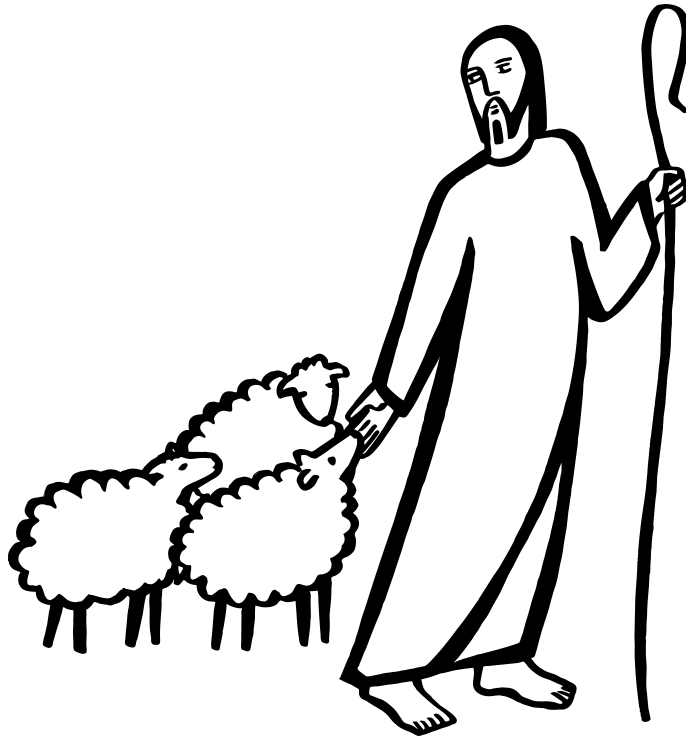


Created, saved and gifted by God,  
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.



Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 10, 2025  
4:00 PM

UNFAILING LIGHT

AN EVENING SETTING OF HOLY COMMUNION

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
901 East Stroop Road  
Kettering, Ohio 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

## INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## THE SEARCHING SHEEP

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to “tell us plainly” (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today’s texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus’ works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can’t be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

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

# GATHERING

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Judy Treadway*

### \*\* 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.**

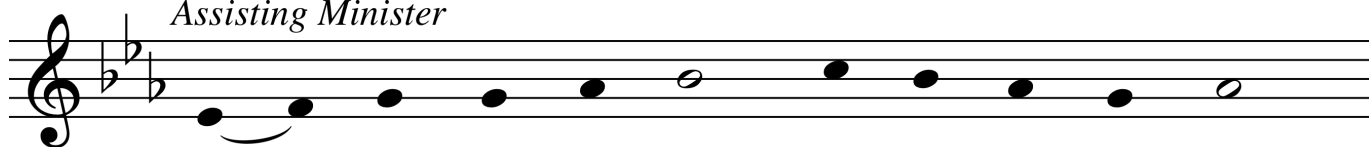
We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

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.**

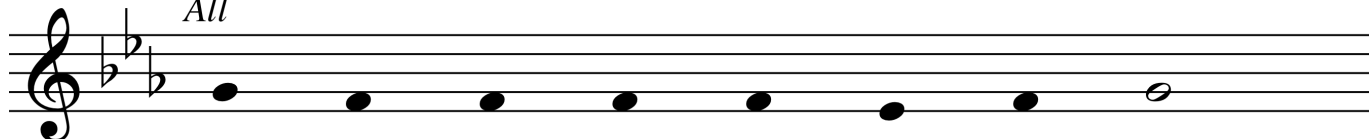
**\*\* OPENING DIALOGUE**

*Assisting Minister*



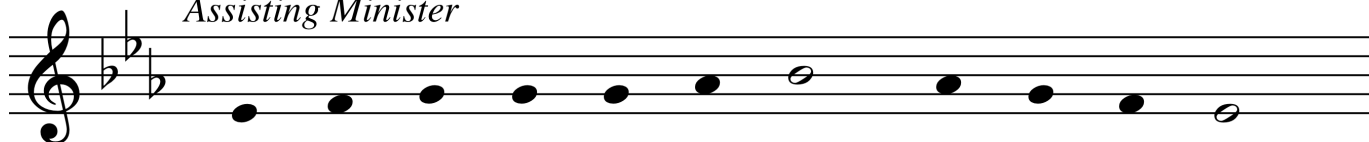
O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

