

Welcome to:  
**First Lutheran Church**  
**Tiffin, Ohio**



**April 28, 2024**  
**5th Sunday of Easter**

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# ***WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN***

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*This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.*

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## ***PRELUDE***

*BRIDEGROOM*

*Robert A. Hobby*

*Six Preludes*

*VI. Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

*Please stand.*

## ***CALL TO WORSHIP***

*Softly spoken.*

**P:** Christ is Risen!

**C:** **He is Risen, Indeed!**

*In a regular voice.*

**P:** Christ is Risen!

**C:** **He is Risen, Indeed!**

*Lifting our voices toward heaven.*

**P:** Christ is Risen!

**C:** **He is Risen, Indeed!**

**Alleluia!**

# GATHERING SONG

# 449

## WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED



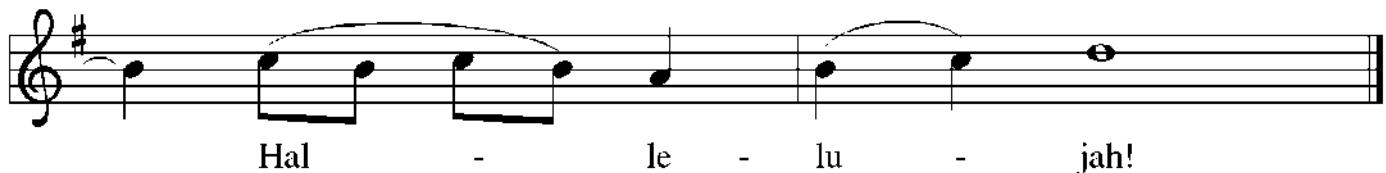
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

## ***GREETING***

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.**

## ***GATHERING LITANY***

P: We gather, a community of faith to celebrate.

C: **God is among us.**

P: We gather to celebrate:

C: **That no darkness can extinguish the light.**

P: We gather to celebrate:

C: **That love is more powerful than death.**

P: We gather to celebrate:

C: **That peace is stronger than violence.**

L: Together we celebrate that, we are called:

C: **To go out!**

L: We are called:

C: **To care for all!**

L: We are called:

C: **To share the Gospel!**

L: We are called:

C: **To forgive and reconcile!**

L: We are called:

C: **To trust God for all that we need!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: As a community of faith, celebrating the light, love, and peace of the Risen Christ, Let us pray:

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## **BELLS OF PRAISE**

*CHEREPONI*

*Kevin McChesney*

*Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love*

## **A READING FROM ACTS**

**8:26-40**

R: A reading from Acts the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit

beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth." <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: Word of God! Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## ***A READING FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JOHN***

**4:7-21**

R: A reading from 1st John the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter:

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we

love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**R:** Word of God! Word of Life!

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

Music notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: "This is the feast of victory for our God." The music consists of a single line of notes on a staff, with a repeat sign and a fermata at the end of the line.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Music notation for the Alleluia. The melody is in G major, common time. The lyrics are: "Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia." The music consists of a single line of notes on a staff, with a repeat sign and a fermata at the end of the line.

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

*After cantor sings the verse, we respond:*

Music notation for the verse. The first line consists of a treble clef, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, and a dotted half note. The lyrics 'This is the feast of victory for our God.' are written below the notes. The second line consists of a treble clef, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, and a dotted half note. The lyrics 'Alleluia, Alleluia.' are written below the notes.

## ***A READING FROM ST. JOHN***

***15:1-8***

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter:

Music notation for the beginning of the gospel reading. The first line consists of a treble clef, a sharp sign, a 4/4 time signature, a dotted half note, a quarter note, and a dotted half note. The lyrics 'Glory to you, O Lord.' are written below the notes.

