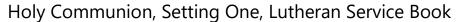
## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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** 

"Lift High the Cross" (S. Nicholson/arr. Lloyd Larson)
St. John's Handbell Ensemble

# **Ringing of the Bells**

#### **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.
- 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.

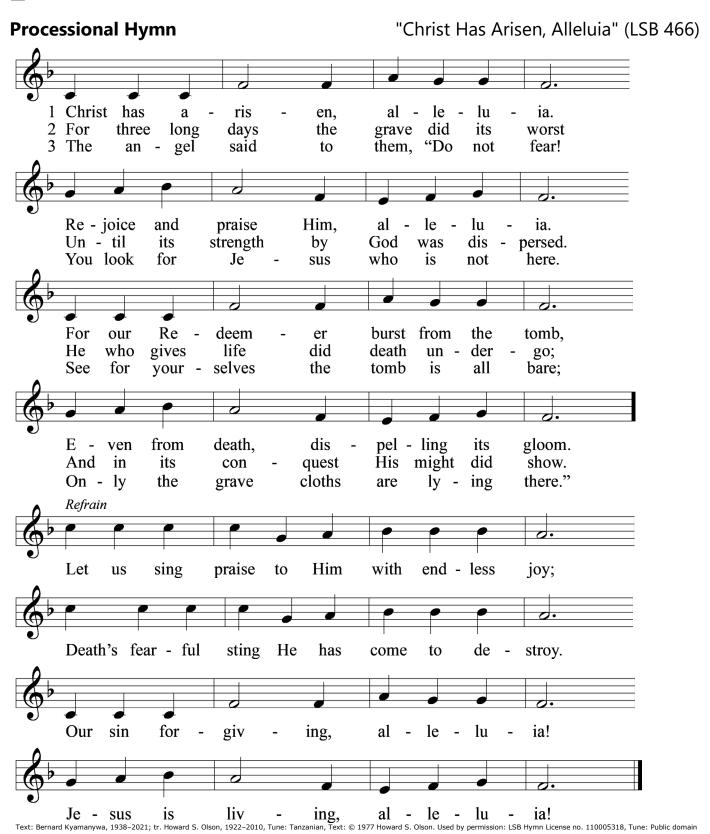
Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

- 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 

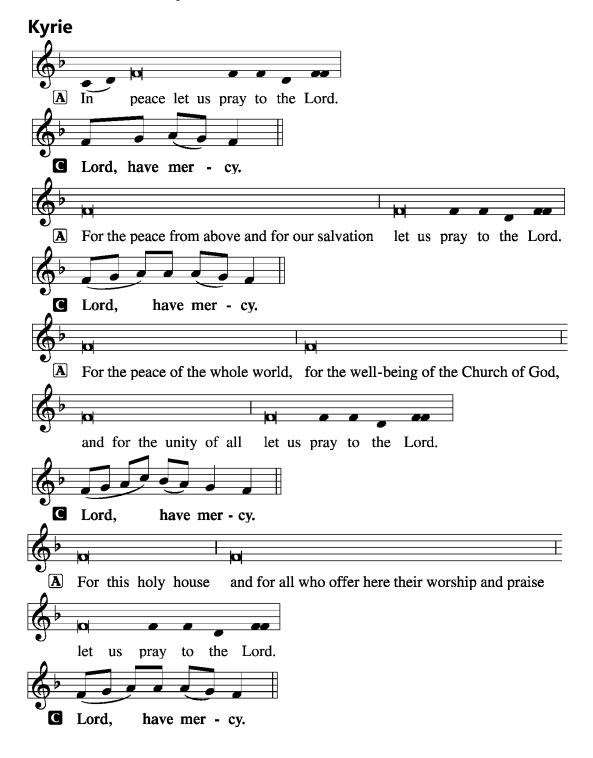
→ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