*All*



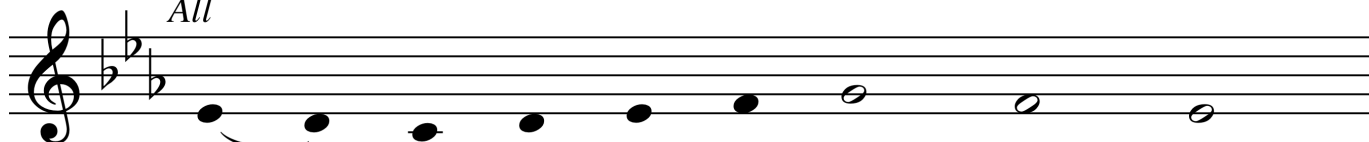
We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*



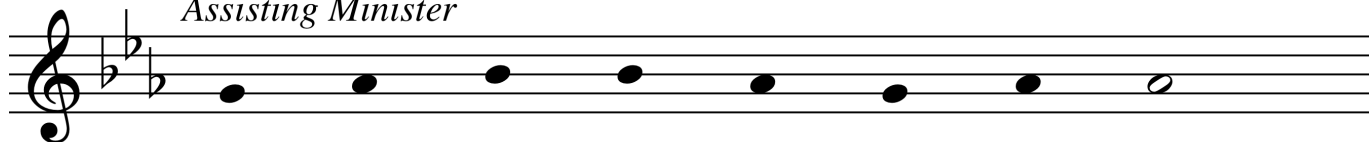
From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

*All*



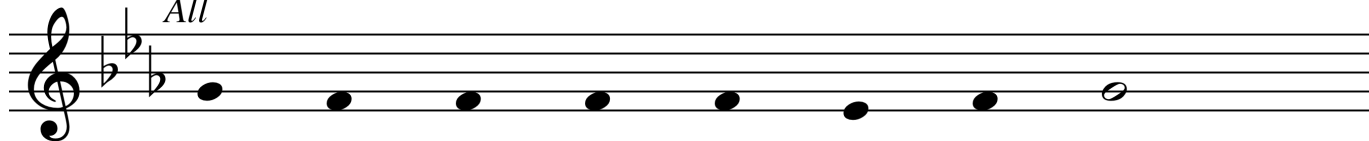
We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*



You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

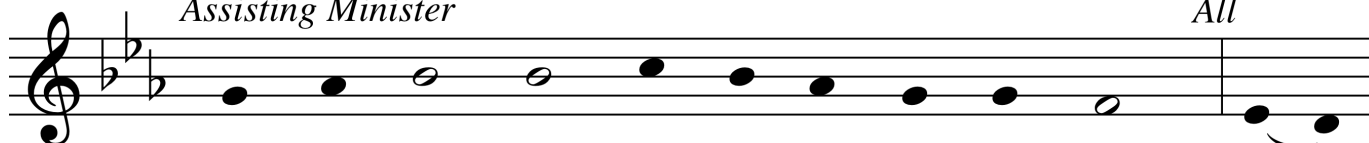
*All*



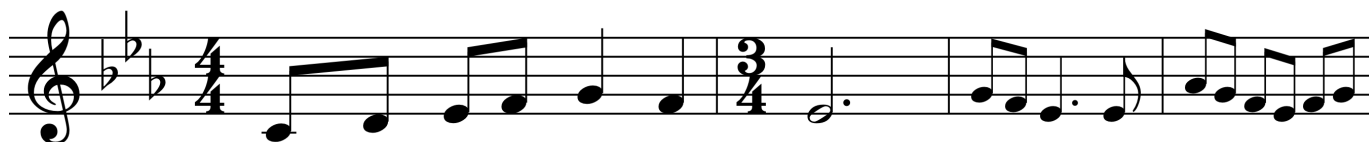
We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*

*All*



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We



bless your ho - ly name, O God.

