



*Yet a little while
and the world
beholds Me no longer,
but you
behold Me;
because I live,
you also shall live.*

John 14:19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2023*

Setting Three

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit,
Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation.
As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ
dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism
and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's Table the Spirit
will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Joys & Concerns

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C. Amen

P. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P. Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Greeting

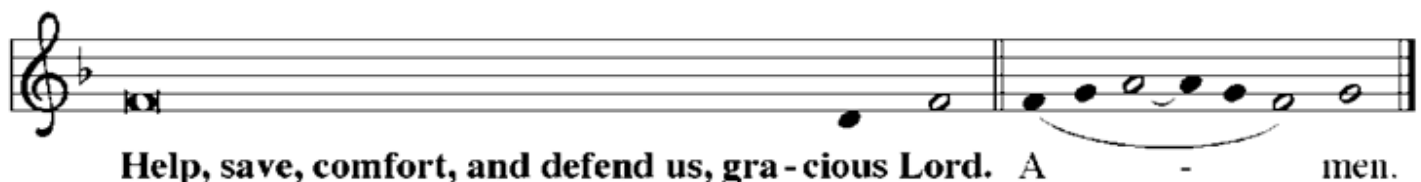
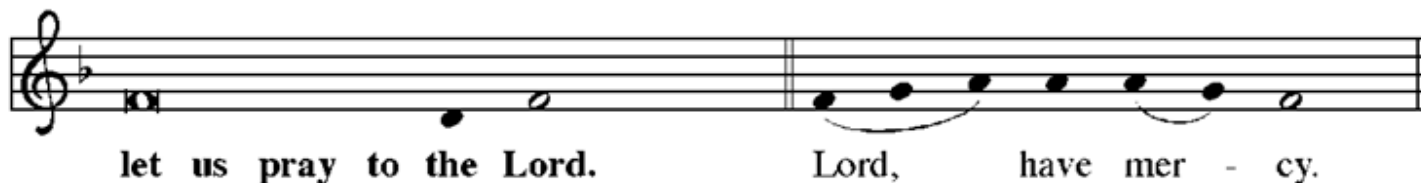
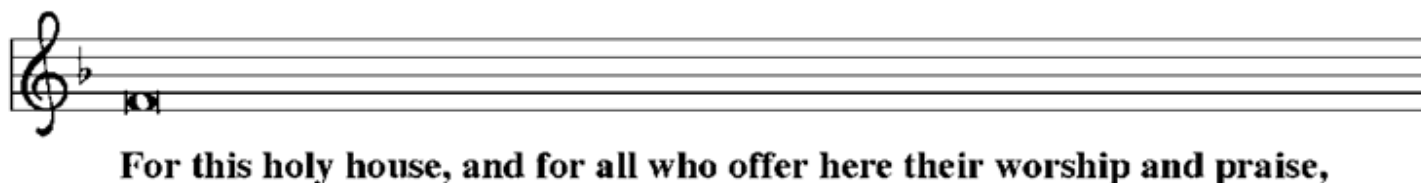
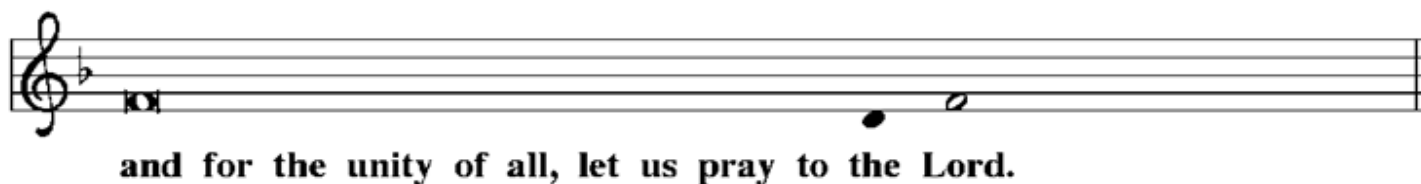
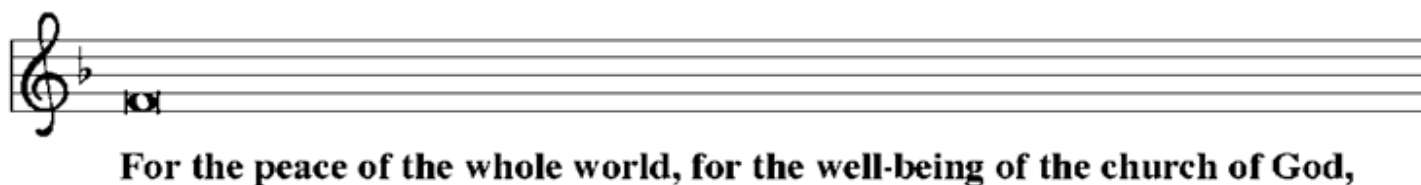
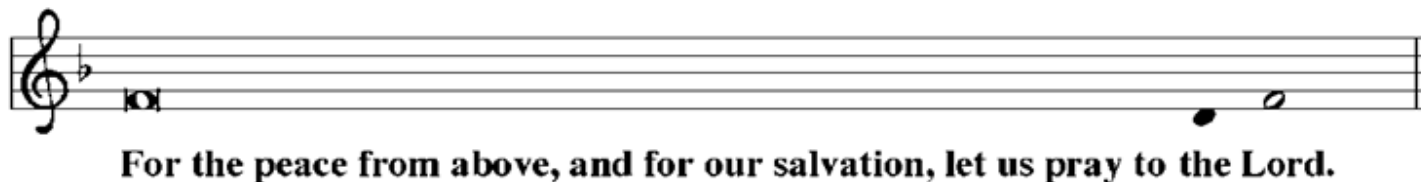
P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ 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.

