

BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT  
YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE

love

FOR ONE ANOTHER

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John 13:35

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*First Lutheran Church*

*May 18, 2025*

*5th Sunday of Easter*



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*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.*

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*EARTH AND ALL STARS*

*Paul Manz*

*Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen!*

*(Please stand)*

**GATHERING**

*Softly spoken*

P: Christ is Risen!

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

*In a regular voice*

P: Christ is Risen!

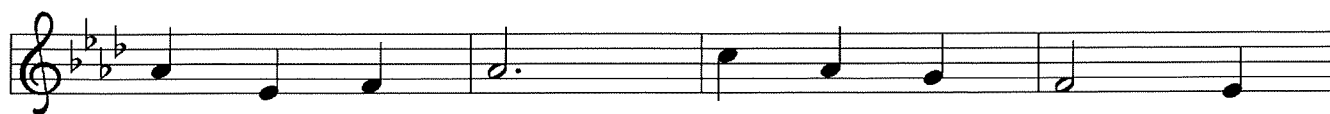
C: **He is Risen, Indeed!**

*Lifting our voices toward heaven.*

P: Christ is Risen!

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

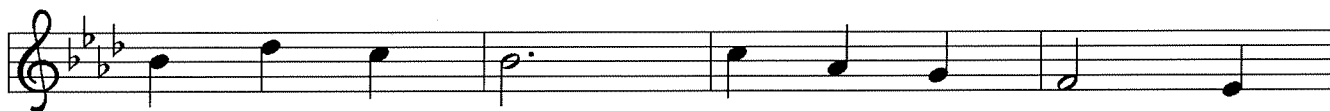




1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: In the name of ✙ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Water is poured during the thanksgiving.*

P: 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,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: 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,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: 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,

**C: make us one as you are one.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

P: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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**

VICTORY

*Sandra Eithun*

*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

## **FIRST READING:**

**ACTS 11:1-18**

L: A reading from Acts, the eleventh chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> 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.' <sup>17</sup> 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?" <sup>18</sup> 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."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING:**

**REVELATION 21:1-6**

L: A reading from Revelation, the twenty first chapter.

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> 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; <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Refrain*

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

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

*Cantor: Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are His.*

**C: Sing: Refrain**

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to John, the thirteenth first chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> 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.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



Praise to you O Christ!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*This Is the Feast*

*Refrain*



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



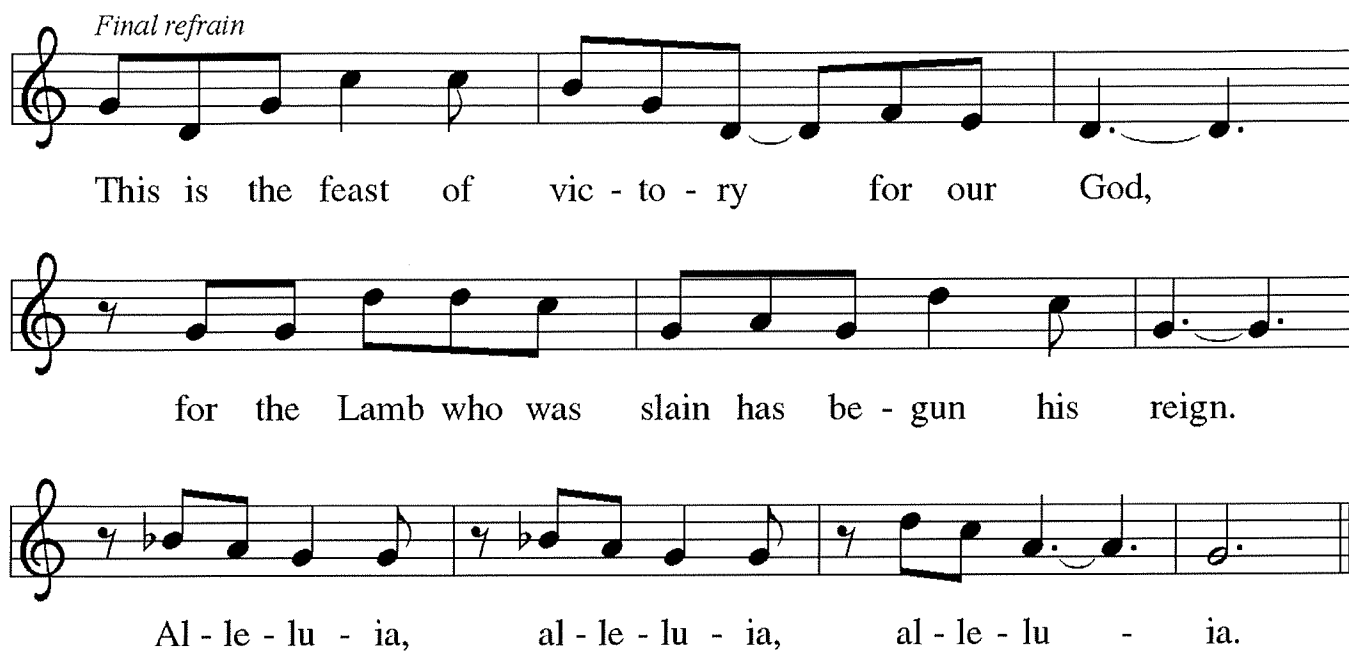
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor: Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.  
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and Lamb forever, Amen.*