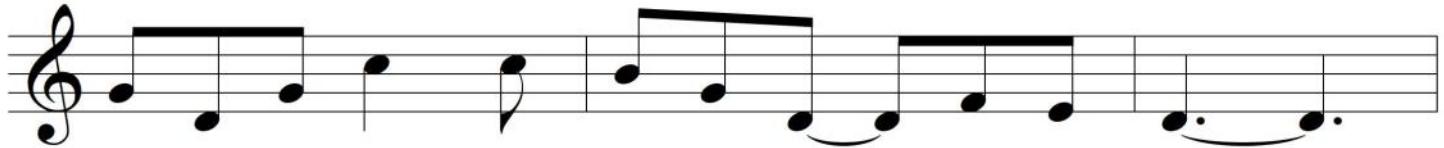
P: [Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



Praise \_\_\_\_ to you, \_\_\_\_ O Christ.

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

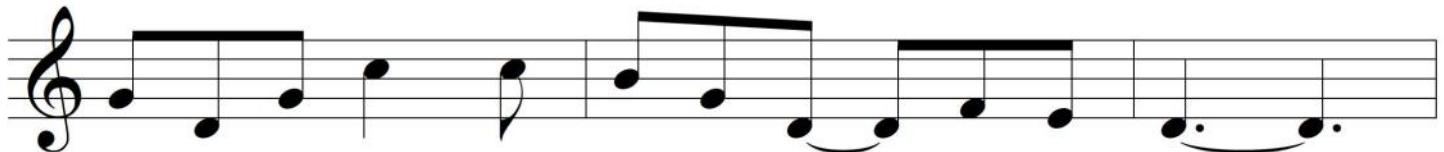


This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

*Our Cantor will sing the verse. Then we respond:*



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.

*Please be seated.*

## **TODAY'S REFLECTION**

*Pastor C.J. Bailey*



*Please stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY # 403 LIKE THE MURMUR OF THE DOVE'S SONG**



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## ***A LITANY FOR EASTER***

P: O God, who made the world and everything in it,  
we pray with one voice, proclaiming your presence to all the earth.

L: For skeptics and believers, for clergy high and low;  
For those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets, and in  
the pews, For all who search for life, come and listen:

**C: And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

P: We are alive in the spirit.  
We are saved through water.  
Because Christ lives, we also live.

**C: For we too are God's offspring.**

L: For presidents and prime ministers, for bosses and wardens;  
For those who set the course at home, at work, in the streets, and  
in the pews, For all who wield power, come and listen:

**C: And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

P: We do not fear what others fear.  
We proclaim the hope that is in us.  
Because Christ lives, we also live.

**C: For we too are God's offspring.**

L: For friends and lovers, for neighbors and strangers,  
For those who eat bread at home, at work, in the streets,  
and in the pews, For all who live in the world, come and listen:

**C: And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

P: In God, we live and move and have our being.  
From God, we have life and breath and all things.  
Because Christ lives, we also live.

**C: For we too are God's offspring.**

L: For the sick and troubled, for the fearful and alone,  
For those in pain at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews,  
For all who suffer, come and listen:

**C: And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

P: Our prayers are not rejected.  
Our souls are held in life.  
In truth, our God has heard us,  
and love is not withheld.  
Because Christ lives, we also live.

**C: For we too are God's offspring.**

L: For those kept in memory, for those long forgotten,  
For all who ever took the breath of life at home, at work, in the  
streets, and in the pews, For the dead and those who mourn them,  
come and listen:

**C: And we will tell you what our God has done for us.**

P: We are blessed by your presence.  
We are filled with the Spirit.  
Because Christ lives, we also live.

**C: For we too are God's offspring.**

L: God of heaven and earth, Companion in life, Spirit of truth,  
to you alone we turn our eyes and lift our hearts.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

# **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

You are encouraged to share the Peace of Christ with those around you as you feel comfortable.

## **OFFERING & ORGAN MEDITATION**

*Noel Nouvelet*

*Michael Burkhardt*

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

*Please stand.*

## **THE PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION**

L: Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world. This we pray in the name of Jesus 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.