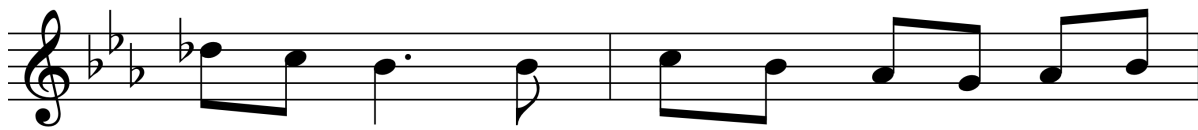
**\*\* EVENING HYMN**



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
 (2. You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
 (3. Re-) freshed by sab - bath rest this night, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now at  
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ, un -



on the night, and all cre - a - tion sings your  
 close of day, our un - known guest, our host and  
 fail - ing Light, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
 feast. Grant those who share this eve - ning meal the  
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and  
 faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that  
 sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -  
 hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by  
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You  
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re -  
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

## **\*\* GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. **And also with you.**

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

O God of peace, **you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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.*

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

A reading from Acts

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

A reading from Revelation.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We do not live by bread a -  
lone, but by ev-'ry word that comes from your mouth, O  
Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

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

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

The gospel of the Lord.

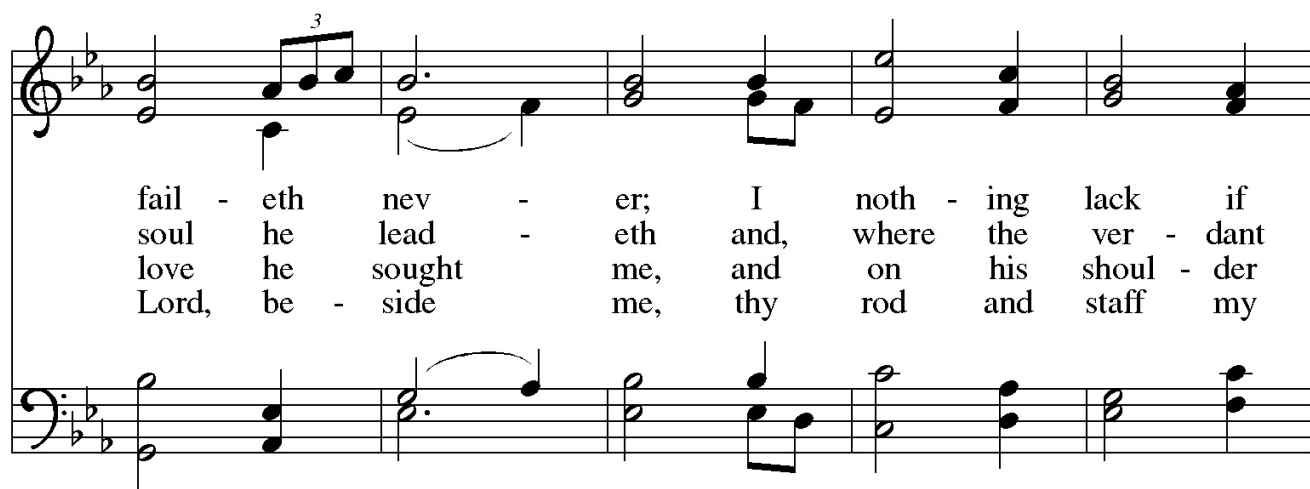
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## \*\* HYMN OF THE DAY

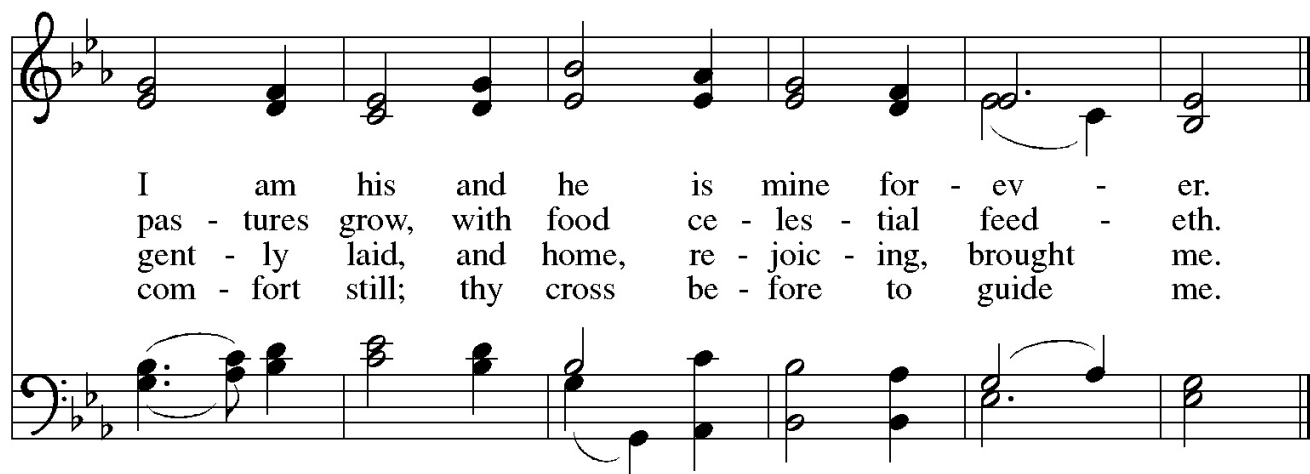
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (ELW 502)



