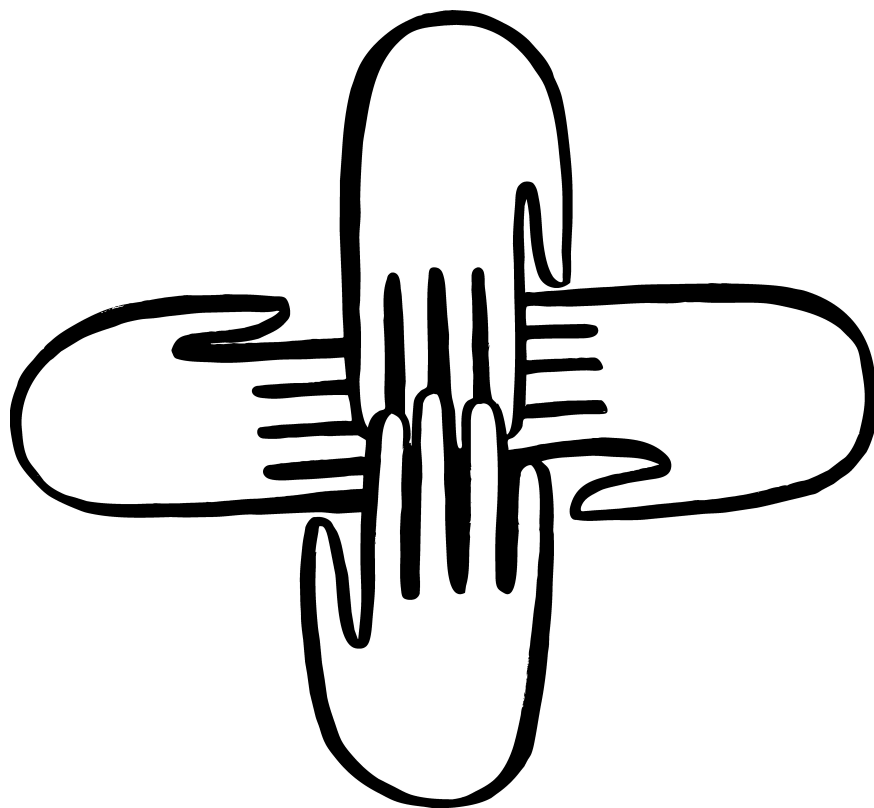


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
HOLDEN EVENING SERVICE  
MAY 17, 2025  
4:00 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# INTRODUCTION

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

## God's Beautifully Messy Community

From abandonment to homecoming and from a narrow scope to a broader vision of God's realm, these are the promises proclaimed. The early church and our faith communities are called to engage this reality. A community of Jewish Jesus-followers overcomes fear and expands to include the much larger Gentile world. In the hymnody of the psalm the whole creation and her people are ushered into praise and the trumpeting of a new community. An exiled follower of Jesus sees in the midst of his situation a vision of the Holy One who proclaims a new heaven and earth, stripped of tears and death. Finally, Jesus shares that he will no longer be physically present with his disciples, and points them to a new way of being a community of love for one another. Through the depth of the texts for this day, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. The church, like any other human organization, is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). Unlike other human institutions, however, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection we are welcomed and called to invite others. We offer, in a spirit of humility, signs of welcome and love to others, just as God in Christ has been revealed to us.

---

*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pam Bauser*

### \*\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ☩ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

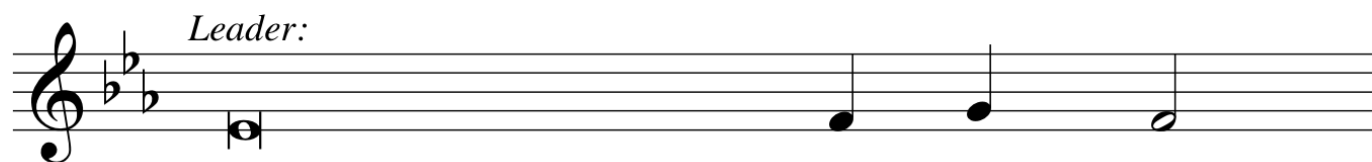
We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

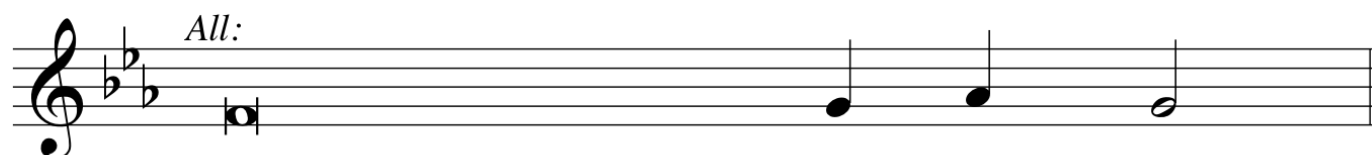
Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

