

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is May 18, 2025*

+ + +

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

arr. Charles Callahan

WELCOME

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**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.**

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*I Come with Joy*

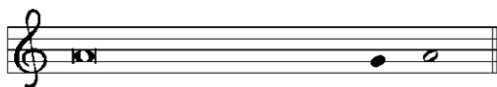
page 15

APOSTOLIC GREETING

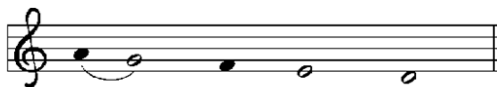
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

KYRIE – *Pastor leads and the assembly responds.*



P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



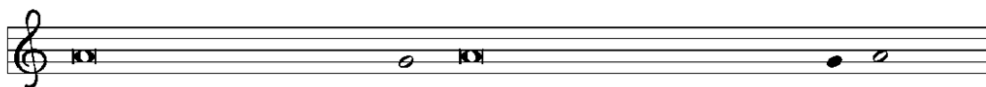
C: Lord, have mer - cy.



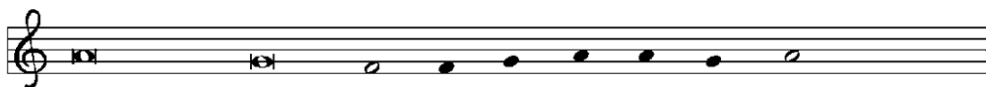
P: For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



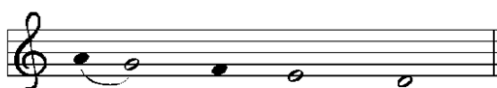
C: Lord, have mer - cy.



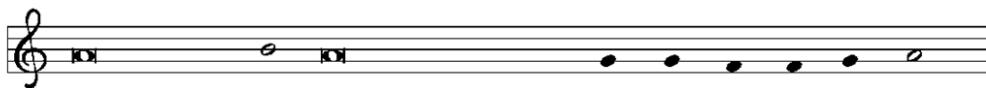
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mer - cy.



P: Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

C: A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE – *sung in unison*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## TEMPLE TALK

*Stewards of God's Generosity*

Gaye DeCesare

## WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

L: A reading from Acts.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said,

‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 148



L: We sing the psalm in unison.

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.**

**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;  
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

**Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.**

**Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,  
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

**Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they | were created,  
who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

**Praise the Lord | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;  
mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;  
wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;  
young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.  
Let them praise the name | of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.  
The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

L: A reading from Revelation.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

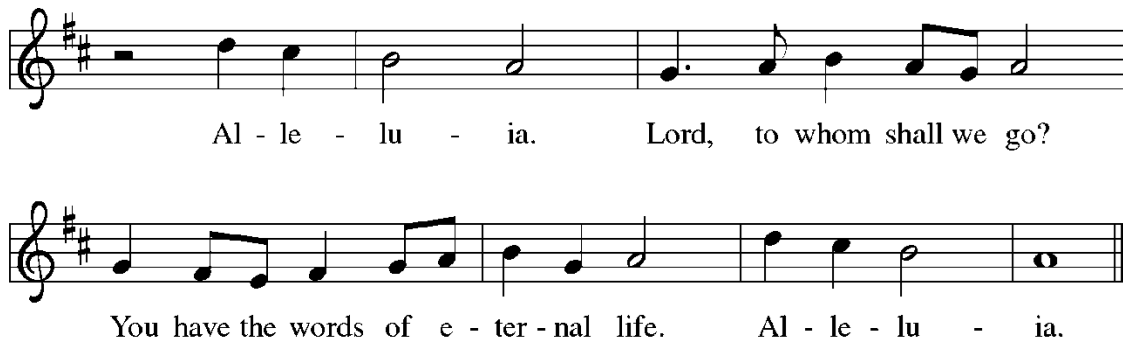
And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

***Where Charity and Love Prevail***

page 16



## NICENE CREED

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one  
Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate  
of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For  
our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and  
was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds  
from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We  
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge  
one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of  
the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

**P:** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,  
the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

**L:** Hear us, O God. **C:** Your mercy is great.

**P:** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are  
always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C:** Amen.