Kyrie



This is the feast . . .

Women vs. 1, 3; Men vs. 2, 4

Refrain




All: 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

Women:

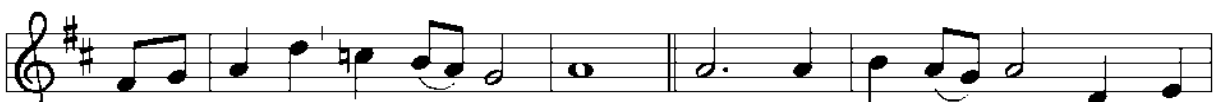


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

Men:



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

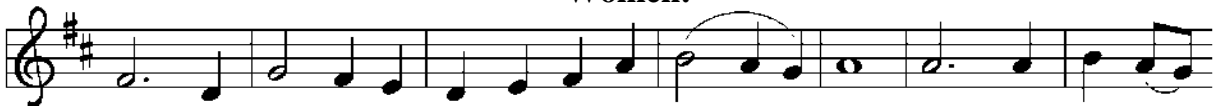


All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

Women:



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.

This is the feast . . .

Refrain



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

Men



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places

where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

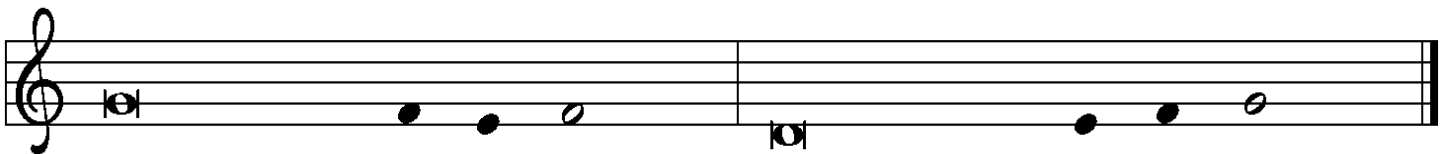


Psalmody

Psalm 66:8-20

(tone 6)

chanted responsively



For you, O God, have ¹ tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- ¹ ver is tried.

**You brought us in- ¹ to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- ¹ on our backs.**

You let people ride over our heads; we went through ¹ fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place ¹ of refreshment.

**I will enter your house ¹ with burnt offerings
and will pay ¹ you my vows—**

those that I promised ¹ with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I ¹ was in trouble.

**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the ¹ smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- ¹ en and goats.**

Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe,
and I will tell you what God has ¹ done for me.

