



The Ascension of Our Lord

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity*

May 18, 2023

12:10 p.m.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAY: In today's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Gathering

Prelude

Arioso

Joseph Jenkins

Greeting / Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

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

Amen.

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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

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.

**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.**

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.
Amen.



Ascension
DAY

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:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

Apostolic Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

Psalm will be spoken in unison

- 1 Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,
- 3 who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;
- 4 who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.
- 5 God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.
- 6 Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.
- 7 For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.
- 8 God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered
as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Alleluia Verse

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

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.⁵² And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

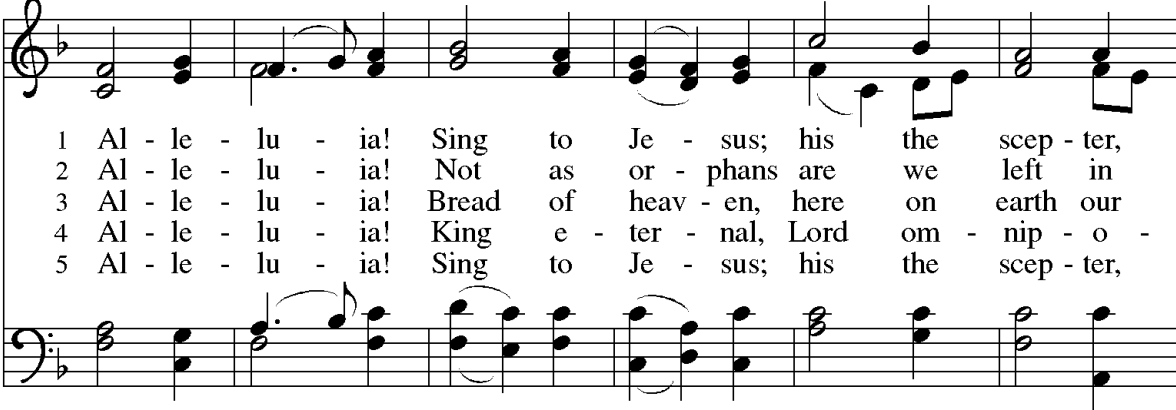
The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

As the organ sounds the assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus

out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887



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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation, responding, God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy One, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through thundering, mighty waters, reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the suffering and death of Jesus, draw near to those who suffer and for whom death approaches. Hold them in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Inspire us through the music, dance, and other arts ministries of this congregation. With clapping, shouting, singing, playing, and moving, let our bodies bear witness to the joy you alone can give. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us. By their lives and the life and death of Jesus, enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The assembly greets one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying,
"Peace be with you. And also with you."*

The assembly sits.

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering

Rondeau

Joseph Jenkins

The assembly stands.

Offering Prayer

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The altar is prepared for the Holy Communion

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 a musical score for a hymn titled "Great Thanksgiving". It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. 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 music is written in a simple, melodic style with many slurs and ties.

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; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. 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 (Sanctus)

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,". The second staff contains: "heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est." The third staff contains: "Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff.

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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy, O God,
the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness,
life from death,
speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives
and for the world you give us.

We thank you
for the new world to come
and for the love
that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace
shown to Israel, your chosen,
the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the fathers,
the homecoming from exile,
and the prophet's words
that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you
for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill
all your promises.

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.



Therefore, O God,
with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation
of your Son: his human birth
and the covenant
he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice
of his life:
his eating with outcasts
and sinners,
and his acceptance of death.
But chiefly on this day
we remember
his rising from the tomb,
his ascension
to the seat of power,
and his sending
of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out
for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again
in beauty and power
to share with us
the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray,
your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share
in this bread and cup
may be united
in the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness
of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance
with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers
with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them
with the ceaseless petitions
of our great high priest
until he comes
as victorious Lord of all.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us,

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

The assembly is seated.

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, grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly stands.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

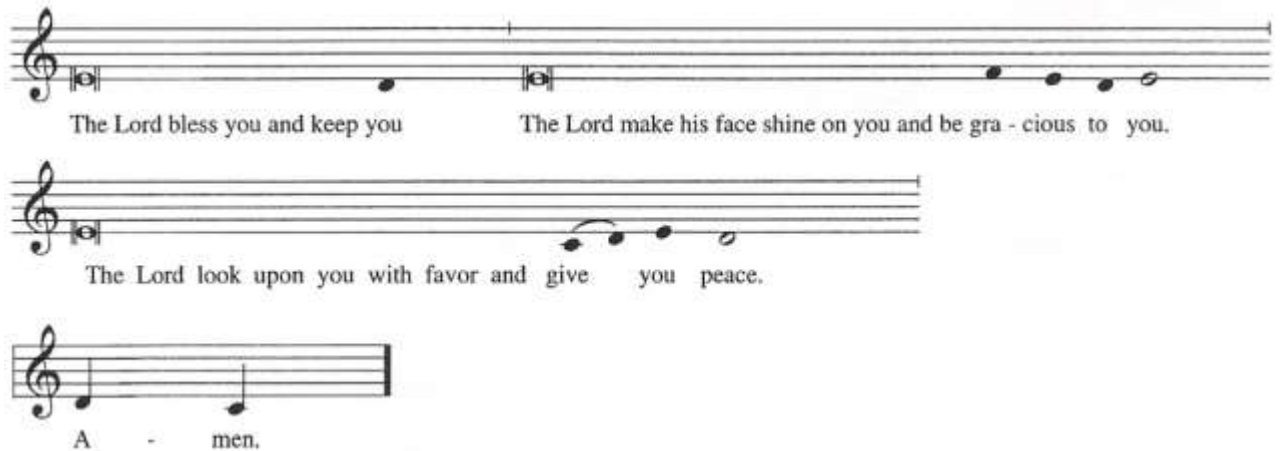
Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending



The Lord bless you and keep you The Lord make his face shine on you and be gra - cious to you.

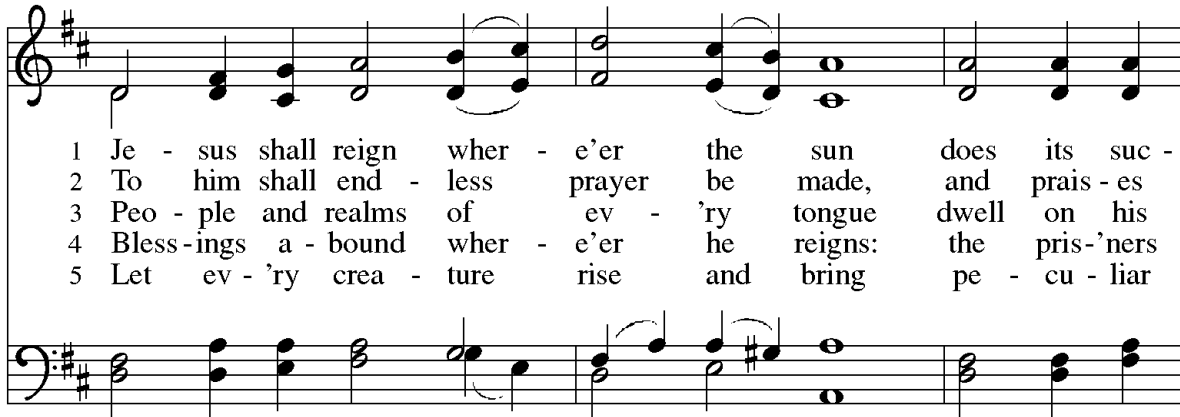
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

A - men.

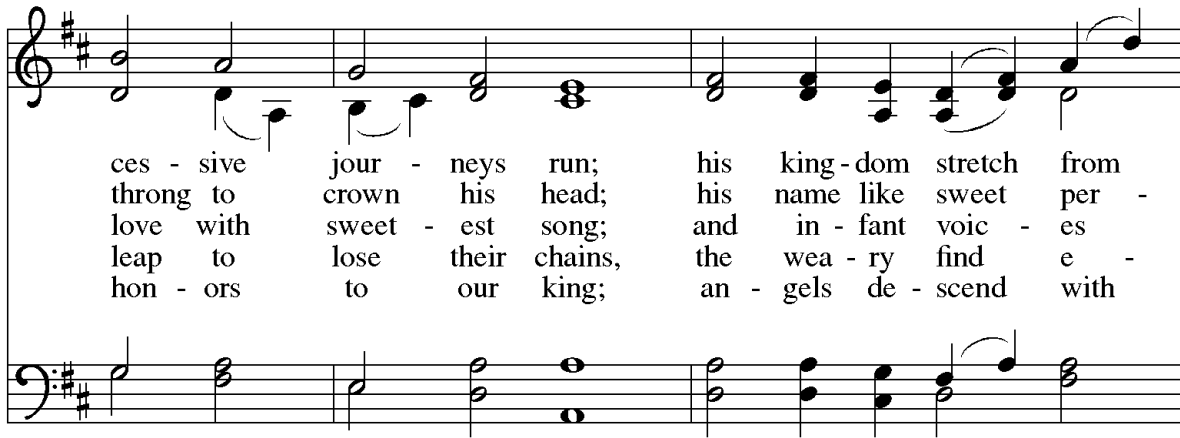
The assembly turns to face the cross, and may bow in reverence as it passes.

Recessional Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Dismissal



℣. Let us bless the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
℟. All: Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude

Deo Gratias

Joseph Jenkins

+ + + + + + +

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Steve Repasky
Liturgical Deacon Marj Stubert
Lector Mike Bradley
Usher Matt Morgan

The altar flowers have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Linda’s brother, Charles Daniel Shafer and Rusty’s father, Angelo Saverino.

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Martin Roth, pastor emeritus, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, campus pastor, Thiel College
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College