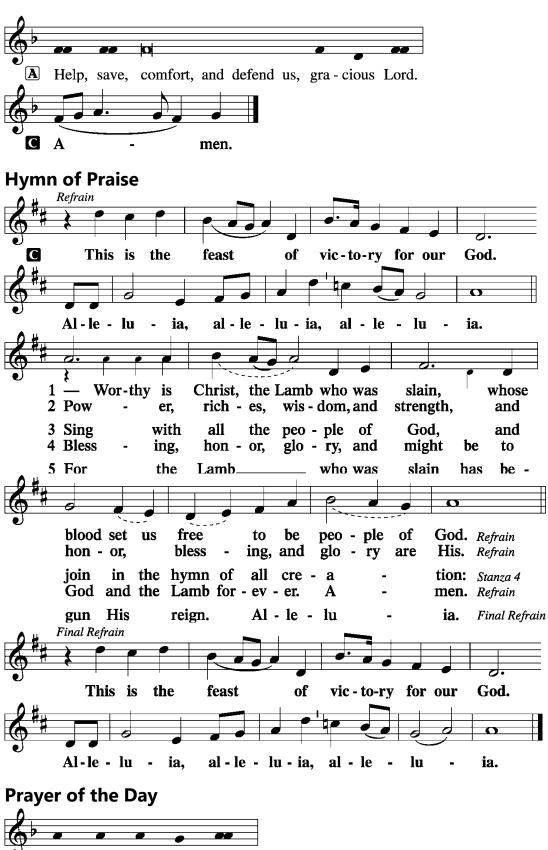
#### C Amen.

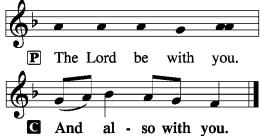


# Greeting

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







# 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 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' 10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' 15As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" <sup>18</sup>When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

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

## **Psalm** (read responsively)

- Praise the LORD!

  Praise the LORD from the heavens;

  praise him in the heights!
- Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!
- **L** Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!
- Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- L Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.
- **And he established them forever and ever he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**
- **L** Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,
- G fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!
- Mountains and all hills,
   fruit trees and all cedars!
- Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!
- L Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
- Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.
- He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

**Epistle** Revelation 21:1-7

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

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

# **Alleluia and Verse**



Holy Gospel John 16:12-22

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



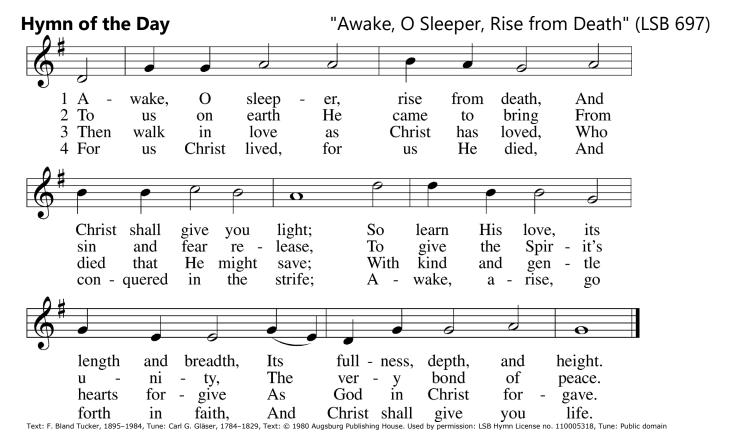
<sup>12</sup>[Jesus said:] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine

and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

<sup>16</sup>"A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." <sup>17</sup>So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" <sup>18</sup>So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." <sup>19</sup>Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup>When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup>So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."



Sermon "All Things New"



**Profession of Faith**The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

# **Reception of New Members**

The congregational companions of those desiring to become members present them to the pastor at the altar. As each candidate is named, they are invited to step forward to the altar rail.

Dear friends in Christ, the members of our congregation are glad that you are to become part of our Christian fellowship here at St. John's. As a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, you are to be an active participant in the ministry that we share, a servant with us in the kingdom of God by His grace. In response to God's full and free gift of forgiveness and new life through His Son, I exhort you attend to corporate worship as a member of the body of Christ, make diligent use of the means of grace, and lead a righteous and godly life. Support the work of that the Lord gives us as His people in this congregation with your prayers, your time, and your resources, both material and intangible. Walk with us at St. John's as a forgiven people who are gathered around the cross, formed and fueled by God's grace, and go out into the world to invite all people to a life transformed by Jesus Christ. This is the fellowship that we share, the community into which you are about to be received as members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

In response to God's word in the Scriptures and enabled by the Holy Spirit, we now ask you to speak your covenant commitment to living out the fellowship that we share:

- And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- I will strive to **GATHER** often with this community of faith through regular participation in corporate worship life and fellowship with other members of the body of Christ.
- For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them. (Romans 12:4-6a)
- Recognizing that Christ will **DISCIPLE** me through God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, I will strive to walk with our Lord through prayer and the practice of spiritual disciplines, growing in faith, engaged in regular reading and study of the Scriptures, individually and with fellow Christians.
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)
- I will strive to **MANAGE** all the resources God has given me, tangible and intangible in response to all that God in Christ has done for me and offer my time, talents, and treasure in service at St. John's and in the world, committing to serving in at least one ministry of the church.
- Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! (Psalm 105:1-2)
- I will strive to **INVITE** others to a relationship with Jesus Christ through my words and actions with the help of the Holy Spirit. I will pray for wisdom to recognize witness opportunities and for boldness to share my faith.
- **P** Is this, then, your sincere desire and intention?
- R Yes, with the help of God.
- Members of St. John's Lutheran Church: you have heard the promise made this day by these people who have declared their desire to walk with us on their journey of faith. What is your response?

