

**ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**10:30AM**

**APRIL 21,  
2024**



**Making the  
Love of  
*Christ*  
Known**

Deb Monnin  
*Support Pastor*

Becky Erb Strang  
*Support Pastor*

Doug Meyer  
*Pastor Emeritus*

# Prelude

## Welcome /Announcements

### Gathering Hymn\*

ELW 449

#### We Know That Christ Is Raised



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



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



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



Hal - le - lu - jah!

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

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\*Please stand as you are able  
**Bold print=the whole congregation replies.**

## Call to Worship for Confirmation Sunday\*

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.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world.

Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God.

With tongues of fire, the Spirit kindles the apostle's zeal.

They declare in new tongues the wonderful works of God.

Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever.

Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit!

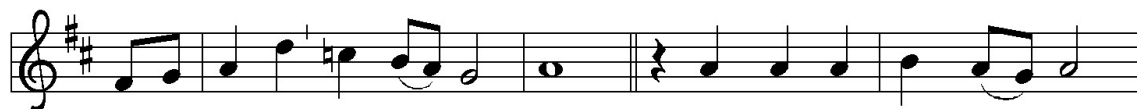
Fill the hearts of your faithful people with your love. Alleluia!



# Hymn of Praise



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



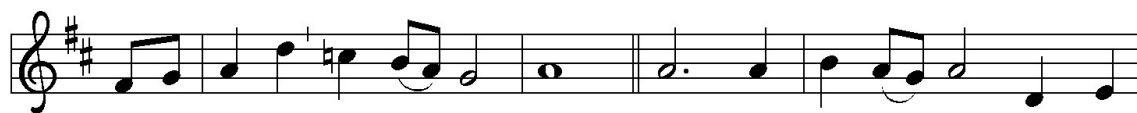
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



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



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



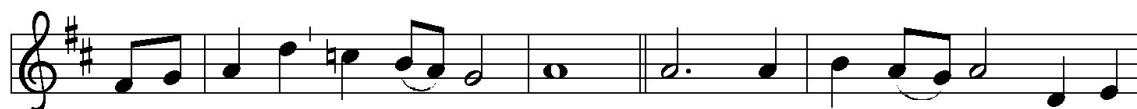
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



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



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\*

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.  
 Amen.

## Children's Sermon

## Adult Choir

*I Am The Vine* by Pote



## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

<sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no

more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*The reading is concluded:*  
Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

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

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>1</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

### Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*



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

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

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

*The reading is concluded:*  
Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.



## Gospel Acclamation \*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

### Gospel: John 15:1-8

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

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

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

# Sermon & Faith Statements

## Hymn of the Day\*

ELW403

### Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



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



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



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

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

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

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# Affirmation of Baptism

## Introduction

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

## Presentation

*Those affirming baptism are presented to the congregation:*

I present Jacob Kaiser, Trenten Gross, William Trisel, Jackson Serr, Drew Cramer, Cole Buening, Kinley Lehman, KJae Stover, and who desire to affirm their baptism.

## Prayer

Let us pray, merciful God, we thank you for Jacob, Trenten, William, Jackson, Drew, Cole, Kinley, KJae, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants as they affirm the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth through this holy sacrament. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

## Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses those affirming baptism:*

As you affirm your baptism,

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.



Do you believe in God the Father?

*Response:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*Response:* 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*Response:* 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.



## Affirmation of Baptism

*The presiding minister addresses those making affirmation:*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each affirmer responds:*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support these your sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

## Prayer of Blessing

*Parents, sponsors, family, and friends, you are invited to come forward when your confirmand is at the kneeler and place your hand upon your confirmand's shoulder as Pastor Deb or Pastor Becky reads their Bible verse and prays God's blessing upon them.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, wash us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.



*The following blessing is repeated for each affirmer.*

Stir up in...

The gift of your Holy Spirit:

confirm *her/his* faith,

guide *her/his* life,

empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving,

give *her/him* patience in suffering,

and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*Name of Affirmer*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

## **Celebration**

*All confirmands stand and face the congregation:*

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**



## Prayers of Intercession

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.

*A brief silence. Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:*

God of grace,  
hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace \*

Offering

Special Music (10:30)-Jake Wilder

*Borning Cry*



# Offertory\*

TFF262

*Please stand and sing as the offering is brought forward:*

*Kids' Praise children return to families.*

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It is in the key of F major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. Chord symbols (F, C7, Bb, F/C) are placed above the staff lines to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are: "This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made."

