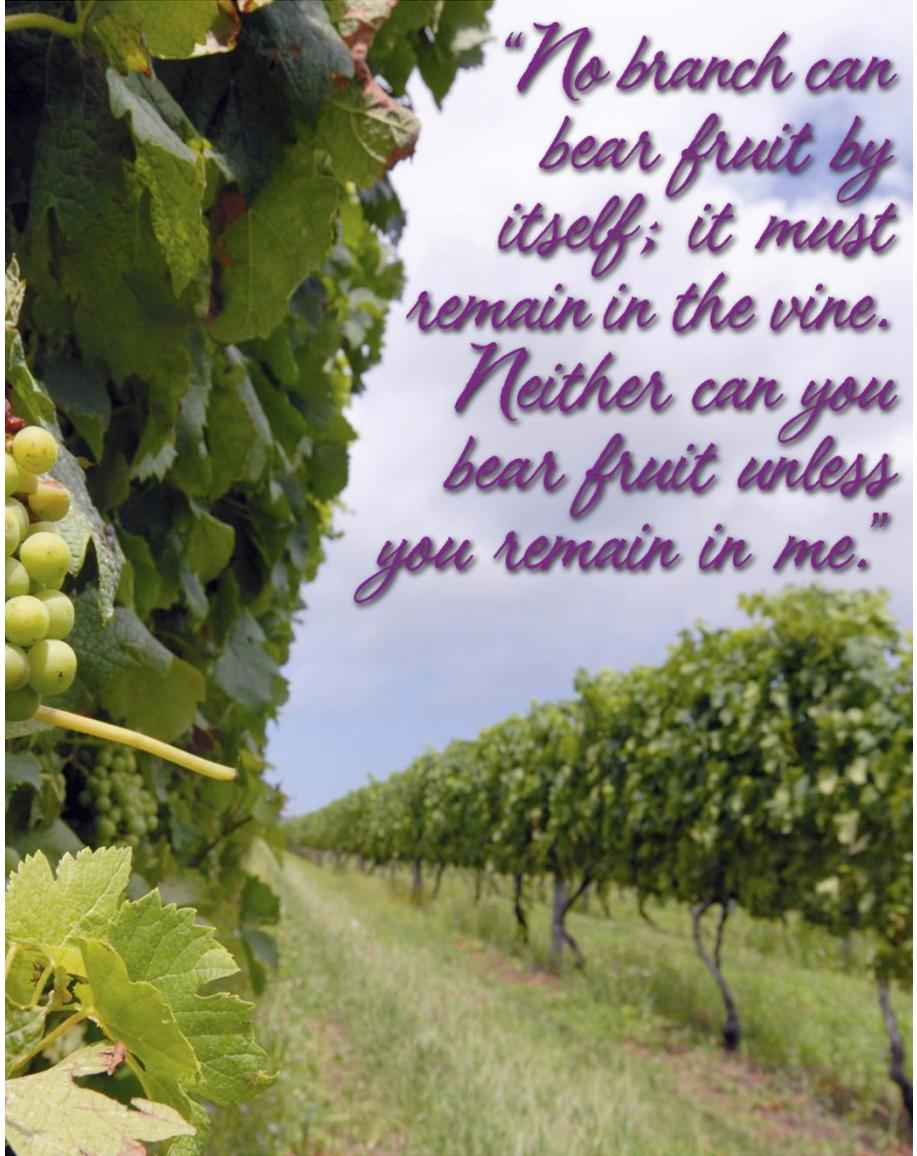


Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & Preschool

Connecting people to Jesus as we gather, grow, and go.



"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 2, 2021

8:00 & 10:45 am

Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church!

We greet you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. We are glad you are worshiping with our family of faith and rejoice with you as God comes to us through His Word this day to bring His gift of forgiveness and life in Jesus.

If you have any questions, please seek out one of the ushers who will be happy to assist you. **Pastor Schultz & Pastor Ada look forward to meeting you at the end of the service.**

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available. Please talk to an usher.

YOUNG CHILDREN We believe that young children need to be brought to Jesus (Mark 10:14); and what better way than to include them in the regular worship life of the congregation! We **DO NOT** have a staffed nursery during church because we **encourage families to worship together.** Children's bulletins and worship activity bags are available to help quietly occupy those children too young to listen to the sermon. Please ask an usher for assistance. Please feel free to use the narthex as a cry room when needed. Monitors and speakers will assist in your participation.

EDUCATION HOUR

Adult Bible Class: Join us at 9:30 am for the series of "Worship."

Sunday School: Classes are offered for children who have turned 3 by September 1 through high school. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating Sunday school classrooms.

Nursery: Until further notice there WILL NOT be a staffed nursery during the Sunday School hour.

HOLY COMMUNION In Holy Communion we celebrate the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ as He gives us His true body and blood in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. In love for God's Word and in love for God's people, we do not want anyone to receive this blessed gift to their spiritual harm (1 Cor. 11:27-29). **Therefore, anyone who wishes to commune here for the first time and who is not a member of Beautiful Savior or a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, is asked to speak with Pastor Schultz or Pastor Ada before receiving Holy Communion.** Those not communing are still welcome to come receive a blessing.



Rev. Joel Schultz, Senior Pastor
Rev. Michael Ada, Associate Pastor
Vicar Luke Elowsky, Student Pastor

A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
13145 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS 66062
Phone: (913) 780-6023 website: www.bsllcs.org

Order of Service: Divine Service 2

AS WE GATHER

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

"God is love," and He has manifested Himself to us by sending *"his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him"* (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, *"he has given us of his Spirit,"* so that we also believe and confess *"that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh."* In this way, we *"abide in him and he in us,"* and we *"love one another"* (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of *"the good news about Jesus"* to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when *"they came to some water,"* the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into *"the true vine,"* Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He *"bears much fruit"* in us (John 15:3–5).