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

# **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.

## **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.

## **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.

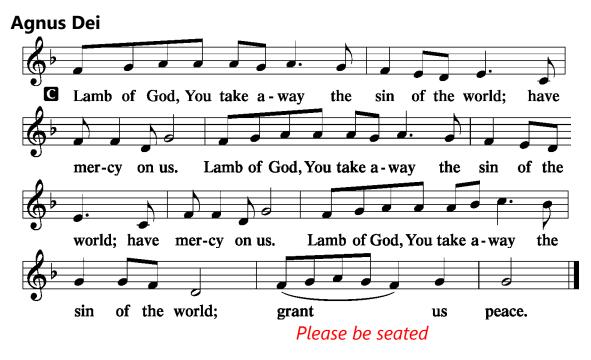
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.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

- P 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.

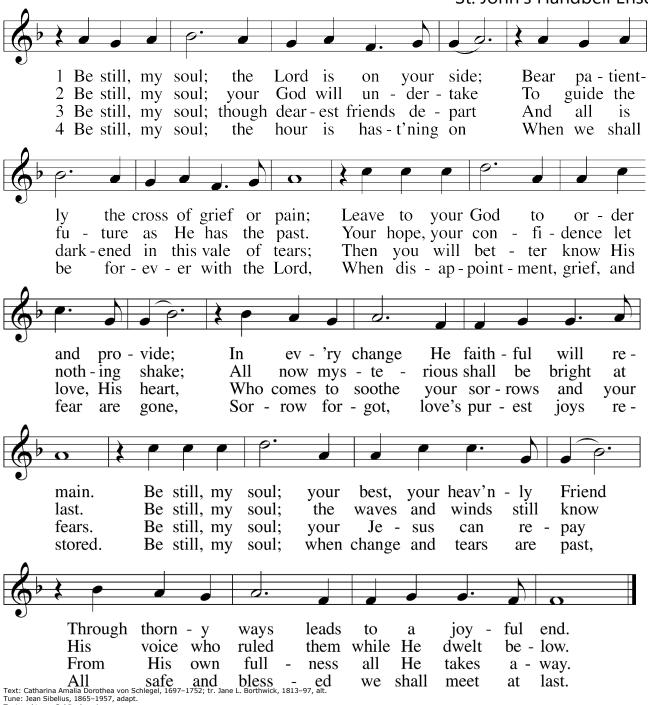
For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

#### **Music at Distribution**

"Be Still, My Soul"

(LSB 752)

#### St. John's Handbell Ensemble



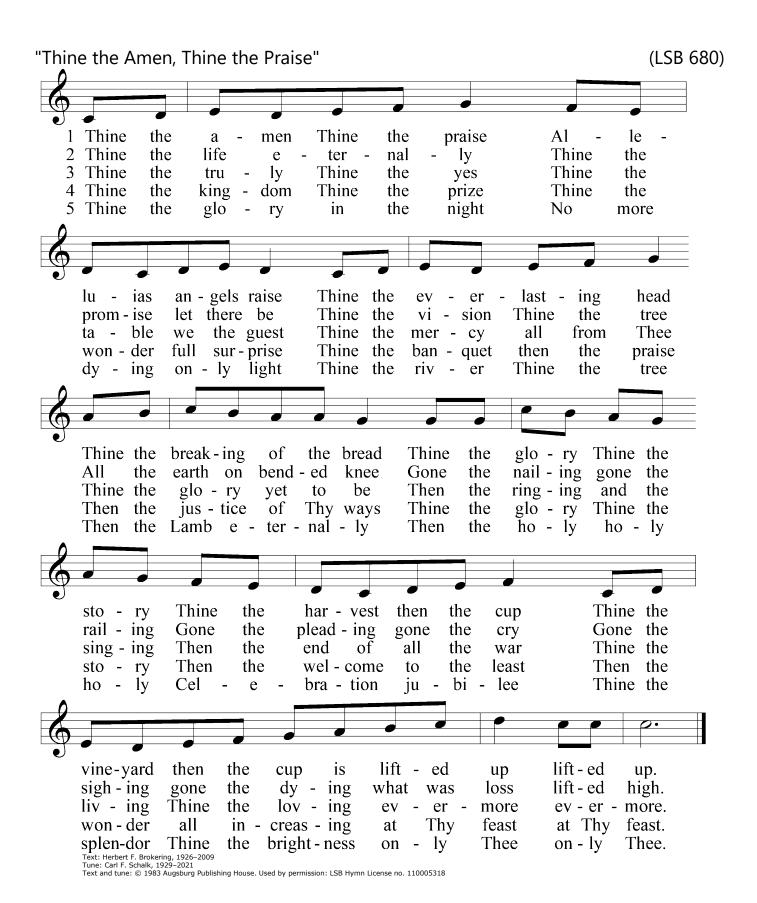
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Text and tune: Public domain