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the  
Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be  
glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the  
Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

# Offering Prayer\*

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.





## Great Thanksgiving\*

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

## Eucharistic Prayer\*

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 risen! Christ will come again!

## Lord's Prayer\*

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

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;

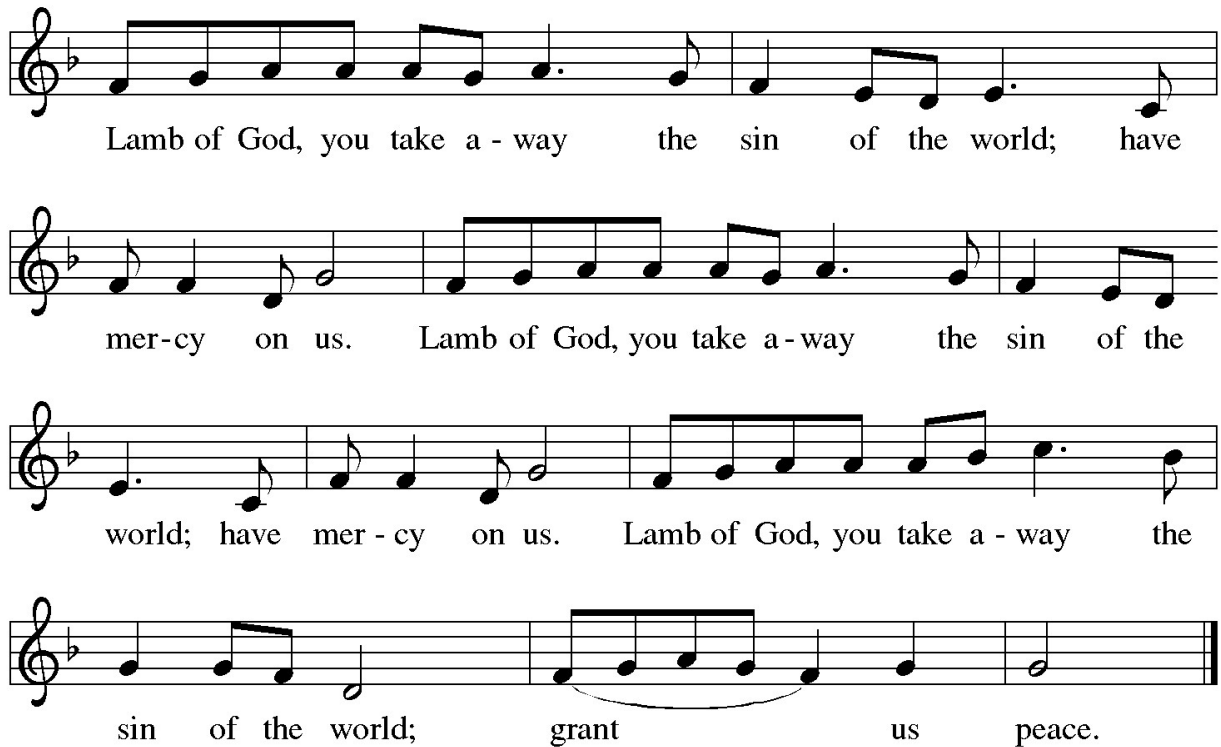
and forgive us our trespasses,



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.

### Distribution of Communion

*Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.*



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.

### Communion Hymn

ELW359

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*



## Prayer After Communion\*

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

## Benediction\*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

## Sending Hymn\*

ELW881

*(on next page)*

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## Postlude



# Let All Things Now Living



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



# CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2024

**Cole William Buening**

*Child of Jeff and Emilie Buening*

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts;  
so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give  
thanks to him. Psalm 28:7 (NRSV)

**Drew Alan Cramer**

*Child of Chad and Heather Cramer*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own  
understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make  
your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

**Trenten Jeremy Gross**

*Child of Jeremy and Jenelle Gross*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

**Jacob Anthony Kaiser**

*Child of Tony and Heather Kaiser*

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge  
and understanding. Proverbs 2:6 (NRSV)

**Kinley Katherine Lehman**

*Child of Gabe and Amy Lehman*

Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your  
neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.  
Proverbs 3:3 (NLT)

**Jackson Thomas Serr**

*Child of Carl and Mindy Serr*

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let  
all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (ESV)



**KJae Robin Stover**

*Child of Trey and Sheena Stover*

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)

**William David Trisel**

*Child of Kim and Don Trisel*

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)