# SERVICE OF LIGHT

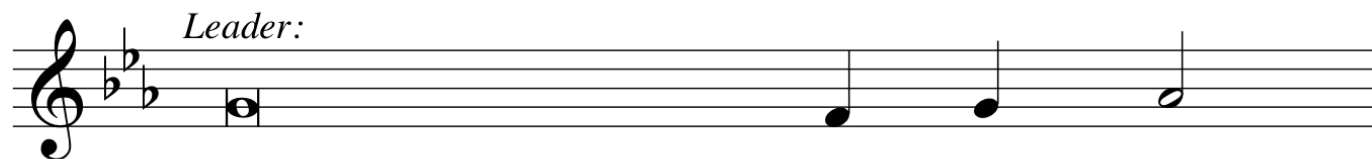
## \*\* PROCESSION



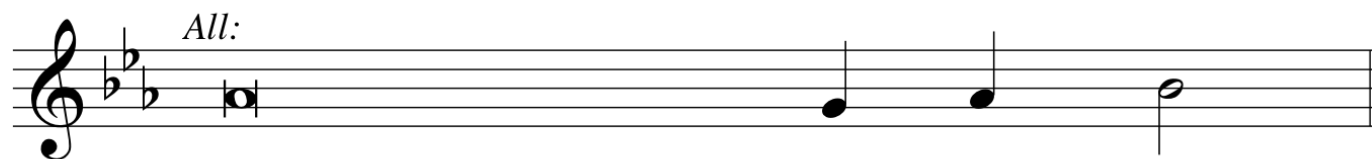
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



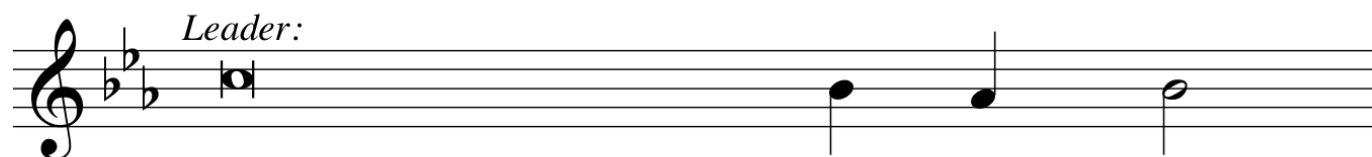
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;



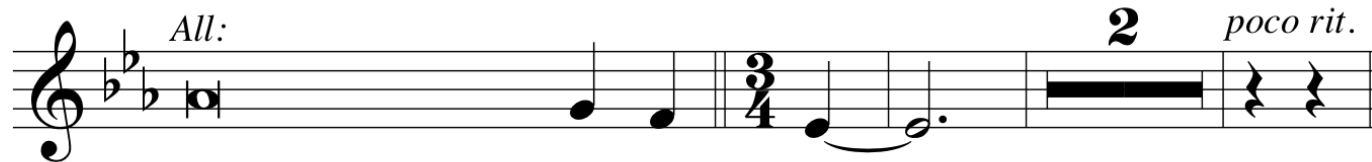
Stay with us now, for it is evening,



and the day is al - most over.



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

**2** *poco rit.*

# \*\* EVENING HYMN



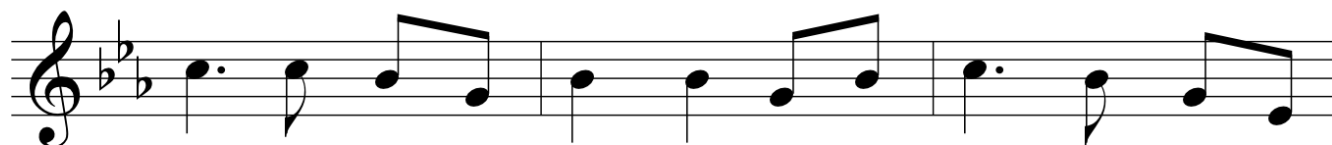
1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
 2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
 3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
 blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as  
 wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
 jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
 fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

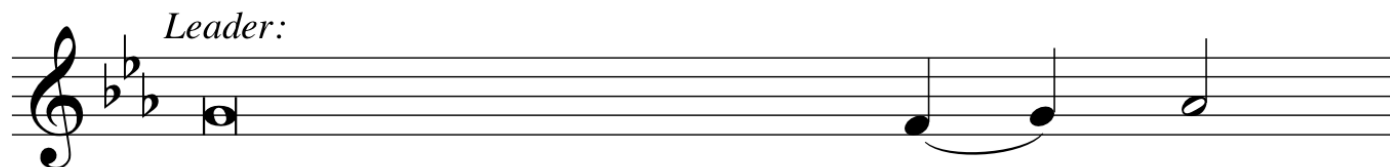


light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
 free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

