

# 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](http://www.stmarks-elca.org) [info@stmarks-elca.org](mailto:info@stmarks-elca.org)



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE SEASON OF EASTER, THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, MAY 12, 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)

“Prelude and Fugue in C Major,” BWV 547 ~ Johann Sebastian Bach

### WELCOME

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

### 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.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

“God Has Gone Up with a Shout” ~ Carolus Andreas

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

**GATHERING HYMN, “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!” ELW #634**

1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
 on this terrestrial ball  
 to him all majesty ascribe  
 and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
 we at his feet may fall!  
 We'll join the everlasting song  
 and crown him Lord of all.

## 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.**

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

“Now We Give Thanks” (In honor of our Mothers) ~ Mark Patterson

Thank you, Lord, for wonders all around us, for the earth, the sky and sea.

Thank you, Lord, for beauty that surrounds us; you created everything.

Now we give thanks, now we give thanks, thanks for all that the Lord has done.

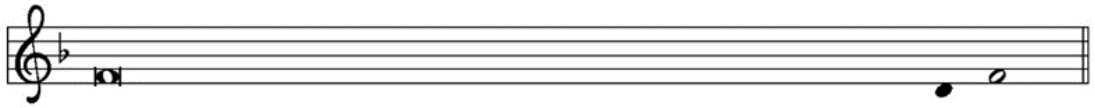
Now we give thanks, now we give thanks, thanks to God.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices.


## Kyrie, ELW Page 138 (S138)



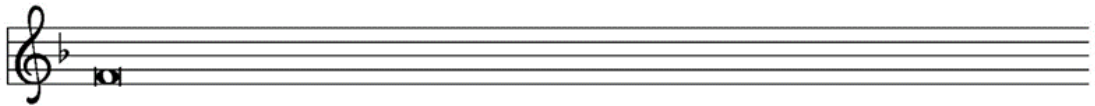
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**




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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



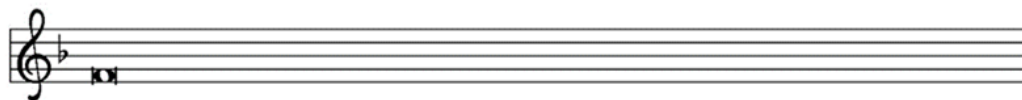
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



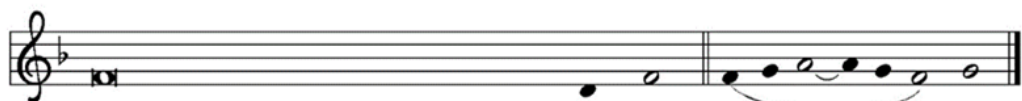
Lord, have mer - cy.



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**



*Refrain*

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,

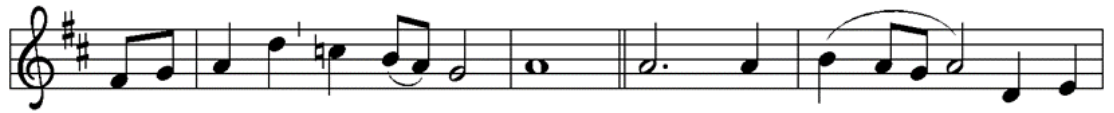
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

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.



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.



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. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

## WORD

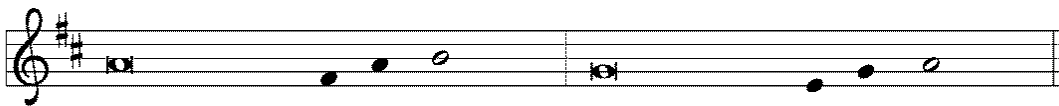
### FIRST LESSON, *Acts 1:1-11*

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After 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. <sup>4</sup>While 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; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But 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.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They 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.”

