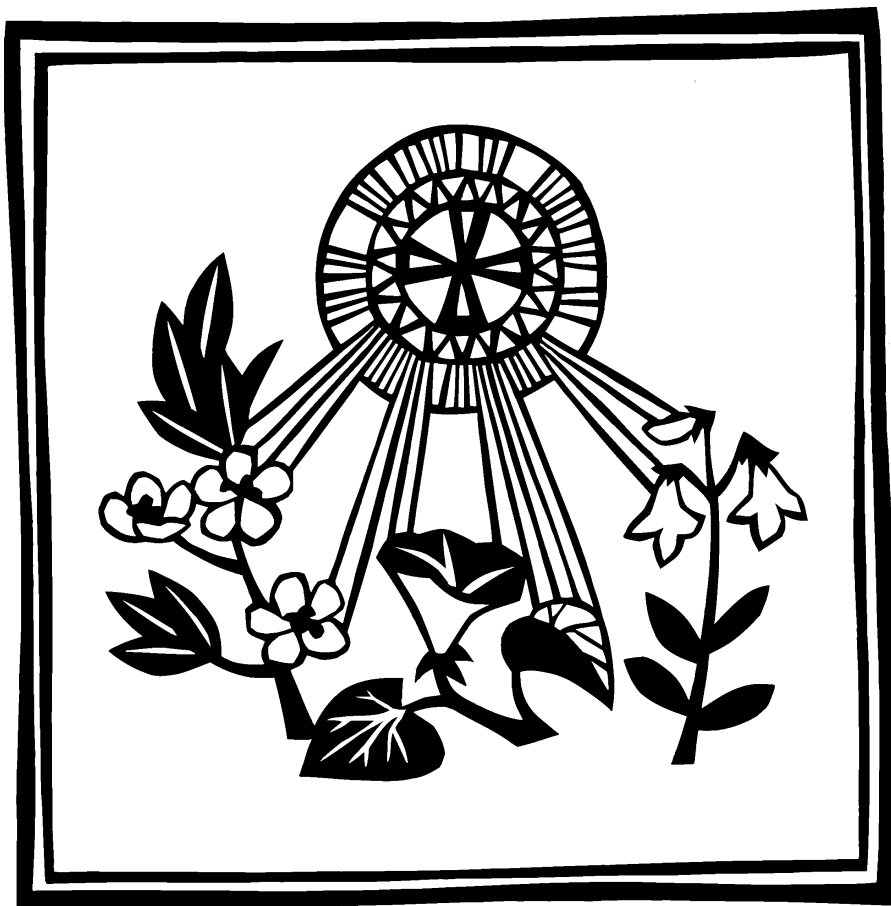




**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



SEASON OF EASTER
May 10, 2026

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

* *The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Fanfare for a Joyous Day

Phillips

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us: our Lake Michigan, Little Calumet
and Kankakee Rivers, Salt Creek, Coffee Creek and all our local wetlands.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.

GREETING

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.

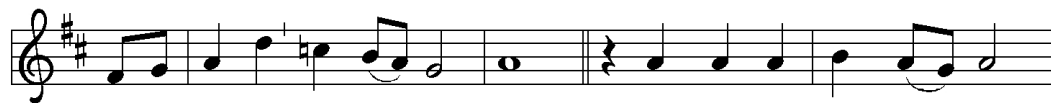
Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast



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.



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

A silence is kept before the prayer.

Trinity of love,
inviting us
to abide in you:
may we follow the Spirit of truth
through desert wild and city street,
rutted field and snowbound height,
battleground and market square,
that your demanding love
might speak to the heart
of the manifold world;
through Jesus Christ, our Brother.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated. Children are invited forward for a time together.

HANDBELL ANTHEM:

Meditation on 'Laudes Domini'

arr. Anderson

READING: Ezekiel 43:1-7a

God resides among the people forever

¹ Then he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. ² And there the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east; the sound was like the sound of mighty waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ³ The vision I saw was like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the vision that I had seen by the River Chebar, and I fell upon my face. ⁴ As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me out of the temple. ^{7a} He said to me: "Mortal, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I will reside among the people of Israel forever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 115

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory;
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness.

² **Why should the nations say,
"Where then is their God?"**

³ Our God is in heaven;
whatever God wills, God does.

⁴ **Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.**

⁵ They have mouths, but they cannot speak;
eyes they have, but they cannot see;

⁶ **they have ears but they cannot hear;
noses, but they cannot smell;**

⁷ they have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk;
they make no sound with their throat.

⁸ **Those who make them are like them,
and so are all who put their trust in them.**

⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD,
who is your help and your shield.

¹⁰ **O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD,
who is your help and your shield.**

¹¹ You that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD,
who is your help and your shield.

¹² **The LORD has been mindful of us, and will bless us;
the LORD will bless the house of Israel and the house of Aaron;**

¹³ those who fear the LORD will be blessed,
both small and great together.

