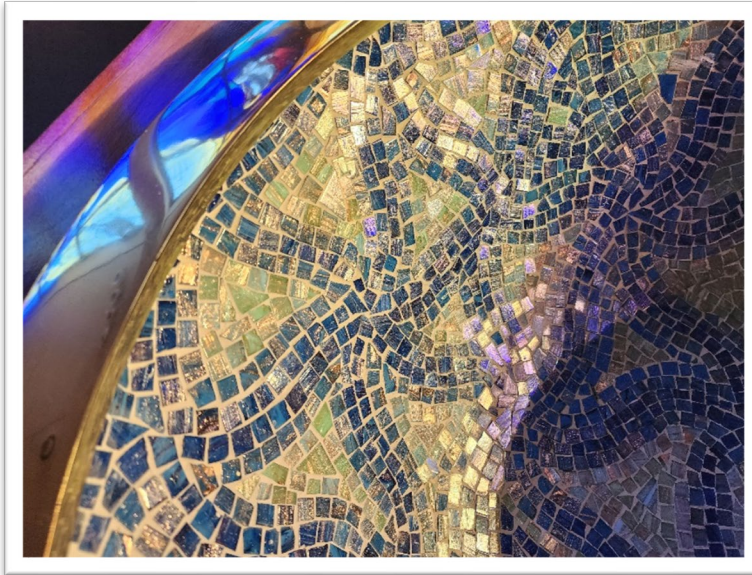


SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting with God, One Another, and Our Neighbors.

5800 Backlick Road ~ Springfield, VA 22150 ~ 703-451-4331

www.stmarks-elca.org info@stmarks-elca.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE SEASON OF EASTER, THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 28, 2024

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Setting Three

The St. Mark's Vision & Mission Statements

Vision: *Called by God into community with our neighbors, nation, and world, St. Mark's is one Lutheran parish with many cultural voices and room for everyone to be at home.*

Mission: *Founded in faith, growing in grace, we are called to love and serve God, one another, and the world.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE (9:30-9:45)

“Pastorale in F Major” ~ Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

P Alleluia, Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CHORAL ALLELUIA (*Congregation stand to face the rear entrance of the church*)

“Alleluia!” ~ Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father +, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT *(Sung by the congregation)*

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- 1 (Cantor) I am the vine, you | are the branches. // Those who abide in me and I in them | bear much fruit.

Repeat *Be Not Afraid*

- 2 (Cantor) This is the day that the | Lord has made; // let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

Repeat *Be Not Afraid*

GATHERING HYMN, “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” ELW #377

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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!

GREETING

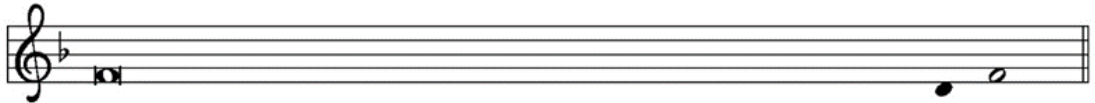
P Alleluia, Christ is risen! **C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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, ELW Page 138 (S138)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



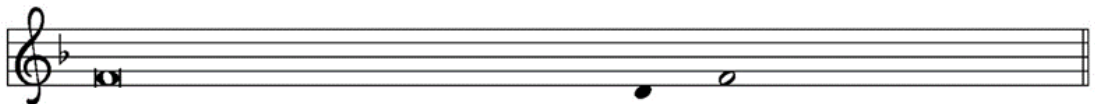
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



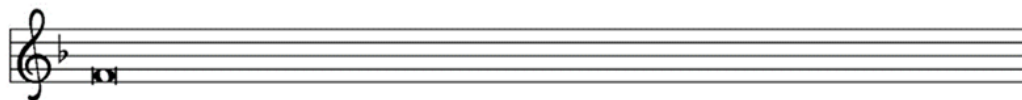
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



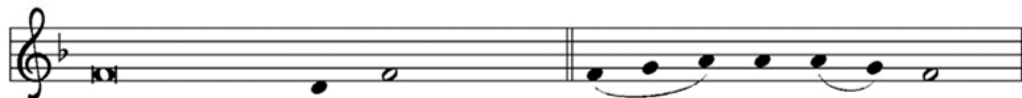
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



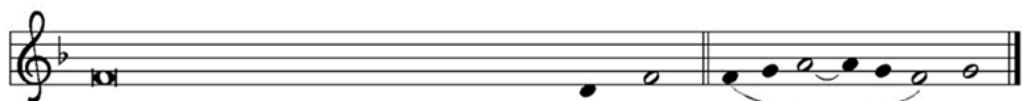
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE, All: Refrain Women: 1 & 3 Men: 2 & 4



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



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

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

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

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.

