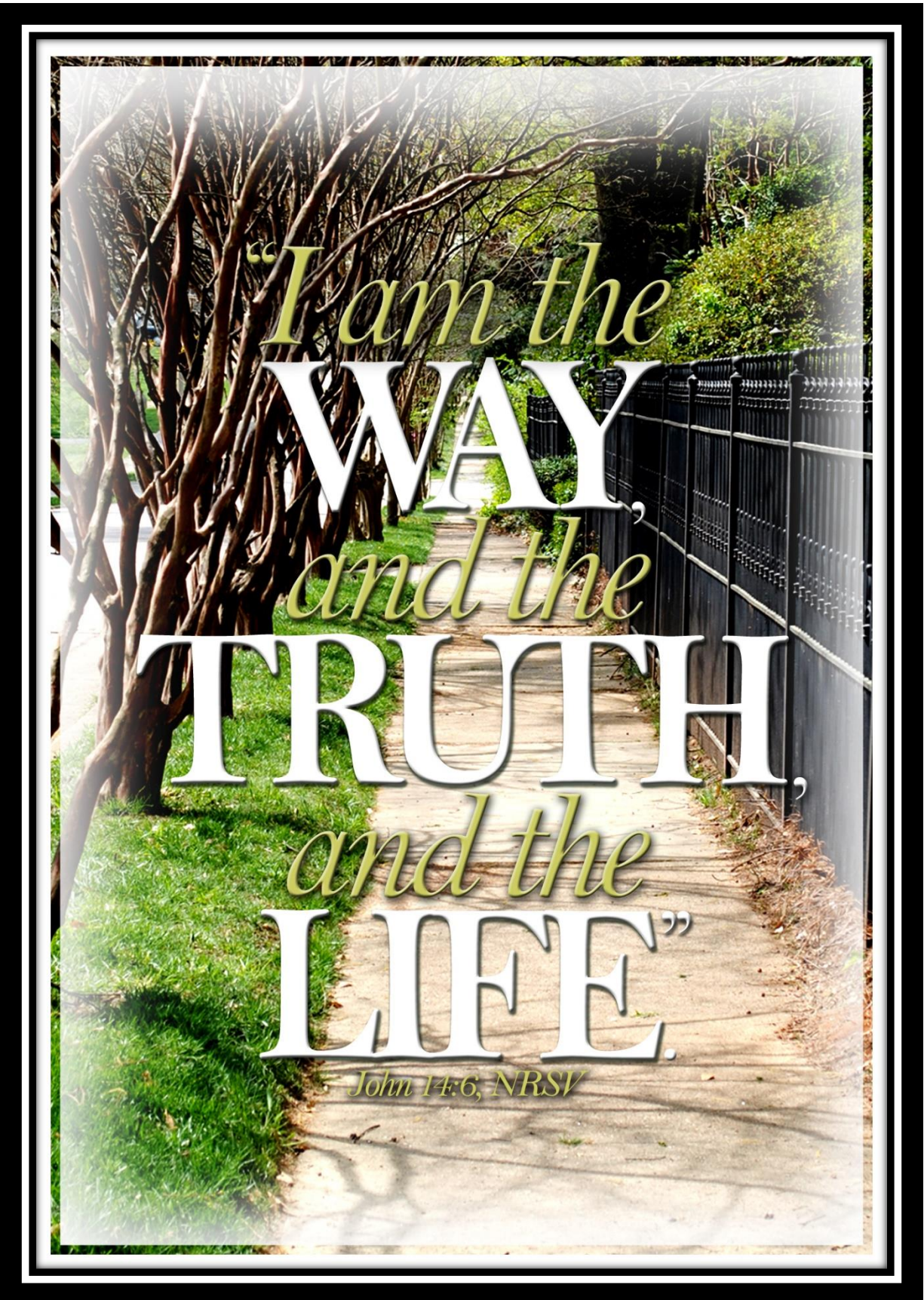


# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Easter 5

May 7, 2023



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email [pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org](mailto:pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org))

Bill Peters

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Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 7, 2023**

## HE IS RISEN!

We joyfully welcome all guest and visitors who are worshiping with us this morning. We gather to celebrate our Lord's glorious resurrection.