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*The Greatest Gift is Love*  
Choir

Hayes

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

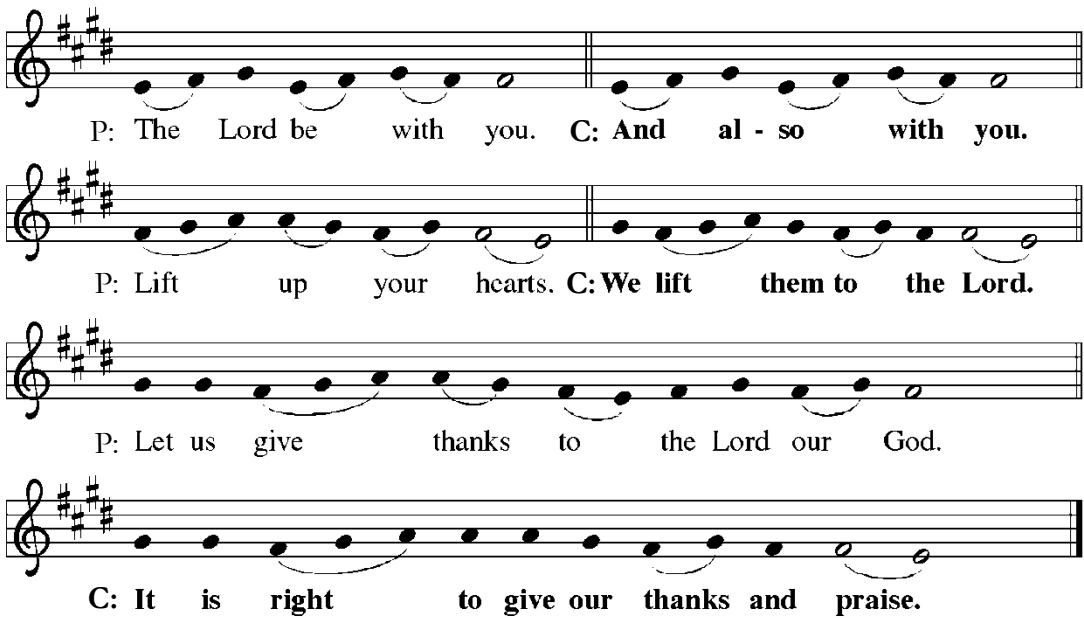
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with stems, and are connected by horizontal lines. A double bar line is present on the first two staves. The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'P:' for the priest and 'C:' for the congregation.

P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

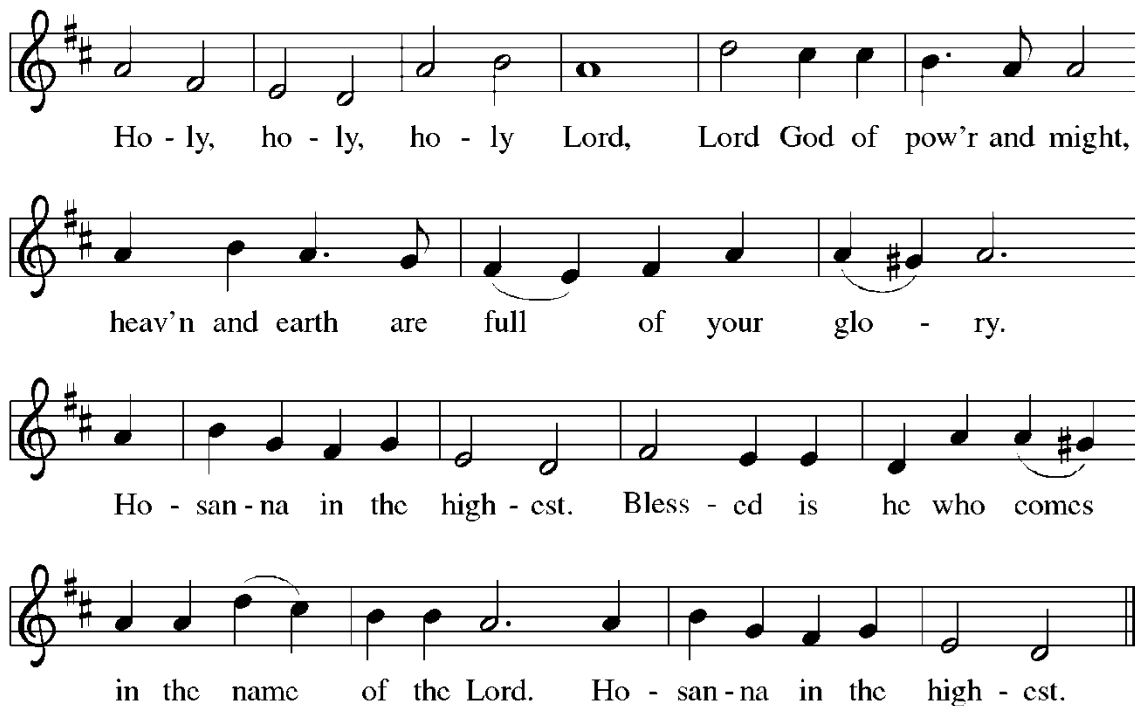
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