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

**\*\* 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.**

**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.*

**MEAL**

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

**\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All*

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 the One who comes, who  
*Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,*

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

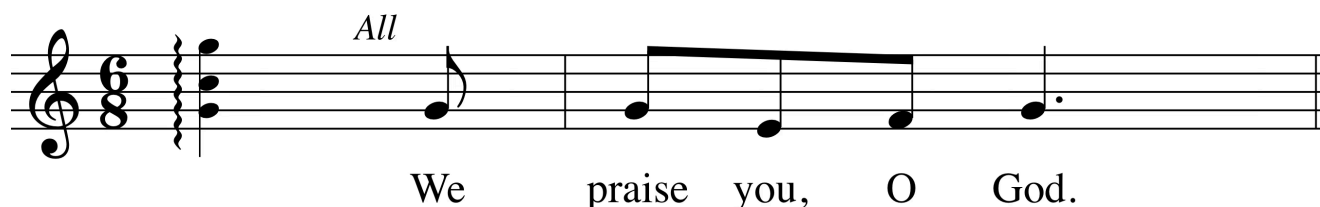
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

*All*

We bless you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future.



We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

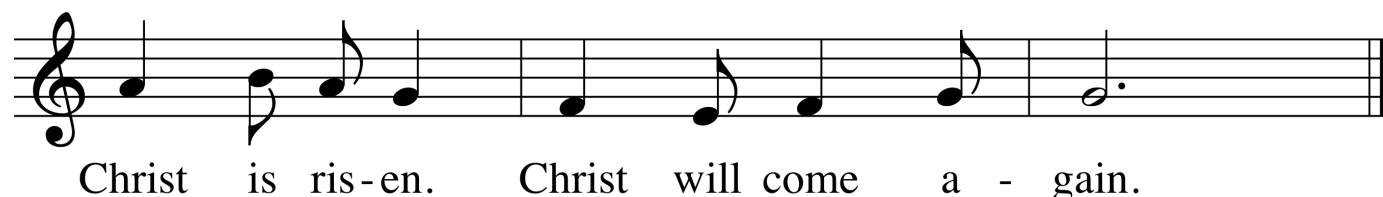
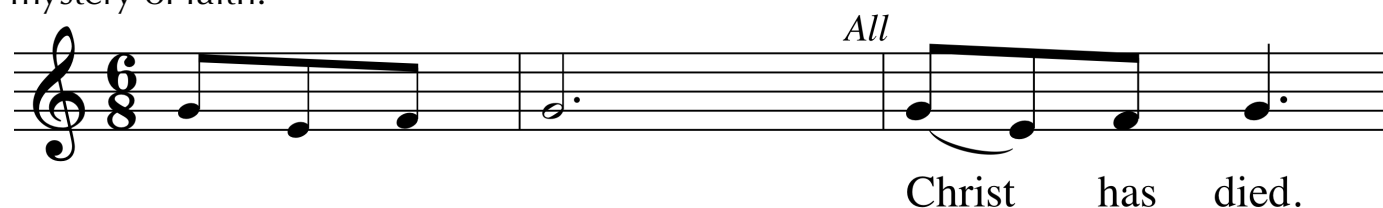


## **\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink 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."

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



We pray for the gift of your spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit in your Church, without end.



## \*\* 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

Come to the table of grace.

Receive the gift of new life.