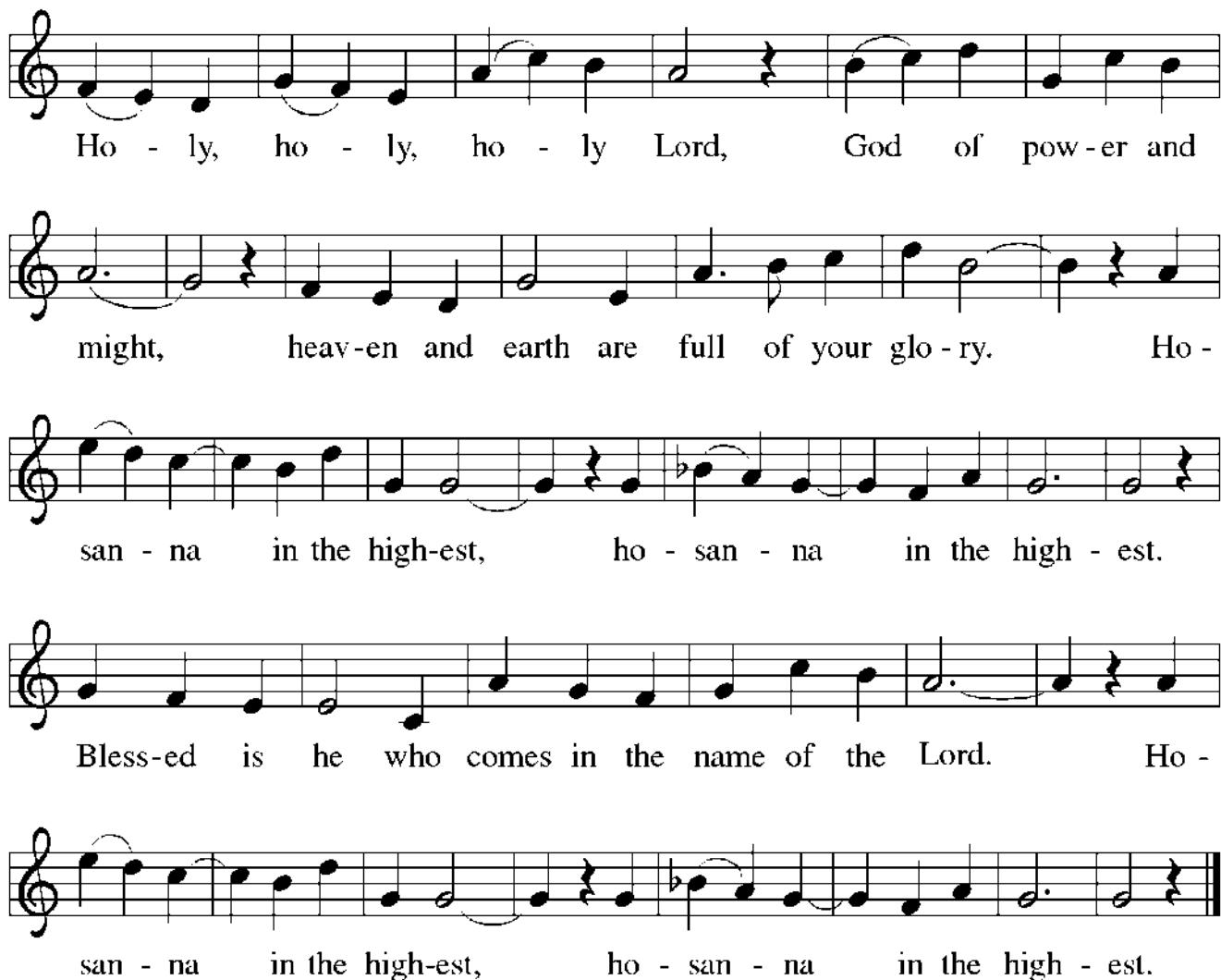
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## **BLESSING OF THE MEAL**

P: 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:

### ***SANCTUS***



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, 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.

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to  
the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus,  
your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which 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. Do 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C:

The musical notation consists of a single line of music in common time, starting with a treble clef. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory  
in your holy church, now and forever.

A musical score for the hymn 'Amen'. The key signature is A major (no sharps or flats). The time signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). The lyrics are: 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, primarily on the A and C strings of a guitar. The first 'A' is on the A string, the first 'men' is on the C string, the first 'a' is on the A string, the second 'men' is on the C string, the second 'a' is on the A string, and the final 'men.' is on the C string. The 'a' in 'amen' is sustained with a fermata and a grace note. The 'men.' is also sustained with a fermata.