## HE IS RISEN INDEED!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### ✠ **GATHERING** ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \*CONFESSION

Come, worship God who is our refuge and our strength.

**We come, trusting God to lead and guide us always.**

We come, confident to commit our spirit into your hands, O God.

**We come, knowing you deliver us from our enemies.**

Let your face shine upon us, O God,

**and your steadfast love surround us.**

God of refuge and strength, you bless our lives with eternal loving kindness, holding us, guiding us, delivering us from evil.

**As we gather here as your people, we pray that our worship will reflect your divine love.**

We offer this time of worship with the remembrance of Easter still filling us with joy and with the anticipation of Pentecost firing our devotion.

**Let our praise and thanksgiving for all you have done truly resound within our hearts and our homes, within these walls and beyond. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, you show us the way - the risky way that you took. The way which challenges all that is evil and destructive. We confess that too often we choose the easy and non-threatening way which allows evil to triumph and denies people the opportunity to live an abundant life.

**Forgive us when we lose direction and so fail to follow your way.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you speak the word of truth which brings good news to the poor, freedom to those who are oppressed and enslaved, and healing to those whose lives lack wholeness. We confess that too often our minds are swayed by the media's 'truth' that can be often so contrary to the gospel.

**Forgive us when our lives deny the truth of your words and your deeds.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us the gift of life - emptying yourself of all self-serving power in order to empower others with your beautiful life and selfless love. We confess that we like to use power to further our own purposes, even if – sadly - it contributes to the powerlessness of others.

**Forgive us, Lord, when our desire for power and status is stronger than our desire to make your life visible through us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, remind us that...

the landscape of God's grace becomes clearer when we follow your way.

**the sound of God's voice is easier to hear when our lives speak your truth**

the heartbeat of God's love throbs within us when our lives bear witness to your life.

**Amen**

**\*EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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.”

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*OPENING SONG** “*Beautiful Savior*”

**# 518**

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.*

*Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!*

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

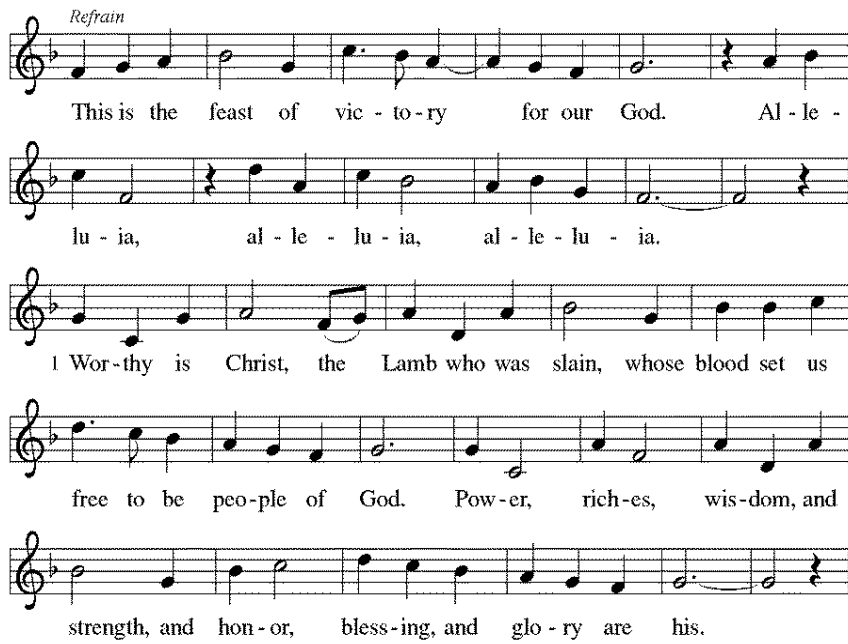
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**    *"This is the feast..."*