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

### PSALM 47



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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- <sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, | all you peoples;  
shout to God with a | joyful sound.
- <sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:**  
**a great king over | all the earth,**
- <sup>3</sup>who subdues the | peoples under us,  
and the nations un- | der our feet;
- <sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,**  
**the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**



<sup>5</sup>God has gone up | with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of | all the earth;  
sing praises | with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns o- | ver the nations;  
God is en- | throned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>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 LESSON, *Ephesians 1:15-23***

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I 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, <sup>18</sup>so 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God 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, <sup>21</sup>far 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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ELW #392, Stanza 1**

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

## GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>44</sup>[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.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>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.” <sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C

Praise to you, O Christ.

## **Extinguishing of the Paschal Candle**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” **ELW #392, Stanza 2** (see page 10)

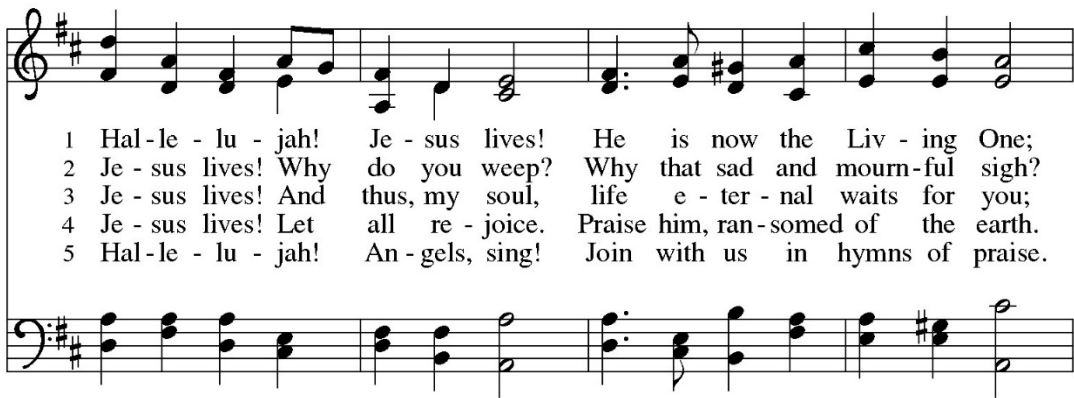
The flame of the Paschal Candle has burned brightly near the altar at every service since the Easter Vigil, reminding us of Jesus' bodily presence with His disciples during the forty days following His Resurrection. Today, we celebrate Jesus ascending to the right hand of the Father, disappearing from their sight as He was carried into heaven. After hearing the story from Scripture, the flame is therefore removed from our sight as the candle is extinguished, even as we remember His promise, "I am with you always." During the remainder of the year, the candle is lit for baptisms and memorials to remind us of our connection with Jesus Resurrection both upon our entering and departing the earthly Church. Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, *John 17:6-19***

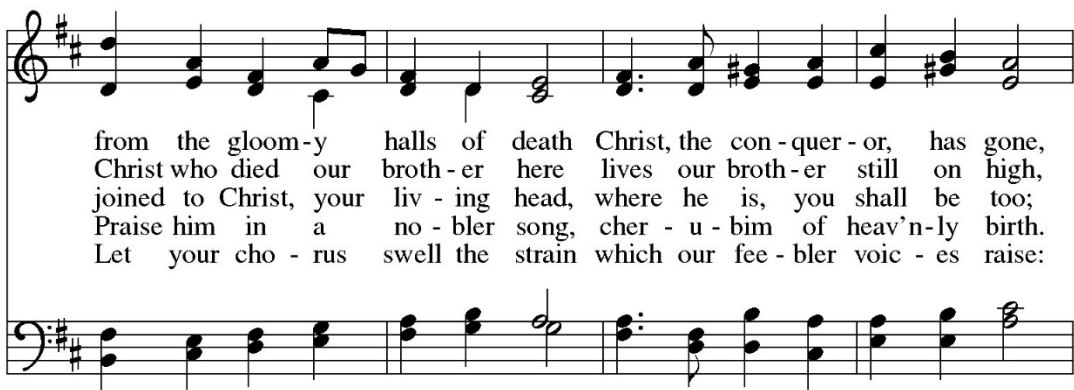
[Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

