

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

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup>And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
  - Thanks be to God.

#### Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel John 21:1-19

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.



<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

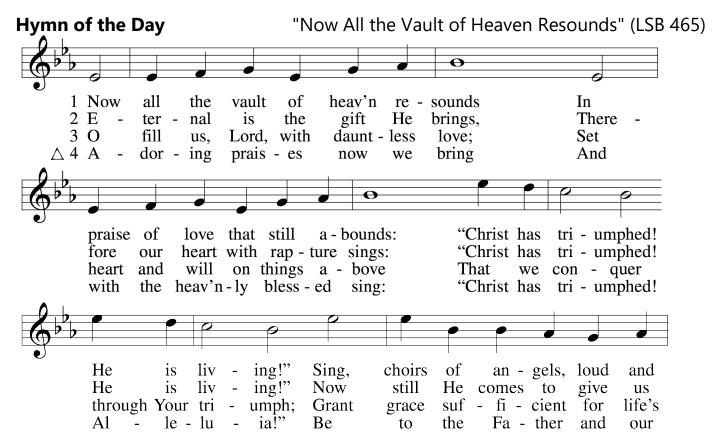
<sup>9</sup>When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

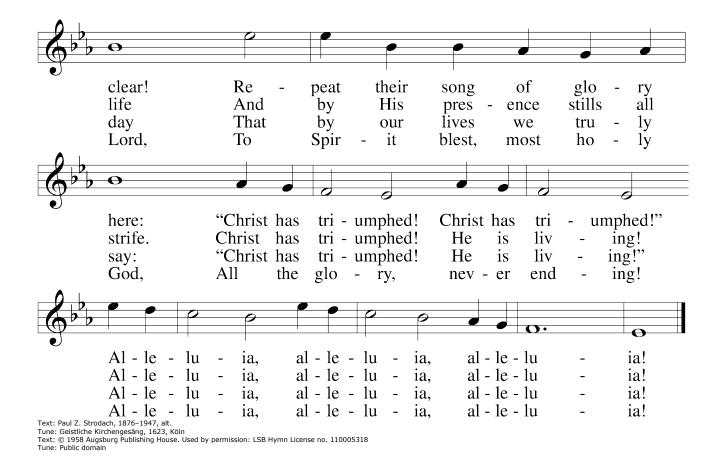
<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup>(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."



#### Sermon

"Fishing (not Phishing) Expedition"





# **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**

## **Offertory Prayer**

- L 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.

#### **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, Jim Burroughs, 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?

# **I** 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?

# **Q** 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.

## C 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 2025 includes:

Sofia Luke Caleb

#### Presentation of Confirmands' Gift

St. John's Confirmation Class of 2025 presents their gift to the congregation. Representing the congregation is our President, Jim Burroughs, who accepts this gift on the congregation's behalf.

#### **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.

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

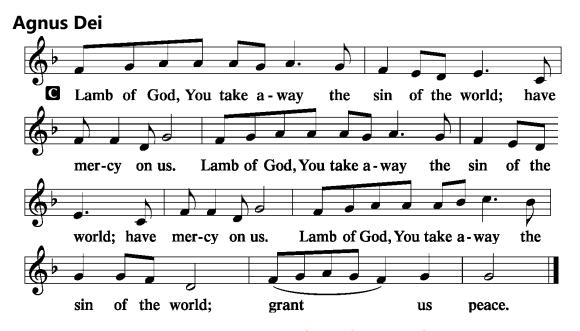
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.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

#### **Pax Domini**

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



Please be seated

## **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**

#### **Anthem**

"Eden's Song" (arr. Mark Schweizer)

A memory of Eden stirs, and walks within the warmth of spring; It whispers ev'ry hope God has to Life Eternal, listening.

Stretch past the gloom of winter's grey, unfurl by faith and not by sight; to touch the light of length'ning days that calls thee forth to green delight.

The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share; lift ev'ry voice and celebrate, the living God, who's always there.