**C: Sing: Final refrain**

*Final refrain*



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

*(Please be seated)*

**REFLECTION**

**REVEREND MARK SCHURING**

*(Please stand)*

## OF THE DAY



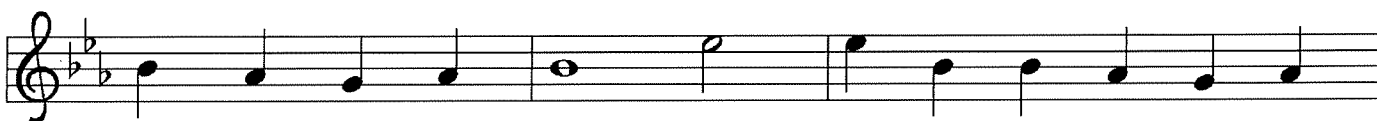
1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## **NICENE CREED**

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

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

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(Please kneel)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,  
the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities.

*Each Petition concludes:*

P: Hear us, O God,

**C: your mercy is great.**

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ, be with you always.

**C: And, also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Meal**

### **OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION**

*DOVE OF PEACE*

*Matthew H. Corl*

*I Come with Joy*

*(Please stand)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has one long measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple, using quarter and half notes with slurs connecting groups of notes.

## PREFACE FOR EASTERTIDE

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:

## *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*

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.

## *WORDS OF INSTITUTION*

P: 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.





Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

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  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
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 - men, a - men, a - men.

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

P: 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)*

## COMMUNION

*Communion is distributed in two manners*

† *You may commune in your pews.*

*Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.*

*The presiding minister will share a blessing,  
all communing in-place will commune together.*

† *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*

*A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace.

Receive the gift of new life.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(Please stand)

### 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: 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.

C: Amen.