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

**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.

### \*\* LAMB OF GOD

The musical score for 'Lamb of God' is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is presented on a single staff with a treble clef. The first line of music is an instrumental introduction. The second line begins with the word 'All' above the staff, followed by the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The third line is marked '1., 2.' and contains the lyrics 'world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.'. The fourth line is marked '3.' and contains the lyrics 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace.'. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

1., 2.  
world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3.  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### \*\* TABLE BLESSING

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

*Please return to your seats, and remain seated  
for the conclusion of the service.*

**\*\* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION**

The Canticle of Simeon

*All*

Now Lord, you let your  
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled. My  
own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-  
pared in the sight of ev-ry peo-ple: a  
light to re-veal you to the na-tions, and the  
glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.  
Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

**\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **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.**

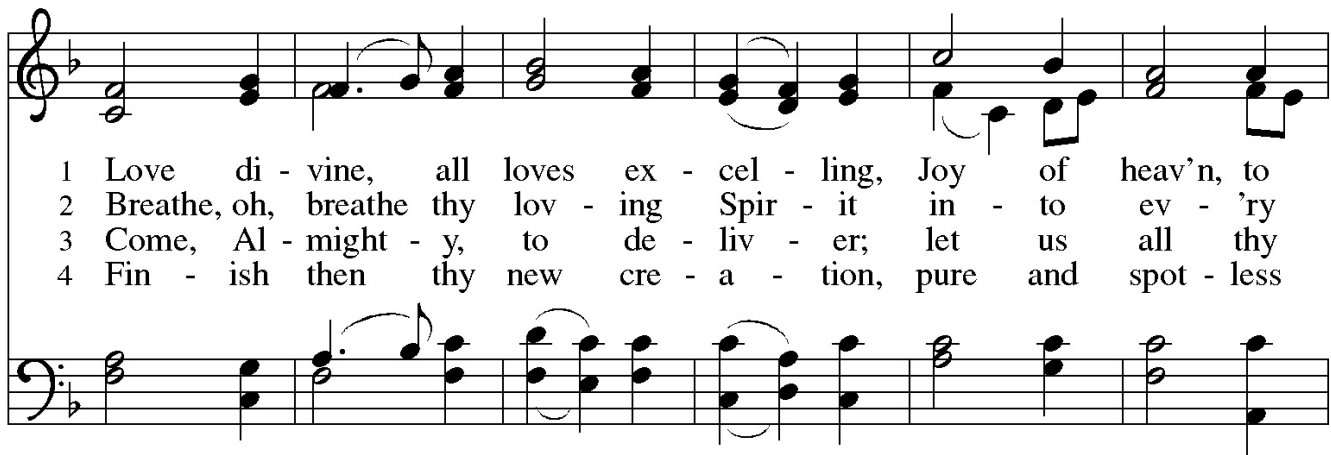
## SENDING

## \*\* BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

## \*\* SENDING SONG

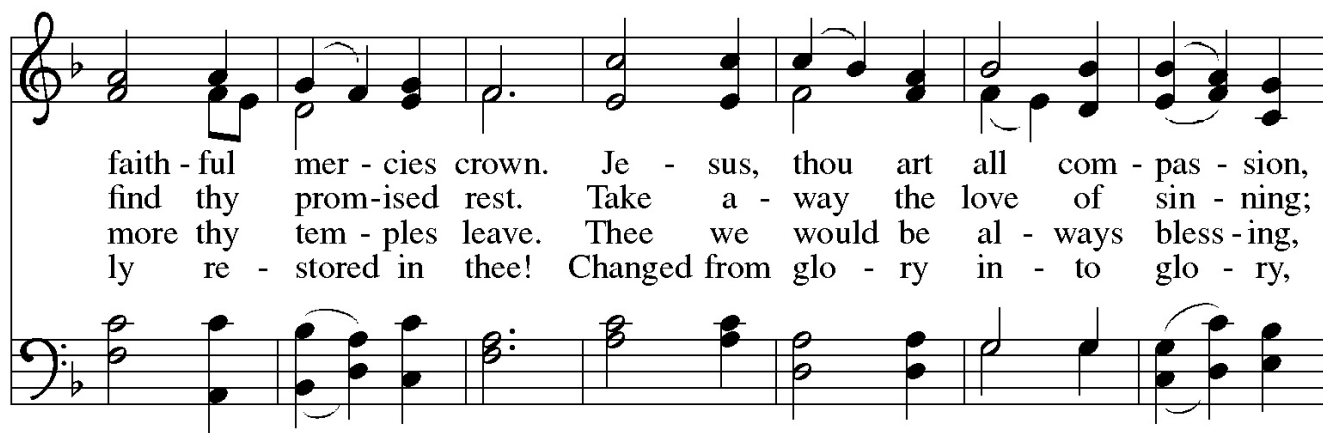
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (ELW 631)



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## \*\* 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**

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## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Matthias, Apostle**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.