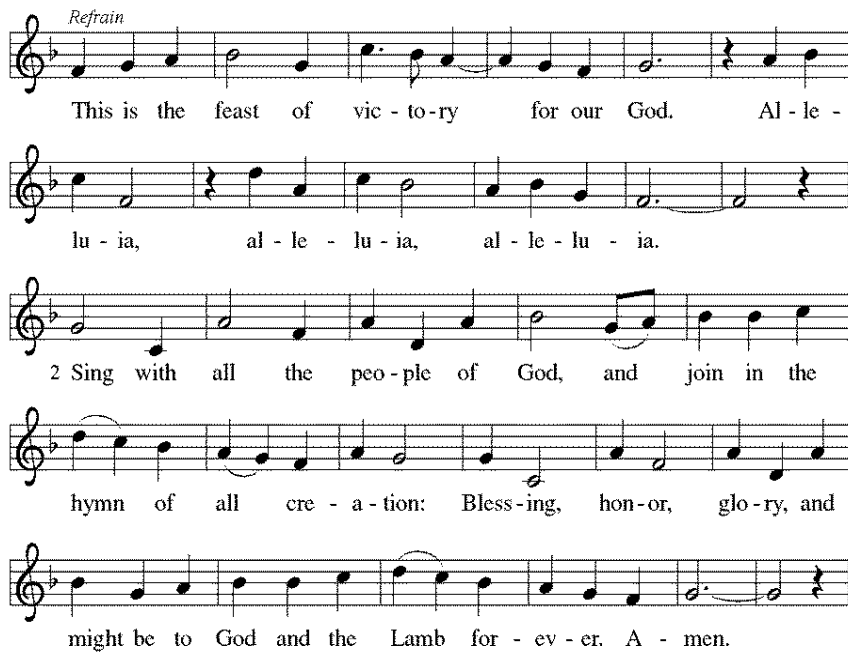
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

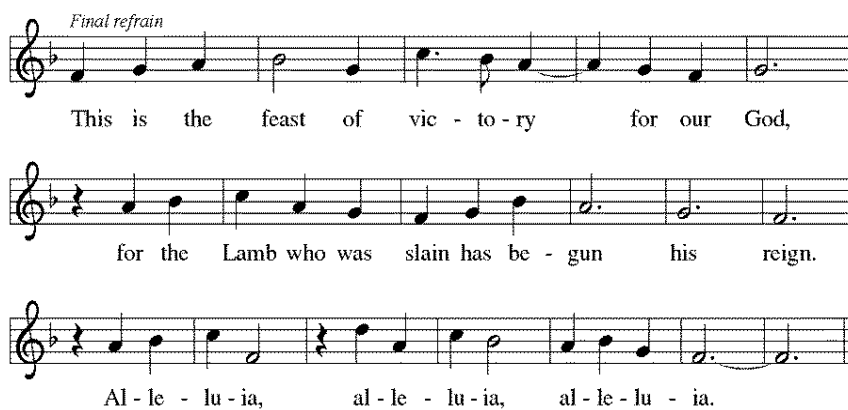
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **✠ WORD ✠**

### ***God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song***

*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Acts 7:55-60**

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

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

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into 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:

"See, 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>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup>and

"A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall."

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, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” **ELW #172**

*Sing thru 2 times*

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

**\*GOSPEL READING**

**John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. 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, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know 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 we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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; 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; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

Pastor Bill Peters

*I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!*

*He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;  
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.*

*He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;  
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.*

*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.*

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

**\*NICENE CREED**

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**\*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