# *LORD'S PRAYER*

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

C: 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.

*Please be seated.*

## ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

P: The Risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table!

*Communion is distributed in two manners at First Lutheran.*

- You may commune in your pews. Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex Doors. Pastor will share a blessing and all communing in place will commune together.
- You may come forward, where you will receive the bread from pastor and a small cup of wine from the worship assistant. Cups can be disposed of in a basket located by our projector.

## ***AGNUS DEI***

The musical notation consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each line of text corresponding to a staff. The lyrics are as follows:

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, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMN

# 379

## NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*. © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

*Please stand.*

## ***THE TABLE BLESSING***

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

## ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

L: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

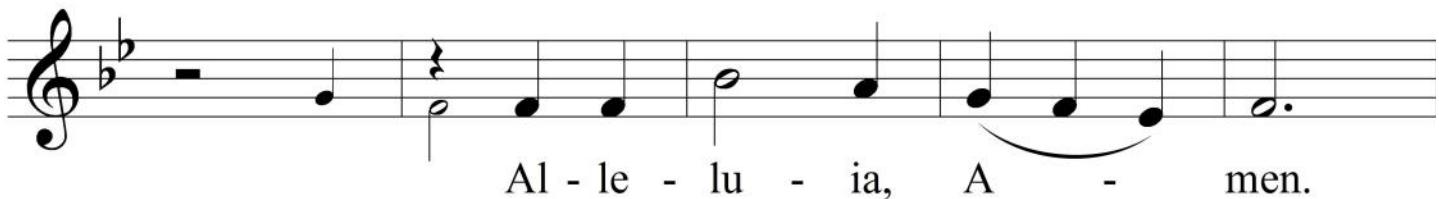
C: **Amen.**

## ***THE BENEDICTION***

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: May the God of the resurrection, the Christ of unending joy, the Spirit of Easter hope. Bless you now and always.



Al - le - lu - ia, A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!

# SENDING SONG

# 881

## LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our di - days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God's di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too - should be voic - ing our love and be -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na - and praise!"

# THE SENDING

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
C: Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!  
  
P: Go in peace!  
L: Rejoice and be glad!  
C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

*Gilbert M. Martin*

*Laudation*

### *Today's Worship Leaders*

Cantor: Jayce Porter  
Facebook Camera: Wendy Bailey  
Host: Judy Kimmel  
Reader: Linda Ellinger  
Slide Show Operator: Andrew Bailey  
Worship Assistant: Linda Ellinger

### *Contact Us*

#### **First Lutheran Church**

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**Dir. of Music** Curtis L. King  
[cking6876@gmail.com](mailto:cking6876@gmail.com)

**Pre-School Dir.** Jane Frederick  
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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## This Week's Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	April 28
10:00 am	Worship on the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
<b>Tuesday</b>	April 30
10:30 am	Morning Bible Study at the Willows
<b>Wednesday</b>	May 1
6:30 pm	Healing Service
<b>Thursday</b>	May 2
7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study.
<b>Next Sunday</b>	May 5
10:00 pm	Worship on the 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
11:15 am	Confirmation Class at First Lutheran
7:00 pm	Heidelberg Community Chorus

## Church Directory

We will be sending out forms to fill out in our May Newsletter. We will be updating our church directory. Please fill out and return to the church office. Extra forms will be located in both entrances.

## Altar Flowers

Today's Altar flowers are given by Rodney & Char Reis in memory of their great-granddaughter Wrenley Lynn Oney, daughter of John & Kayla Oney.

## 2024 Graduates

We will be honoring our 2024 graduates on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Please let Diane Greene know if you have a special someone graduating this year you would like to honor.