**I called out to God ¹ with my mouth,
and praised the Lord ¹ with my tongue.**

If I had cherished evil ¹ in my heart,
the Lord would ¹ not have heard me;

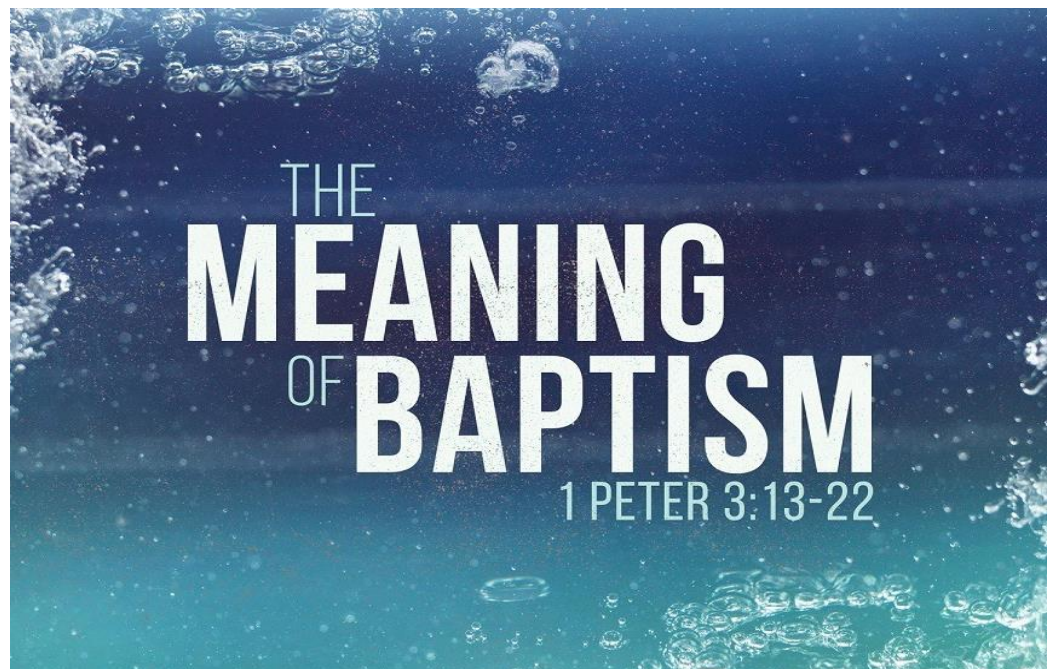
**but in truth ¹ God has heard me
and has attended to the sound ¹ of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, who has not reject- ¹ ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing ¹ love from me.

Second Reading

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to

anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.



He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P. The holy gospel according to John, chapter fourteen.

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

C. Glory to you, O God.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Reception of New Members and The Creed

Matt & Larissa Himmeger

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

and born of the Virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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



Hymn of the Day

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ELW 449

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

C. Amen.

The Peace

P. Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Offering

Anthem

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

~ K.L. Scott

Choir

God, Who is Rich in Mercy

~Erfurt, 1541

(congregation sings bold type)

ch. C.

God, who is rich, is rich in mer - cy, through

His great love with which He loved us,

ch. C.

We who through our tres - pass - es were dead, God has raised us

C.

up and with Christ Jesus made a - live, **thru' His great love with**

ch.

which He loved us. All cre - a - tion shall see the im-

C.