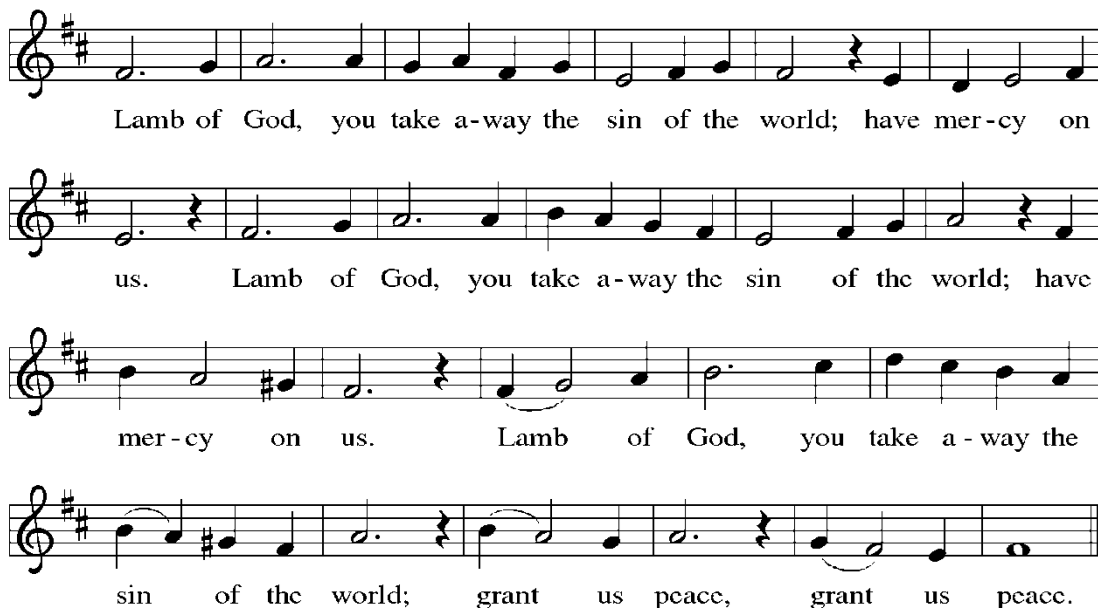
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

***Christ, the Life of All the Living  
Baptized and Set Free***

page 17  
page 18

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

page 19

## DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata Giocosa*

William Mathias

## *I Come with Joy, ELW 482*



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

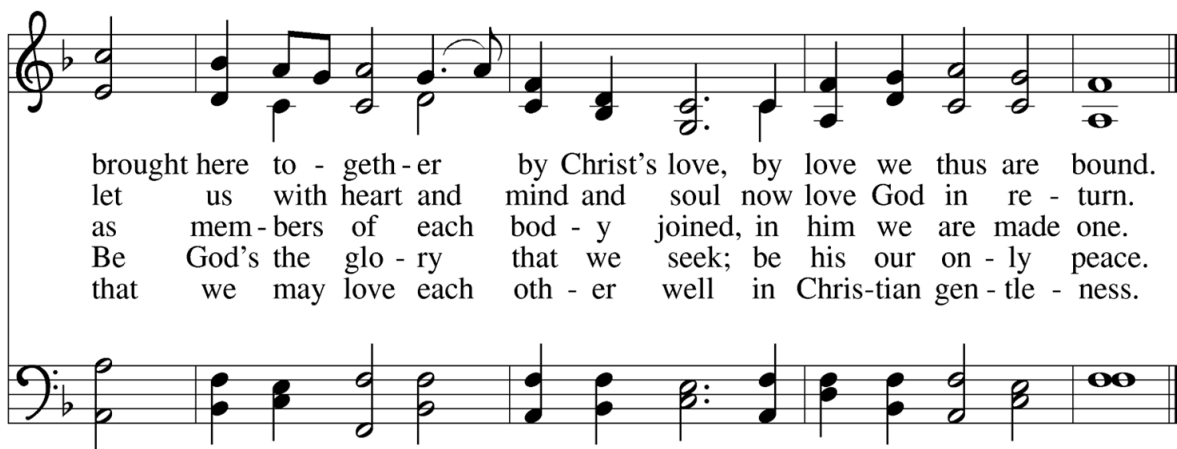


love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

*Where Charity and Love Prevail, ELW 359*



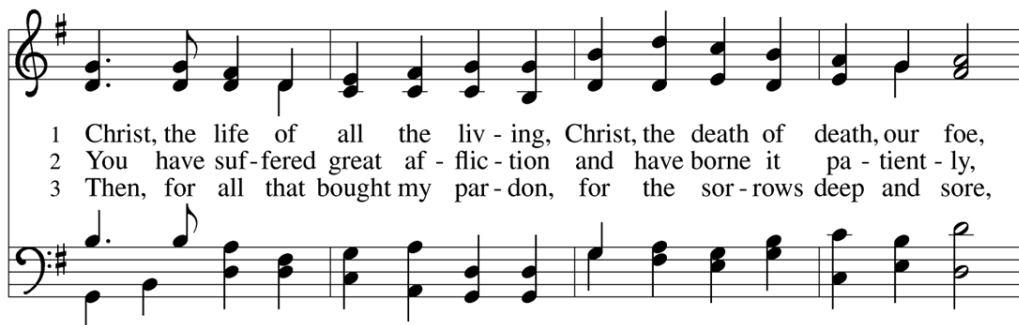
1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