## **SERMON, PR. YVETTE MOY**

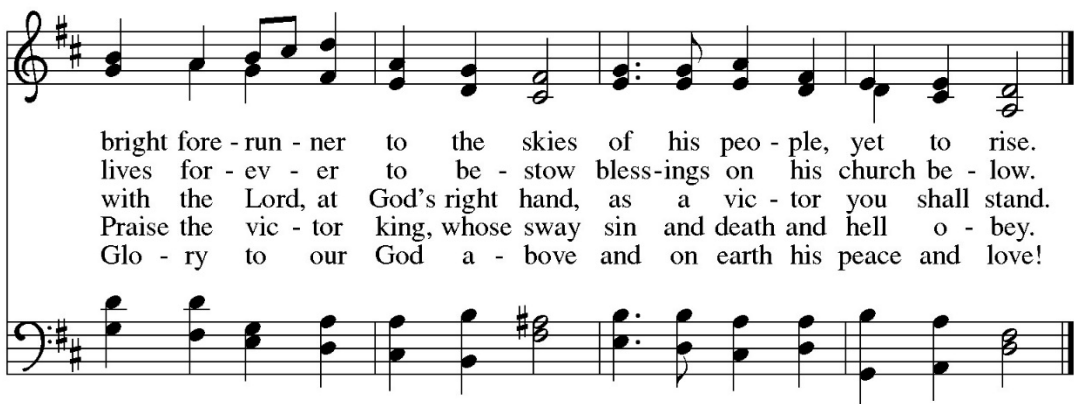
**HYMN OF THE DAY, "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives" ELW #380**



1 Hal-le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;  
 2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn-ful sigh?  
 3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, life e - ter - nal waits for you;  
 4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran-somed of the earth.  
 5 Hal-le - lu - jah! An - gels, sing! Join with us in hymns of praise.



from the gloom-y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,  
 Christ who died our broth - er here lives our broth - er still on high,  
 joined to Christ, your liv - ing head, where he is, you shall be too;  
 Praise him in a no - bler song, cher - u - bim of heav'n-ly birth.  
 Let your cho - rus swell the strain which our fee - bler voic - es raise:



bright fore - run - ner to the skies of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
 lives for - ev - er to be - stow bless-ings on his church be - low.  
 with the Lord, at God's right hand, as a vic - tor you shall stand.  
 Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway sin and death and hell o - bey.  
 Glo - ry to our God a - bove and on earth his peace and love!

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

## **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**

“Go Forth into the World in Peace” ~ John Rutter

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
Hold fast that which is good; render no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;  
Help the afflicted; honor all people;

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of his Holy Spirit.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you,  
And remain with you forever. Amen.

## **MUSIC AS THE OFFERINGS ARE PRESENTED**

“Now Thank We All Our God” **ELW #840, Stanzas 1 and 2**

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

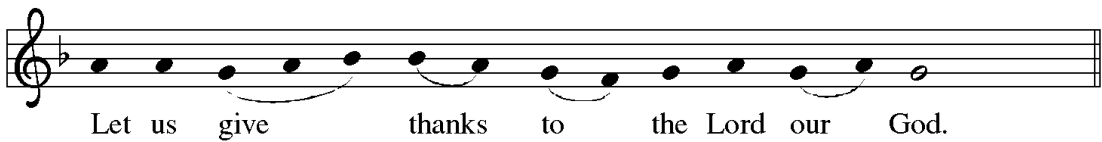
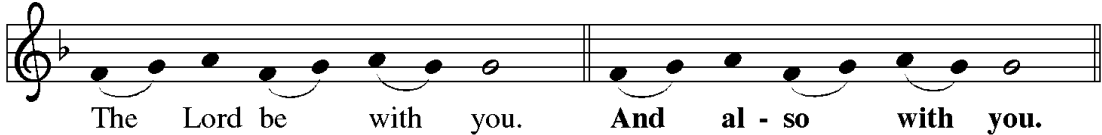


## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### 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.**