meas - ura - ble rich - ness of His Grace thru' Je - sus Christ, **thru'**

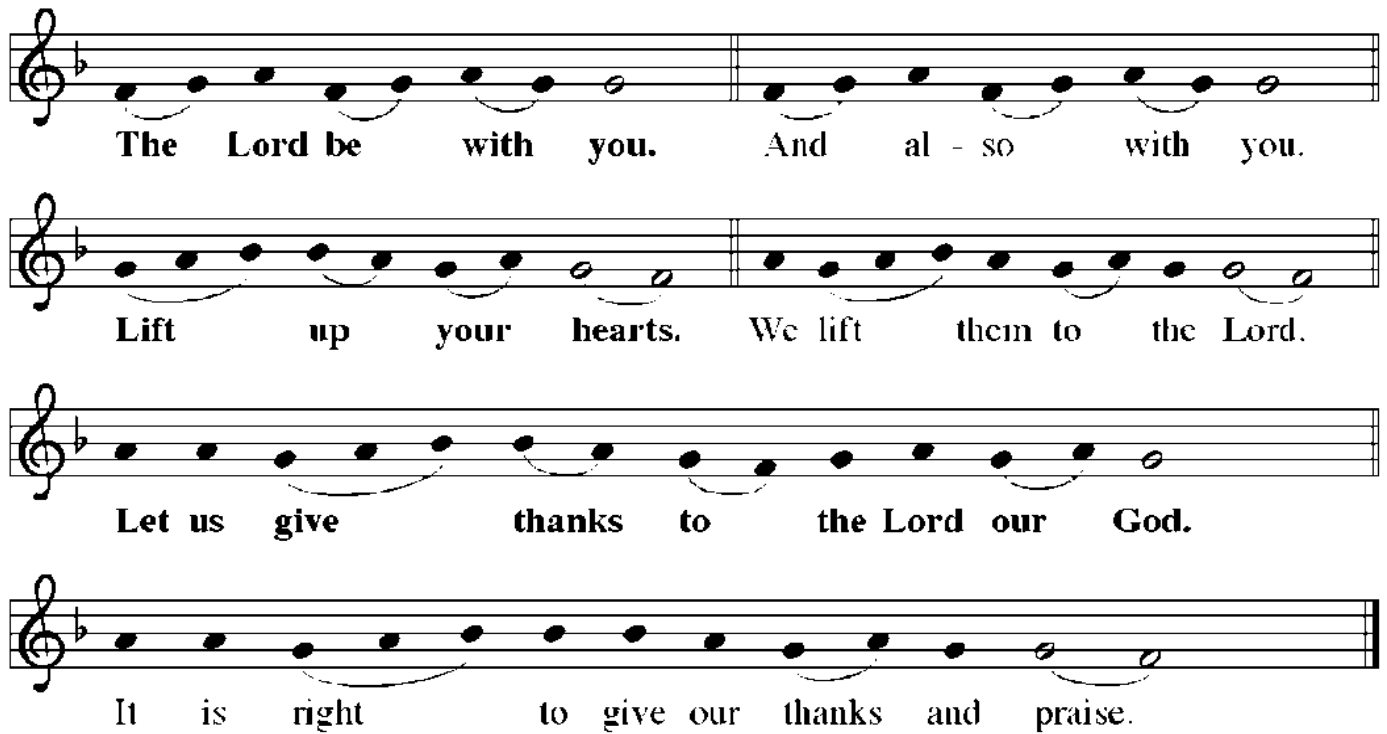
His Great Love with which He loved us.

Offertory Prayer

A. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

The 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.