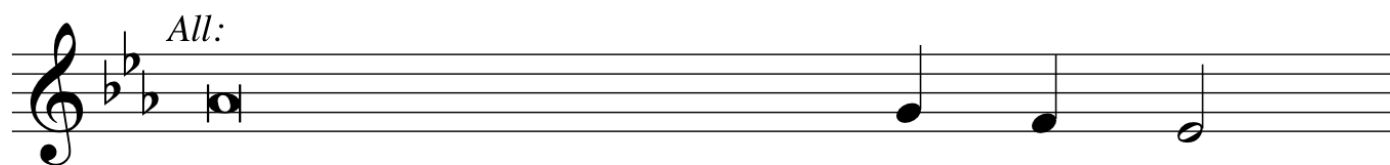
## \*\* THANKSGIVING



May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

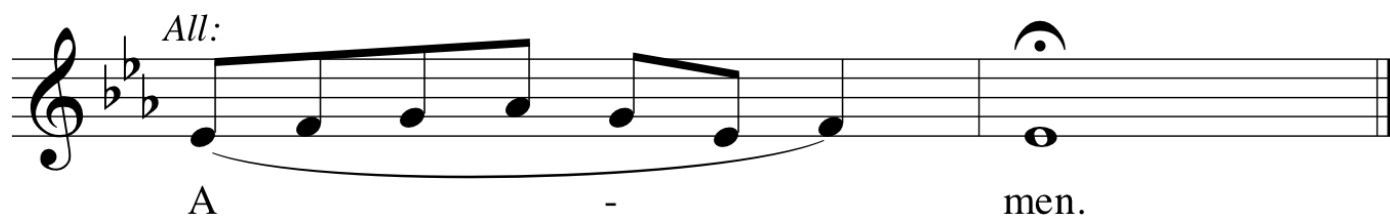


Let us sing our thanks to ——— God,



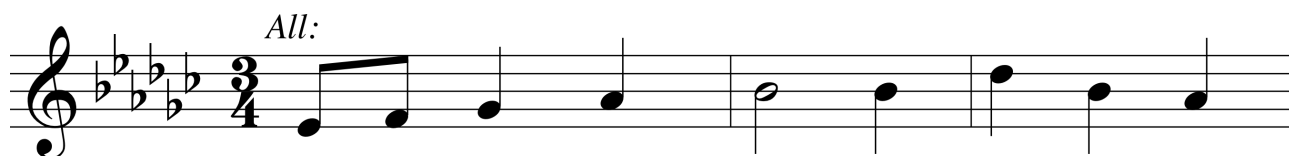
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

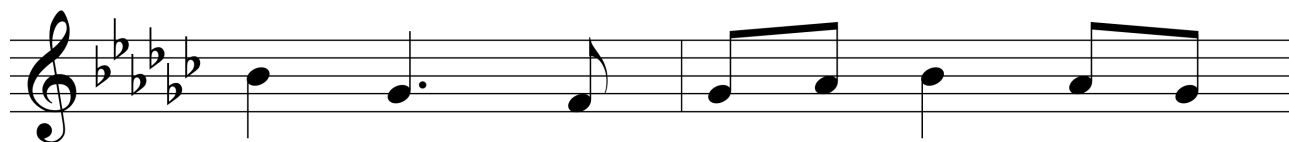


## \*\* PSALM

Psalm 141



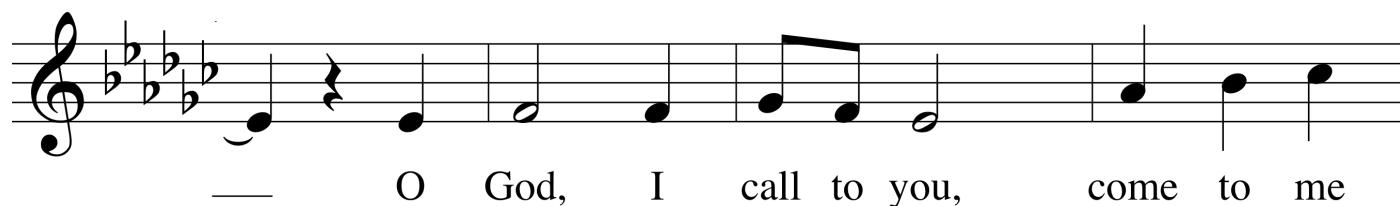
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