## Healing Service

### Wednesday Healing Service

The monthly Healing Service returns as we gather for worship on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note the change of date. Together we look forward to sharing the hope of healing found in Christ. Worship will be on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

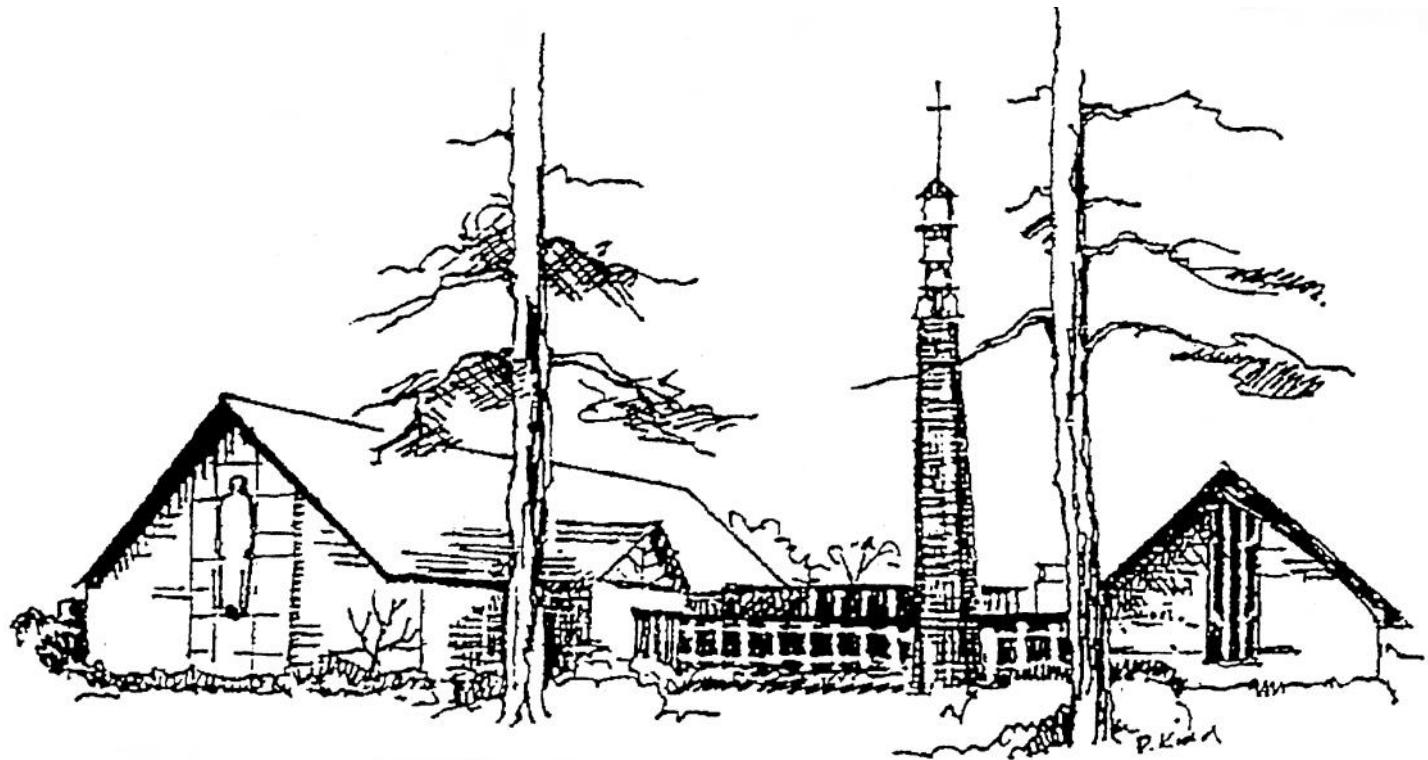
## Bible Study

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study reflection on Rest. This five week study will finish out our spring reflections before we break for the summer.

The Tuesday Bible Study gathers at the Willows and begins around 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.





## *Our Mission Statement*

**“God is among us!”**  
**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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The “Gathering Litany” was Cheryl Lawrie and amended to  
incorporate our mission statement by Rev. Clayton J. Bailey.

The “Litany for Easter” was written by Margaret D. McGee and  
posted on “In the Courtyard.” [www.inthecourtyard.com](http://www.inthecourtyard.com)

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