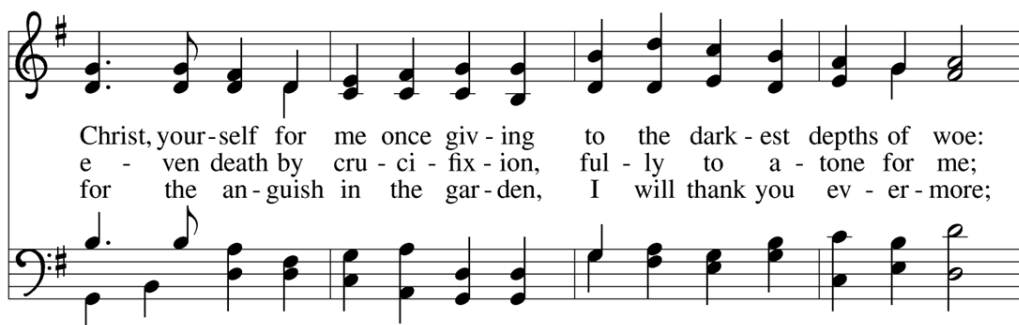
brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.



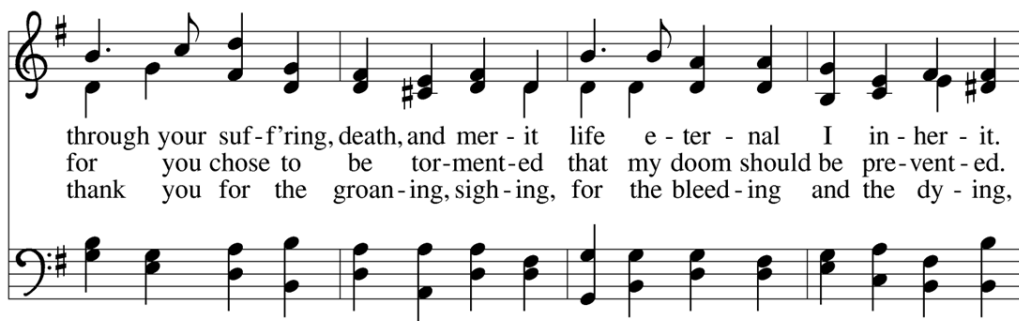
*Christ, the Life of All the Living, ELW 339*



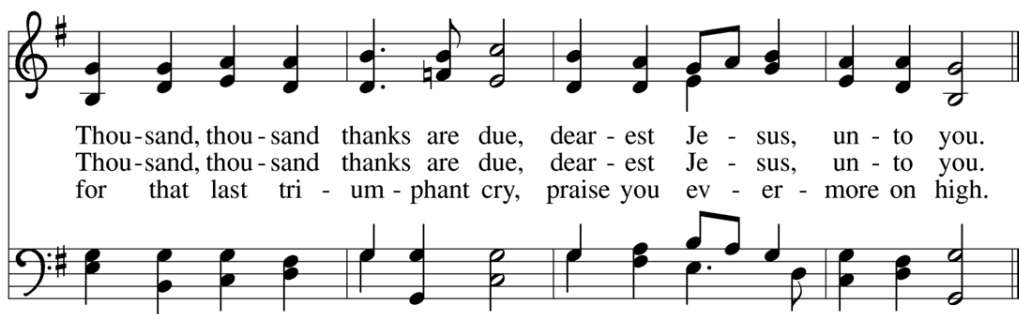
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

## *Baptized and Set Free, ELW 453*



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

*Now the Green Blade Rises, ELW 379*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY ~

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

### **Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's**

Senior Pastor: Pastor Stephen Bohannon	sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren	klundgren@stmatthewsva.org
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn	organist@stmatthewsva.org
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson	stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
Congregation Council President: Dave Strand	councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org
Lector: Amy Lyreman	
Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Finn Riley, Jen Block	
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mark Victorson, Carl Lay	

The Eternal Candle for the month of May is sponsored by  
William Tracey & Katherine Nelson-Tracey,  
*In celebration of the birth of our first great-grandchild—Clara Tracey Gay...*

**For upcoming events and announcements, please visit [stmatthewsva.org](http://stmatthewsva.org)**



*Give online to St. Matthew's—your offerings support the mission of the church  
and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community  
locally, nationally, and internationally.*