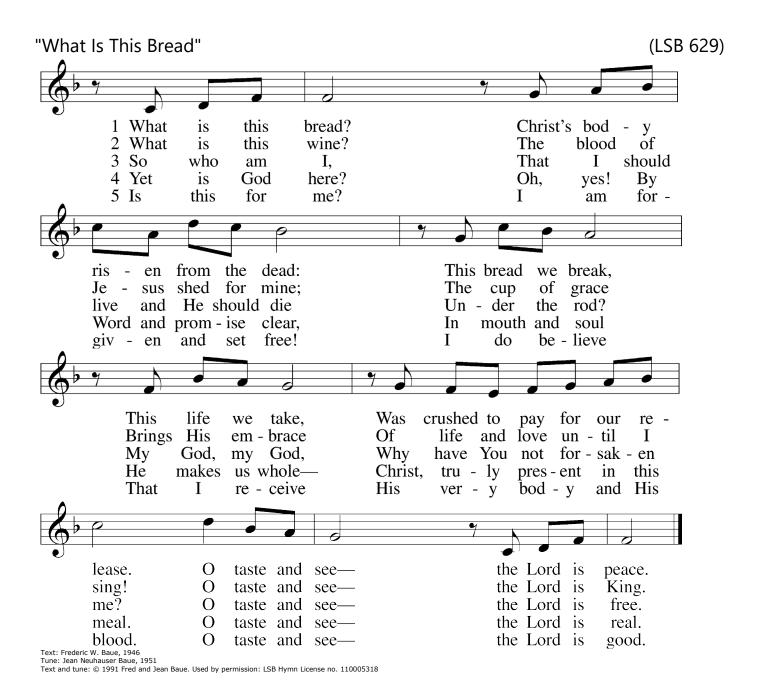


(LSB 461)



- He lives to silence all my fears;
   He lives to wipe away my tears;
   He lives to calm my troubled heart;
   He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end; He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

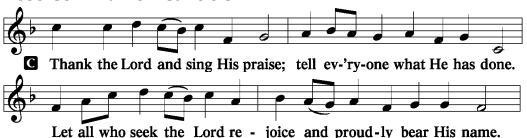
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Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793
Text and tune: Public domain

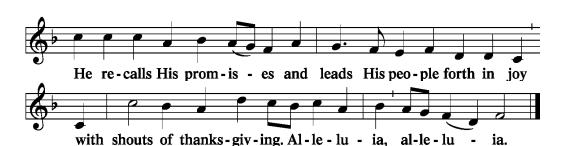


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#### **Dismissal**

#### **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.

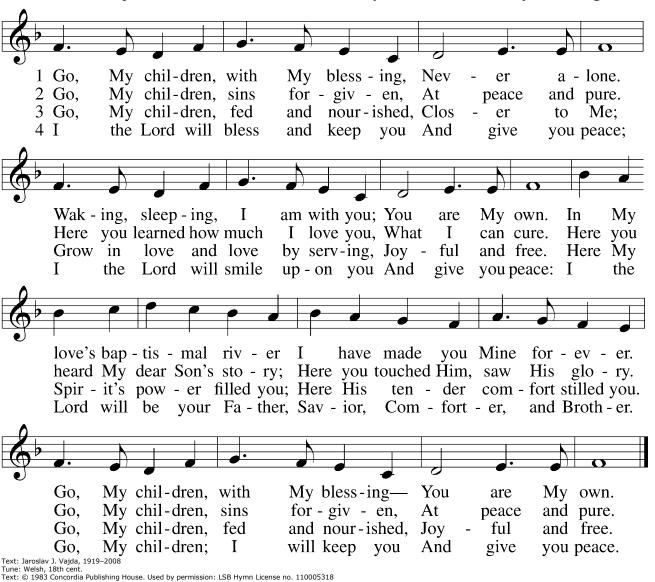
#### **Benediction**

- **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.

## **Recessional Hymn**

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (LSB 922)



#### **Postlude**

"Nun Danket alle Gott" (Karg-Elert)

+ + +

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a reception honoring our Confirmands.

# **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Barbara Pate
Communion Lay Assistant Jennifer Hills

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Sophie Wilson

Crucifer Giulianna Vazquez
Ushers SJLC Usher Team
Altar Care Jean Gilbertson
AV Operator Mark Gilbertson

Andrea Godwin

Welcome Host Denise Canter

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church



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



To **download** our SJLC app



To **view** and **subscribe** to the Midweek Update



## **Acknowledgments**

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



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

#### St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

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Director of Discipleship Jennifer Hills, DCE

Director of Music David Leahey

Office/Facilities Administrator Michelle May

Finance Administrator Jennifer Smith

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

Director of ECEC Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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