¹⁴ **May the LORD increase you more and more,
you and your children after you.**

¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

¹⁶ **Heaven is the heaven of the LORD,
but the earth God entrusted to its peoples.**

¹⁷ The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor all those who go down into silence;

¹⁸ **but we will bless the LORD,
from this time forth forevermore. Hallelujah!**

READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

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.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

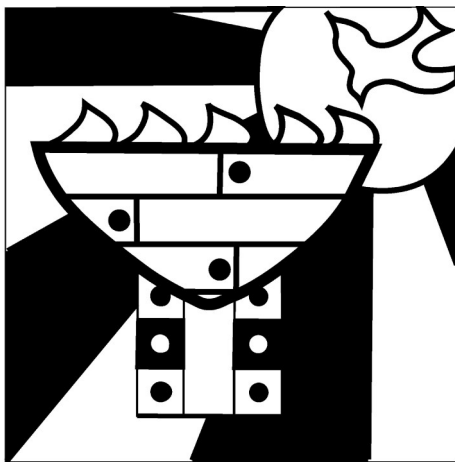
¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

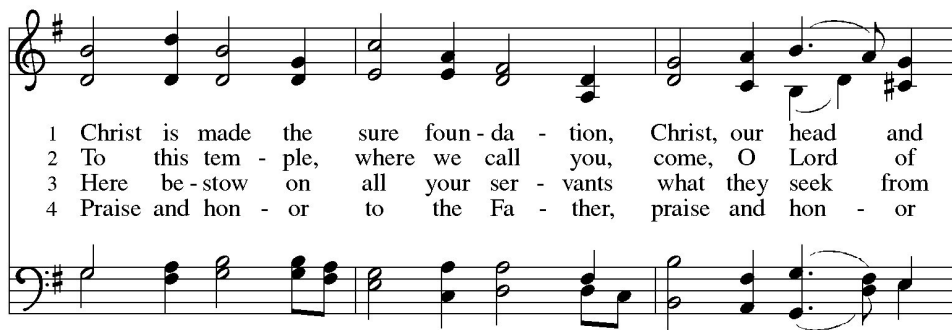
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #645

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

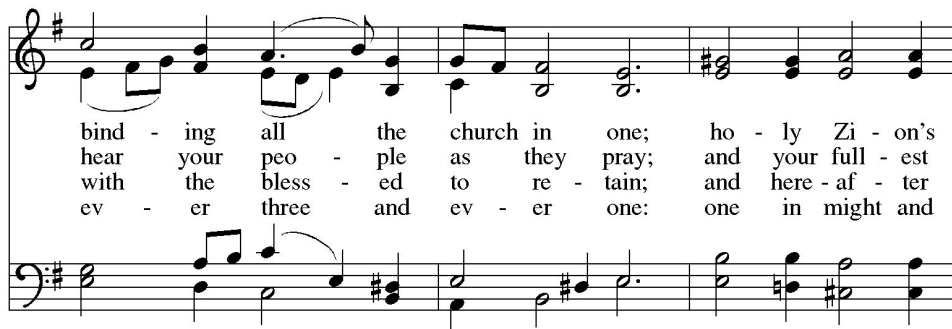
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. In India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, tend to the needs of the vulnerable; bless the ministries of churches and empower all who work for justice and interreligious understanding. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of Matthias and all the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the offerings of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Reconciling in Christ** www.reconcilingworks.org/ric and **LGBTQ Outreach of Porter County** www.lgbtqofpc.org*

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.



OFFERTORY

Voluntary in D

Selby

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The lyrics are: "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.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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", and "comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est."

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



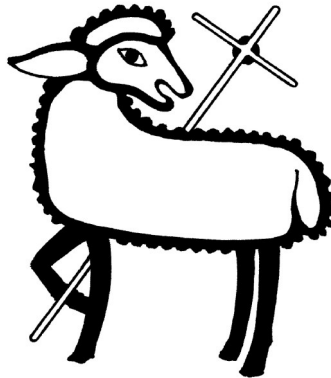
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.



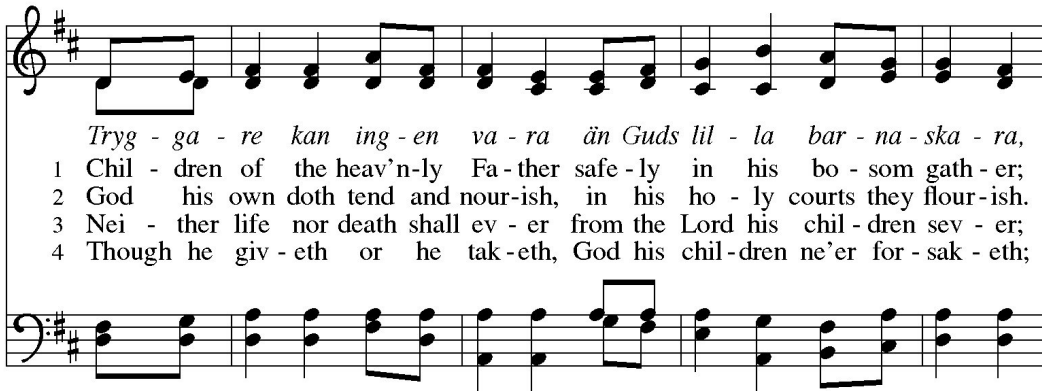
COMMUNION HYMNS ACS #1049 *Before the Waters Nourished Earth*