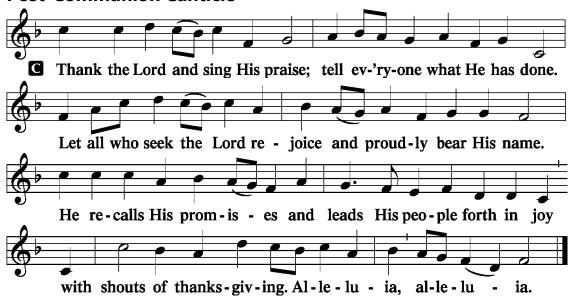
- Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
   Around my Savior stand;
   And soon my friends in Christ below
   Will join the glorious band.
- 6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt. Tune: American Text and tune: Public domain



#### **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.

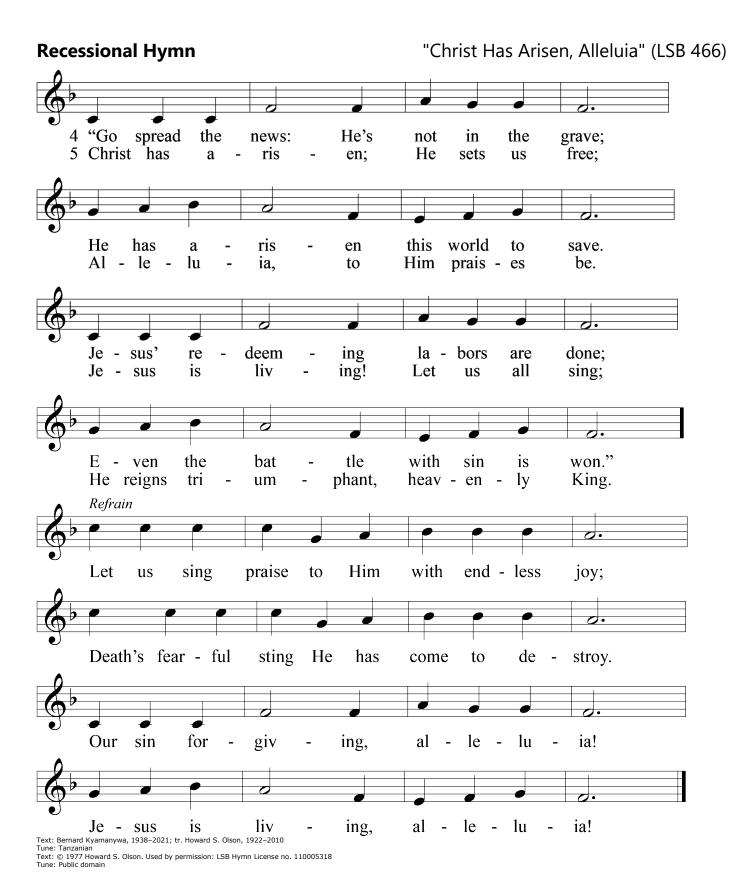
# C Amen.

#### **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.



#### **Postlude**

"Toccata in Seven" (John Rutter)

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for our New Members Reception.

# **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

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

Lay Assistant Mark Guilfoil
Communion Lay Assistant Rich Keppers

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Luke Pflugradt

Crucifer Sofi Hills

Ushers Benjamin May

Michelle May

Altar Care Jean Gilbertson
AV Operators Mark Gilbertson

Andrea Godwin

Welcome Host Joe Godwin
Nursery Beth Rempe

Lisa Goodell

Anne Weikart

+ + +

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



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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/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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