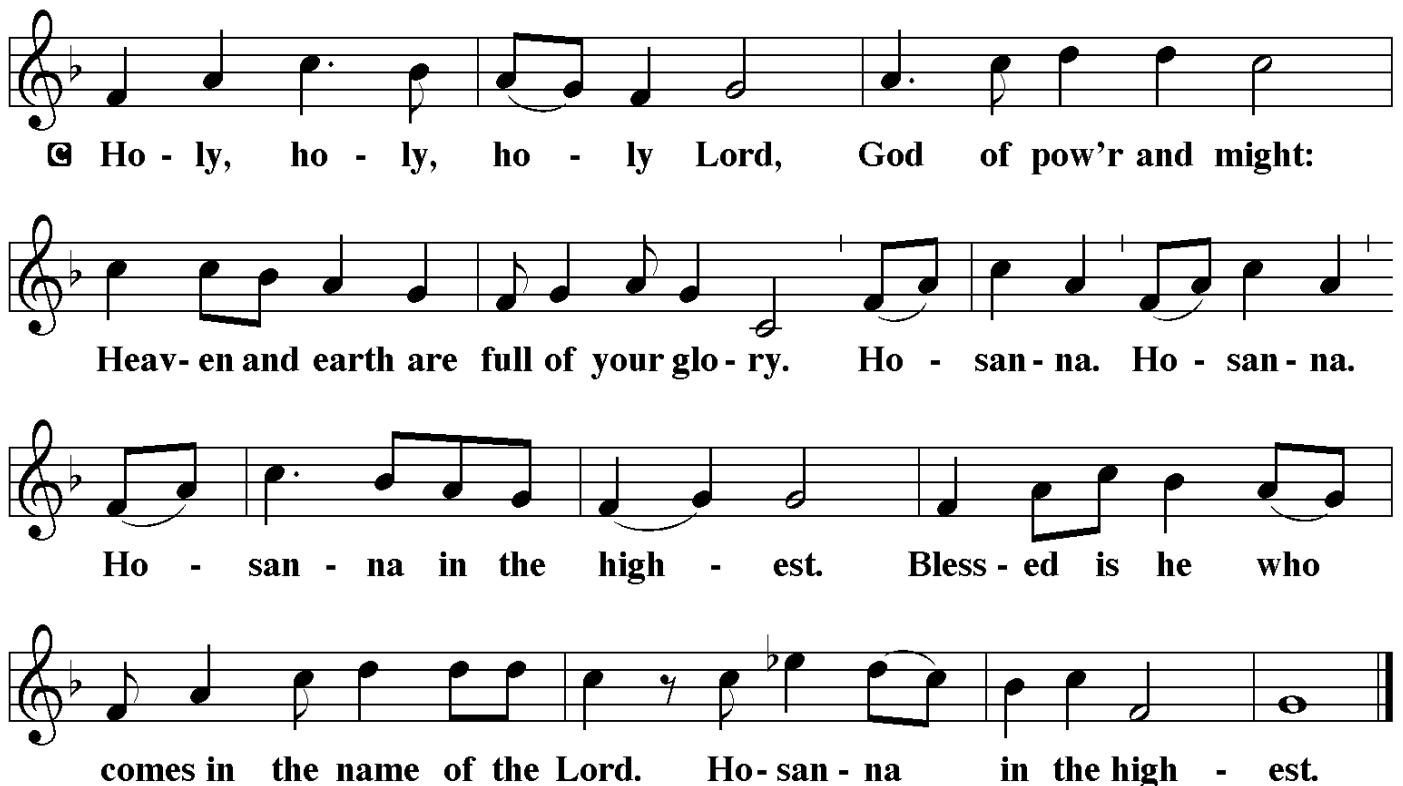
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GIVE YOUR

TO
JESUS!

Preface: It is truly right . . .

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

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.

Eucharistic 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

Invitation to Communion

P. Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

C. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The musical notation is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. A small '☞' symbol is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Communion Hymns

<i>Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake</i>	ELW 799
<i>Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me</i>	ELW 755
<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	ELW 803

Post Communion Blessing

P. God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
† bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Post Communion Canticle



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in in Jesus' name.

C. Amen

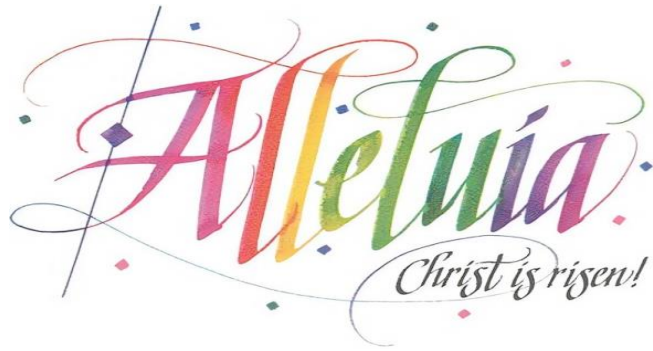
Benediction

A. The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C. Amen.

Dismissal

- A. Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P. Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
- C. Thanks be to God.



Postlude

New Members Received Today:

Matt & Larissa Himmeger

198 Prince Place, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Matt: mhimmeger@gmail.com

Larissa: lhimmeger@outlook.com

(937) 726-4210

(937) 726-9844

Servers for Sunday, May 14th:

Assisting Minister..... Alecia Harrison
Reader Rena Bogle
Altar Guild Barbara Kyles
Greeters/Counters Steve Brantley/Neil Brennecke

Serving 
from the
Heart

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are given by Ginny King in celebration of her Birthday and all Mothers on Mother's Day!

Candles this month given by Clyde & Rena Bogle to the Glory of God!

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.

A close-up photograph of several pink cherry blossoms with yellow centers, set against a soft, out-of-focus background of more blossoms. The image has a vertical gradient overlay, transitioning from light pink on the left to a darker purple-pink on the right.

Celebrate Mother's Day

*Her children arise up,
and call her blessed;
her husband also,
and he praiseth her.*

PROVERBS 31:28