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

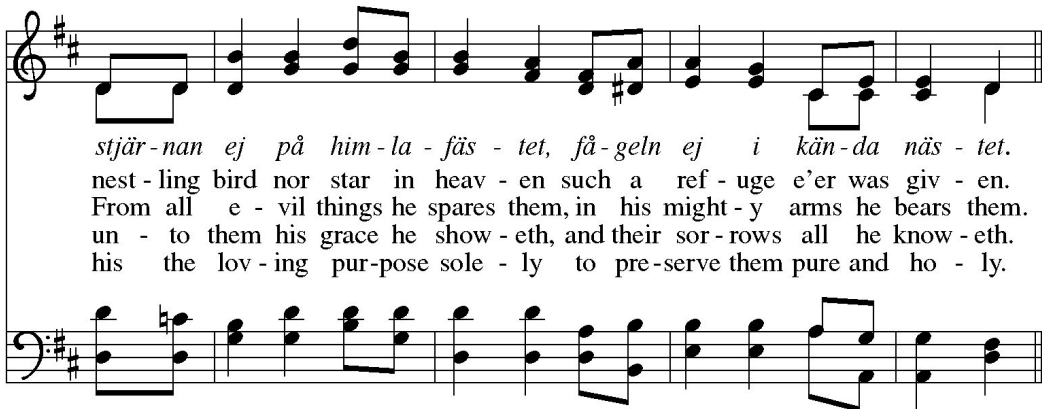
ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

ELW #781 *Children of the Heavenly Father*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



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!

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

On Our Way Rejoicing

arr. Compton

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Acolyte

Luke Ridley

Noah DeJesus

Lector

Kristin Longacre

Heather Budnik

Prayer Assistant

Jorunn Scheiderich

Tim Malchow

Communion Assistants

Violet Furuness
Gabby Soleim

Heather Budnik

Ushers

Luke Venstrom
Irene Adams

Sound/Light

Sam Venstrom

Tony Reinhold

Livestream Tech

—————

Joey Rodeck

Pastors

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Worship Participants

Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble

Director of Music Ministries

Brian Bartusch

Communion Bakers

Bull Family

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.**

We give thanks for:

- the diversity of peoples in these countries: their cultures, values and spirituality
- for the resilience of minority religious groups and those on the margins of society such as indigenous communities, Dalits, women, youth, the disabled and sexual minorities, amid discrimination and persecution
- for the contributions of Christians and Christian churches in these countries to education and health services and for their innovative attempts in contextualizing their worship, theology and institutional life
- efforts to forge inter-religious solidarity for the sake of the common good.

We pray for:

- those who struggle to overcome grinding poverty
- Christians and others who selflessly work in the community, their efforts at ensuring the rights of all citizens, and their collaborative work
- efforts to build understanding and harmony among peoples across religious, caste and ethnic identities
- peoples' movements struggling for the rights of women, Dalits, Indigenous peoples, and the integrity of the earth
- leaders to keep priority on the wellbeing of the people and the earth itself amid demands for economic growth.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of May 10, 2026

May 14

Matthias, Apostle

After Christ's ascension, the apostles met in Jerusalem to choose a replacement for Judas. Matthias was chosen over Joseph Justus by the casting of lots. Little is known about Matthias, and little is reported about him in the account of his election in Acts 1:15-26. Matthias traveled among the disciples from the beginning of Jesus' ministry until his ascension. His task, after he was enrolled among the eleven remaining disciples, was to bear witness to the resurrection.

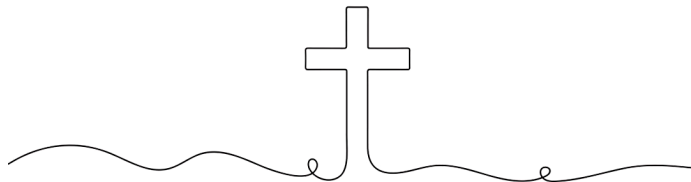
Matthias was formerly commemorated on February 24, though the reason for that date is not known. More recently the Roman Catholic Church moved the celebration to May 14, so that it falls after the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, when Matthias was chosen as an apostle.

The Perspective of Love

It has been said that, on our journey of discipleship, each of us receives new eyeglasses. These glasses have a prescription that filters out all the cobwebs and distractions, giving us the ability to see everything through love. If we wonder what a particular scripture passage means, we read and interpret it through love. If we wonder how to make a big decision, we discern it through love. If we wonder how to respond to a challenging person or situation, we consider responses through the perspective of love.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments,” Jesus says to his disciples (John 14:15). Loving Jesus means keeping his commandments, and keeping his commandments means loving: loving God, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and seeing our neighbors and ourselves in the same way our God of grace and forgiveness sees us.

We are not left on our own to maintain this perspective of love in all that we see, think, say, and do. Jesus promises that he and the Holy Spirit will not only be alongside us but will also live in us forever.



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