Refrain

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

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

Final refrain

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

P 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**

WORD

FIRST LESSON, *Acts 8:26-40*

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and

was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

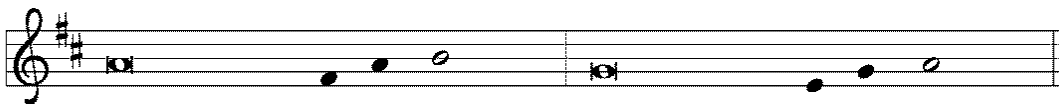
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

A The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:25-31



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**
³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

SECOND LESSON, 1 John 4:7-21

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

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, “Christ is Arisen” ELW #372

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967
Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN
PM



1 Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on. So let our joy rise



full and free; Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!



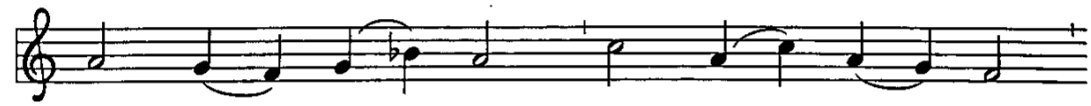
2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our



pris - on. Now, with him to life re - stored, we praise



the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!



3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



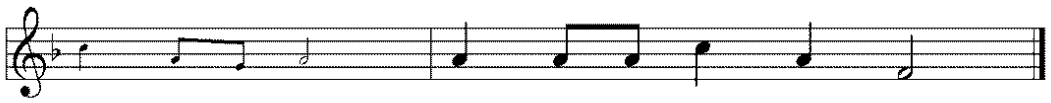
al - le - lu - ia! So let our joy rise full and free;



Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

C  **G** Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C  **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, PR. YVETTE MOY

HYMN OF THE DAY, "O Blessed Spring" ELW #447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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 the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Each petition ends:

A God of grace, **C** **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C** **Amen.**

MEAL

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** **And also with you.**

Please share the peace with one another at home or on Facebook.

OFFERING, NOTE: If you are worshipping online this morning, offerings may be made through Vanco or mailed to the church office. We appreciate your continued faithfulness and support of God's work at and through St. Mark's.

<https://www.stmarks-elca.org/vanco-donations>

or mail checks to: **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22150

MUSIC AS THE OFFERINGS ARE MADE

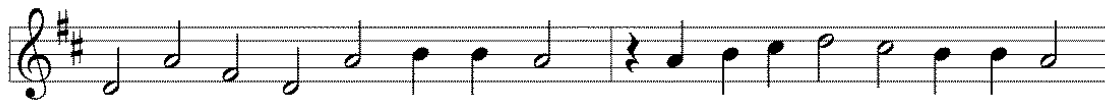
“Now the Green Blade Rises” ~ French carol, arr. Joe Cox

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

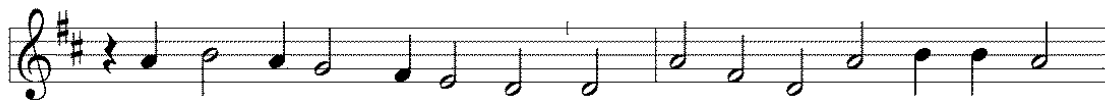
In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that He would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

MUSIC AS THE OFFERINGS ARE PRESENTED



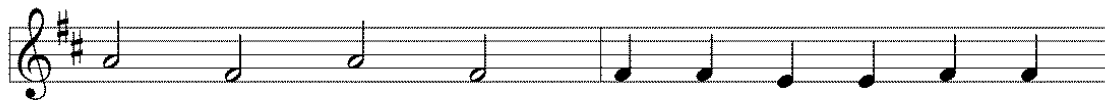
He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled is God, my Lord;



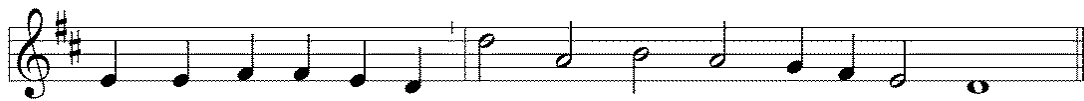
the gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus rose tri - um - phant - ly,



and Sa - tan's ar - rows bro - ken lie, de - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.



Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, ris - ing



glo - rious, life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

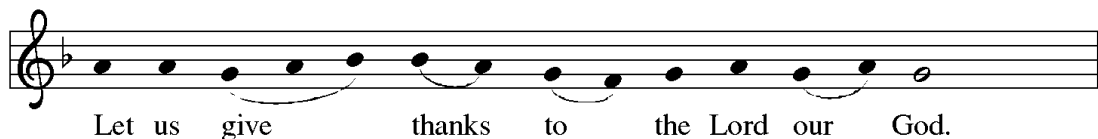
Text: Birgitte K. Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

c Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S 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 The Holy Spirit makes for us this bread and wine the precious body and blood of Christ our Lord that we might partake of the tree of life and live.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Amen! Amen! Thanks be to God!**

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.

MUSIC AS THE SACRAMENT IS ADMINISTERED

“Alleluia! All the Earth Doth Worship Thee” ~ Everett Titcomb

Alleluia! All the earth doth worship Thee, O God, and sing of Thee.
They shall sing praise to Thy name, O most highest. Alleluia!

SONG AFTER COMMUNION, "O Jesus, Blessed Lord" ELW #541

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to you my heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, in joy and say: What wealth has

thanks and praise are due; you have so lov - ing - ly be - stowed
 come to me to - day! My Sav - ior dwells with - in my soul

on me your bod - y and your blood.
 and makes my wound - ed spir - it whole!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928, alt.
 Music: UD GÅR DU'NU PÅ LIVETS VEJ, Carl Nielsen, 1865–1931

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our “Watch and Pray” Prayer

O lover of all humanity, open our hearts and minds to your divine counsel and guide us in discerning your direction and mission for your St. Mark’s congregation. We pray in service to you, O risen Christ, together with your everlasting Father and life-giving Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

c **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN, "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

CHORAL ALLELUIAS

“Alleluia!” ~ Melchior Vulpus

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

c **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

A Alleluia! Go in peace! Share the Good News!

c **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” ~ Jan Bender

ABOUT THE COVER,

"Look, here is water!" Thus exclaims the Ethiopian eunuch after being united with Philip the Evangelist (as the Church has named him) through the word of God in the prophet

Isaiah. As we hear in today's First Reading from Acts, Philip's scriptural guidance leads to this foreigner's immediate baptism and the first steps of his walk with Jesus.

Baptism is a central theme of Easter. That God invites those outside the faith to be grafted into the living Vine, Jesus Christ, and thus be nourished, experience growth, and bear fruit, is likewise a theme that, like ever widening concentric circles spreading out over the world to enfold all nations, peoples, and languages, gathers momentum throughout the Easter season, culminating in the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

On older calendars, today was the Fourth Sunday *after* Easter and was also given the Latin name *Cantate* from the opening words of the historic introit for the day, "O sing unto the Lord a new song, alleluia: for he hath done marvelous things, alleluia," the words of which still appear in our lectionary in next Sunday's psalm of the day. Both our Gathering Hymn and Hymn of the Day are relatively new songs (see the credits). Compare these with the Sending Hymn, and you will find that a century separates them. Yet there exists a freshness with each new singing, simply because the message is ever new and ever renewing; it never grows old. God's word gives us a reason to sing and, in singing the words of these hymns, gives us a means by which to express the faith within us. So, even we oldsters remain young in the words and music of our worship. And the children—well, everything is new to them! And new Christians (like the Ethiopian eunuch) also sing a new song when they join in the old songs some of us have sung our whole life long.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal, *Etlich Cristlich Lider ...* ("Some Christian Songs ..."—the full title is much longer). Luther, in collaboration with Paul Speratus, produced the hymnal of just eight hymns (popularly referred to as *Das Achtliederbuch*, literally, "eight-song book"), in 1524, only seven years after his posting of the 95 Theses. It was printed in Nuremberg, though the title page shows Wittemberg as the city of publication. (This is the city in which the hymnal was first used, the same city where Luther posted his controversial theses on the door of the castle church on October 31, 1517.) So popular was the hymnal that by year's end a second hymnal of 26 hymns was published, the *Erfurt Enchiridion*. How many hymns are in our current hymnal? (Mind, the first 150 are psalms and the next 88 are "Service Music" (i.e., Kyries, canticles, etc.). And how many did not make it from the previous hymnal? And how many more are in our supplemental hymnals and other denominational hymnals? We will, of course, celebrate this anniversary in future articles. (I feel another series coming on! but my time is limited, so I will also endeavor to limit my words.)

So, now, on this new day, let us "sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen." C. A. Michaelsen