✠ **MEAL** ✠

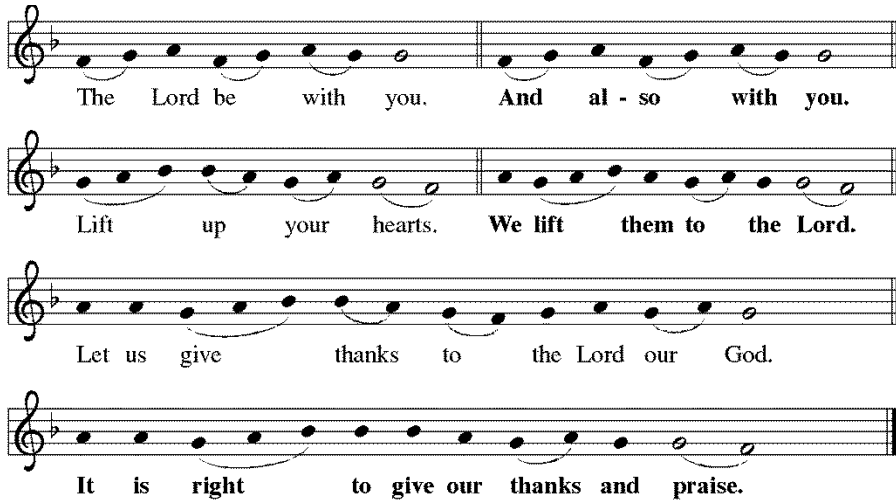
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY SONG**    *“Let the Vineyards”*                      **ELW # 184**

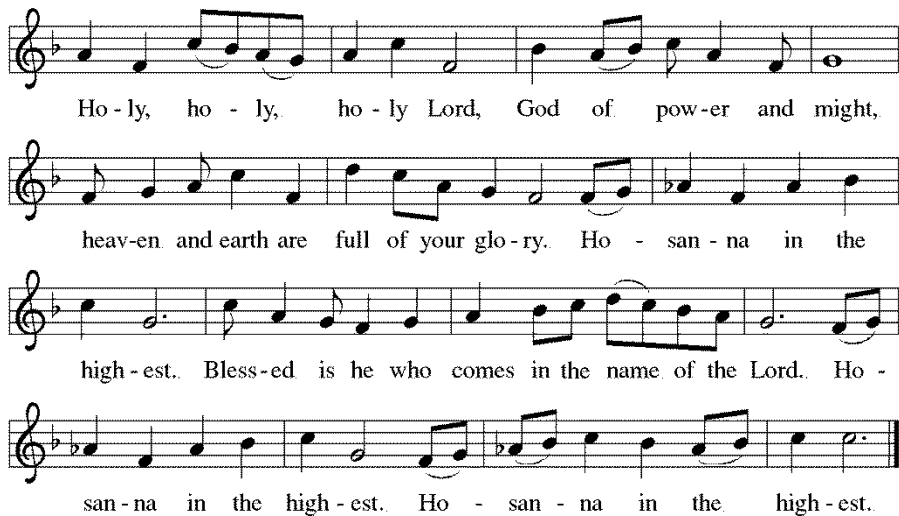
*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you.    And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts.    We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**\*COMMUNION BLESSING**



## ✠ SENDING ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*“Shout to the Lord”*

ELW # 821



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.  
My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;  
let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise  
to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the  
sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.  
Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965  
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech  
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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



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## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells his followers (John 14:4), but they aren’t so sure. So he goes on, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6), but they’re still confused. Finally, he asks, “Have I been with you all this time . . . and you still do not know me?” (John 14:9). It’s as if he’s asking them, “Are you new here?”

They’ve had him all this time. They’ve watched him and listened to him and learned from him. But, suddenly faced with the idea that he won’t always be there in quite the same way, it’s as if they remember nothing.

Yet, Jesus isn’t one of those teachers who says, “Do as I say, not as I do.” He lived his very life here on earth as a model for us, even now. Our road map to the place where he is going is to understand his words and actions, not only as *his* way, truth, and life, but as *our own* as well.

It’s as complicated as that, but it’s also that simple. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1), Jesus tells them. Indeed, road maps are meant to reassure us, by giving us direction and setting us on the right course.

He didn’t say it would be easy. He also didn’t tell this to any of them alone, and his words are intended for us to hear in community today as well. Living out our understandings of Jesus as the way, truth, and life is a collective act, not an individual one. We do this every time we gather in community, whether that’s a congregation, a parent-teacher organization, an extended family, or a neighborhood Buy Nothing group.

“You know the way to the place where I am going,” Jesus tells us. We might feel new here, but it turns out we’ve had the road map all along.