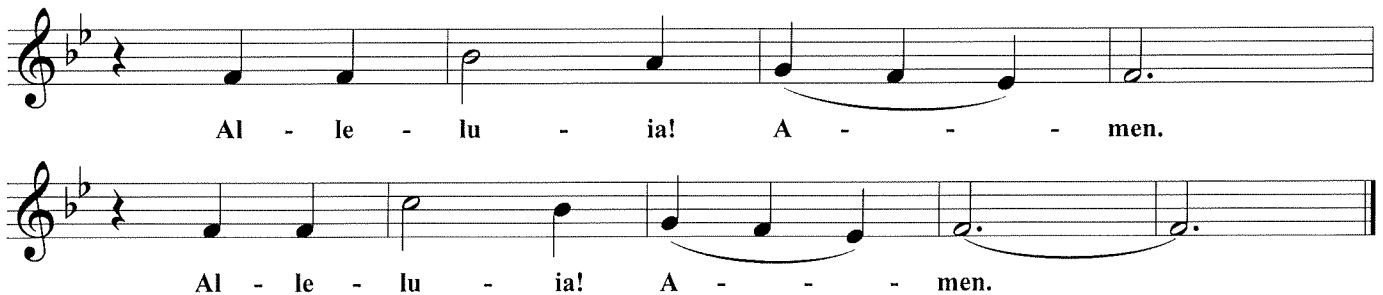
## SENDING

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,  
your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.  
We are grateful for the goodness  
you have shown us through the years,  
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.  
Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,  
bless the changes that are before us,  
bless our call process and the pastoral leaders  
who will shepherd us through this time of transition.  
We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us  
as we align with your will, and servant or servants  
you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.  
Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry  
and our future.  
In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### BLESSING

P: 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.





ALL 1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 ALL 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 Men 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 Women 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 ALL 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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### DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

L: Go in peace.

P: In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

### POSTLUDE

TRURO

Matthew H. Corl

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

## Events in Review

**Sunday** **May 18**

10:00AM Church Service

**Monday** **May 19**

10:00AM Bible Study

1:30PM Piece Corp

5:15PM Bells of Praise

**Tuesday** **May 20**

6:00PM Council Meeting with Synod

**Wednesday** **May 21**

5:30PM Council Meeting

**Thursday** **May 22**

1:00PM Food Bank

6:15PM Pre-School Spring Program

### **Next Week**

**Sunday** **May 25**

10:00AM Church Service

**Monday** **May 26**

**Memorial day**

No Bible Study

**Tuesday** **May 27**

5:15PM Bells of Praise

## Graduates

If you know someone who is graduating this spring, please let us know. We would like to gather information regarding their school accomplishments and plans for the future.

Please get in touch with the office

419 447-1323 or

firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Or Diane Greene @ 419 934-1081

canacab@sbcglobal.net

We will be honoring them on June 1st

## Pre-School Spring Program

Pre-School Spring Program is May 22nd at 6:15PM

Please come and support our little ones. They have worked very hard on this program and would love to show you how talented they are.

## Lawn Mower for the Week

*(beginning on Thursdays)*



**Rick Nominee**

## Geranium Order

Geranium Order forms are available on the table in the lobby. Orders must be in no later than June 1st to have your honor/memorial names printed



**\$10.00 a piece**



## Contact Us



### **First Lutheran Church**

300 Melmore Street  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

### **Interim Pastor**

Pastor Mark Schuring (740) 360-2306  
[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

### **Emergency Pastor**

Pastor Mark Schuring (740) 360-2306  
[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

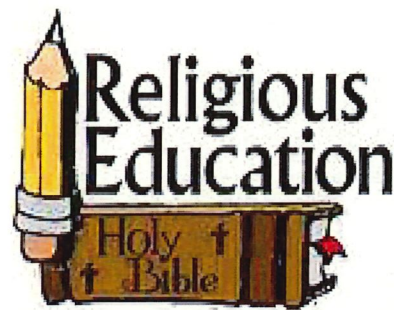
**Altar Guild:** Donna Brueggemeier,  
Deb Hohman & Sharon Losey  
**Cantor:** Elijah Shiley  
**Facebook Camera:** Tim Ross  
**Host:**  
**Reader:** John Kobelt  
**Worship Assistant:** John Kobelt  
**Director of Music:** Curtis L. King  
**Presiding Pastor:** Pastor Mark Schuring

## Catechism Classes

If you are interested in learning more about Catechism Classes. Please contact Rick Greene or Mike Porter at

*Rick Greene:* [canacab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canacab@sbcglobal.net) or 419 937-7378

*Mike Porter:* [Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com)



## 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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April 20, 2025