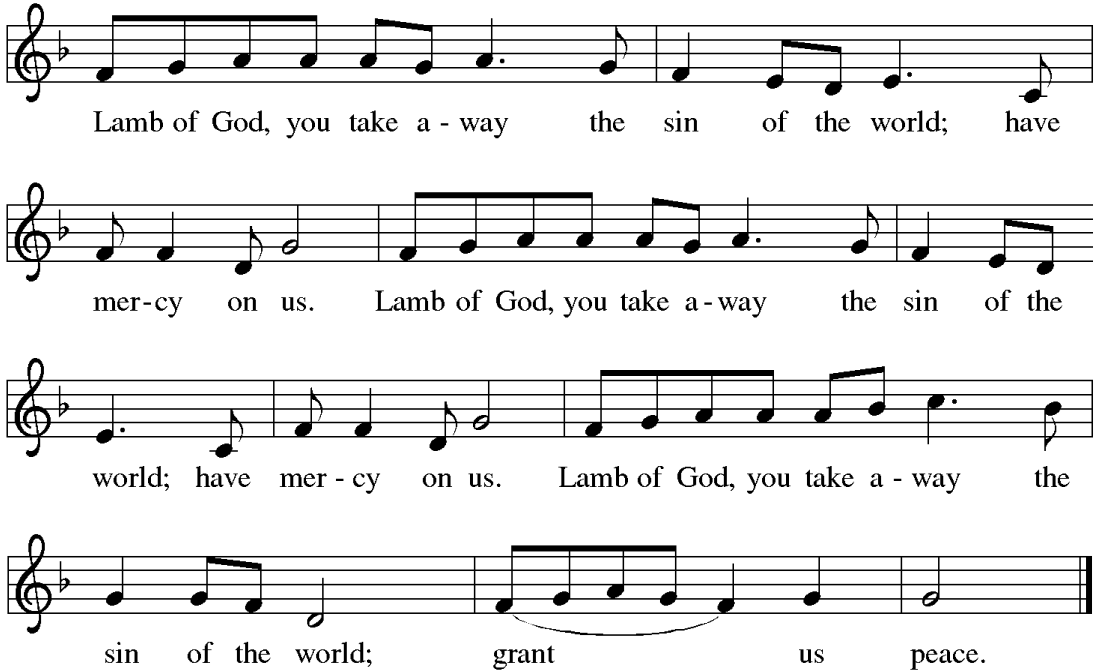
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

“Thou Art Gone Up on High,” from *Messiah* ~ George F. Handel  
Karen Randall, mezzo soprano

Thou art gone up on high;  
Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men: yea,  
even for Thine enemies,  
That the Lord might dwell among them.

## **SONG AFTER COMMUNION**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” **ELW #392, Stanzas 3 and 4** (see page 10)

## **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, “Crown Him with Many Crowns” ELW #855**

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Lo, I Am with You Always” ~ Carolus Andreas

Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

## 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

“Antiphon V” ~ Marcel Dupré

## **ABOUT THE COVER,**

Pictured is the Ascension Window, which, as you enter the church, is the last window on the right, above the pulpit. Illustrating the Gospel of St. Mark, the side windows of the nave tell the gospel story beginning at the back right of the church and moving forward, then continuing on the opposite side with one continuous scene of the return of Christ in glory at the end of time.

The Ascension Window pictures Christ being ushered into heaven, up to the right hand of the Father, who is portrayed as a sage old man with a beard, one artist's rendition but an image that might be contested by artists and theologians today. Angels, which have a prominent role in Mark's Gospel, attend our Lord, four encircling him and two flanking the Father, presenting Jesus a crown and scepter. These are symbols of Christ's kingship, replacing the crown of thorns, and authority over all things, replacing the reed with which he was mocked. Christ is still clothed in a scarlet cloak, which symbolizes his humanity, the flesh and blood of his human birth, and the nail prints are clearly visible in his hands.

Ascension Day, which was actually this past Thursday, is the 40th day of the Easter season. Next Sunday is the 50th and final day of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, the Day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the descent of the promised Holy Spirit in wind and fire, signs and great power, the birth of the Christian Church.

Today is also the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Gospel of which is from Christ's "High Priestly Prayer," which he prayed after the Last Supper, just before his arrest in the garden. This is a prayer for his disciples, really for us His Church, in the world, which He was about to leave. So there is great comfort for us as He sends us out into the world while promising His presence, "I am with you always." C. A. Michaelsen