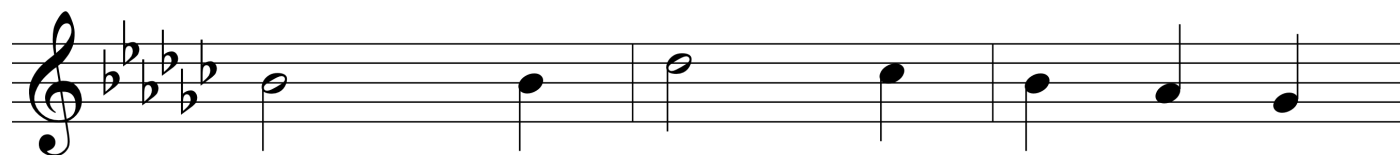
fore you, the lift - ing up of my



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. ———



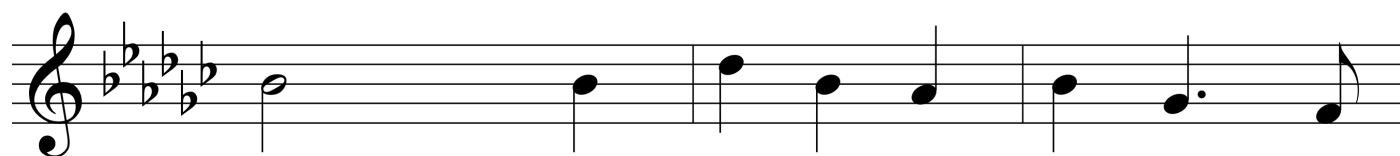
— O God, I call to you, come to me



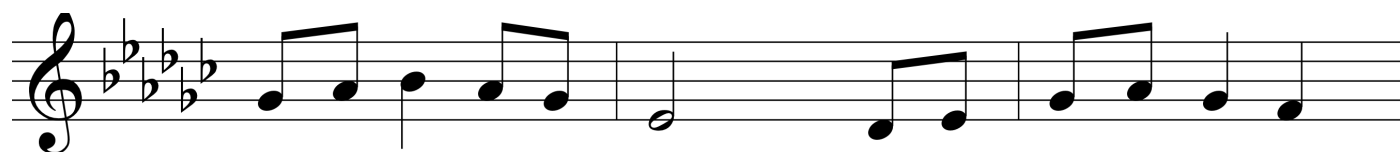
now; O hear my voice when I



cry to you. — Let my prayer rise



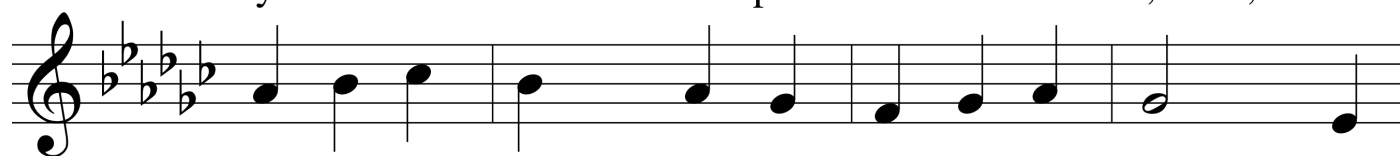
up like in - cense be - fore you, the



lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to



you. — Keep watch with - in me, God;



deep in my heart may the light of your love be



burn - ing bright. — Let my prayer rise

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

you. All praise to the God of all - Cre -

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

you.

*(Silence for meditation.)*



## **\*\* PRAYER**

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 11:1-18

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

A reading from Acts.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away. R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

A reading from Revelation.

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

John 13:31-35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Bob Swanson*

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
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.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

*Please place your offering in the offering plate in the main aisle.  
We also ask that you complete an attendance card and place it in the offering plate.  
Please gather around the communion rail with your worship bulletin.*

#### **\*\* DIALOGUE**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**  
Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**  
Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

#### **\*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his

disciples saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord’s tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Silence for meditation. All may return to their seats.)*

**ANNUNCATION**

Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

# MAGNIFICAT

*All:*

1., 3. My ——— soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, heart, You have looked with love on your  
You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## LITANY & PRAYERS

**A** *Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

**B**

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*Leader:* **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-vation, we pray to you:


*Leader:* **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:

4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:  
 5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:  
 6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:  
 7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:  
 8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:  
 9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:  
 10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:




*Leader:*




Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

*All:*



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.



## PRAYER

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## FINAL BLESSING

*Leader:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

*All:*



*Presider:*



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for  
all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_  
*All:*  
A - men.

## \*\* DISMISSAL

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!**

Go in peace. In Christ, you are made new.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,**

**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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## “W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160**

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

**Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

**Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists**

Saturday, May 24, 2025

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.