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

Ralph C. Schultz

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING HYMN

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of your Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and to confess our personal and specific sins.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy... and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast



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



B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and 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,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Praise Him

Traditional adapt. Delancy

Chimes Choir

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL VERSE

Common

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

READING THE FAITH *(as drawn from Luther's Small Catechism)*

BAPTISM PART 3

- P** How can water do such great things?
- C** **Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Joel Schultz

SERMON HYMN

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

LSB 691



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

SERMON

Fruitful Branches

John 15:1-8

Pastor Joel Schultz

Stand

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,**

**very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Heavenly Father, You have grafted us onto the vine of Your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from Your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, Your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father and Teacher of all truth, guide teachers and catechumens in Your Word, that they may increase in understanding, faith and love for Christ, the Lamb led to the slaughter in our place and risen from the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, give health and guidance to our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with Your good order. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, You hear and answer Your children in their hour of need. [*Give aid to _____.*] Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to You, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, You are love and always reveal Your love through Your Son. Grant that all who come to Your feast of love may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, so that whoever abides in this love forever abides in You, and You in him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.** *2 Timothy 4:22*
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalm 136*

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS~~(Latin: Holy, Holy, Holy)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C 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



LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-11

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI ~ ~ (Latin: Peace of the Lord)

John 20:19

(The pastor here makes a **declaration** of the peace we have with the Lord through the forgiveness offered in this Sacrament. Therefore, we boldly respond **AMEN!** – which means "Yes, yes, this is so!")

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen!**

AGNUS DEI ~ ~ (Latin: Lamb of God)

John 1:29



C 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, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

VISITORS, please read the statement concerning Holy Communion on page 2.

Personal Examination Before Communing

1. Do I believe I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?
2. Do I believe Christ's true body and blood to be present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins?
3. Do I earnestly intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life?

Instructions for Communing

The congregation will be ushered forward to stand/kneel. You will receive the Body of Jesus from the Pastors and then the Blood of Jesus from the Elder/Vicar. When you have sufficiently referenced the altar, stand and return to your seta for meditation and prayer. Those not communing will receive a blessing from the pastor.

Non-alcoholic white wine is located in the center of each tray and should only be used by those with medical conditions prohibiting the use of wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available from the pastor when you come forward.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5. **Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.**

6. **For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN*O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

LSB 632



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN*Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*

LSB 540



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5. **Christ, the way that leads unfailing
To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
There to share Your wedding feast.**

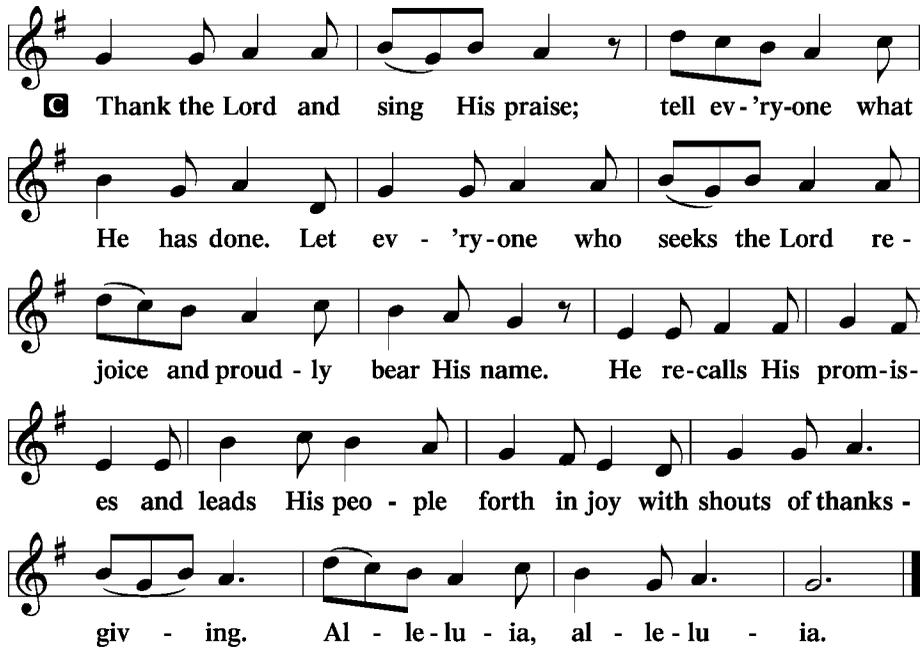
- △ 6. **Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.**

Stand

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you...and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

LSB 477



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:

2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
 See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Harold Rohlig

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service Two from Lutheran Service Book
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Serving the Lord and Us Today:

Preaching	Pastor Joel Schultz
Celebrant.....	Pastor Mike Ada
Liturgist.....	Vicar Luke Elowsky
Organist.....	Deb Miller
Acolytes.....	(8:00) Olivia Travis & Izzy Martinez
.....	(10:45) Leo Bertels
Altar Guild.....	Janette Copeland, Karen Kuhn, Carol Brandt
Counters.....	Randy & Jeanne Kanoy
Altar Flowers.....	Keith & Carolyn Clarke

ALTAR FLOWERS that adorn our altar this morning were given to the glory of God by Keith & Carolyn Clarke in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

VOICE OF THE MARTYRS PRAYER REQUEST

"The Most They Can Do is Kill Me" - Iran

A Muslim religious leader and professor named Hamed began chatting with Christians on a Christian broadcasting website. He was angry that someone would proclaim Jesus as the way and the truth. That conversation turned into Hamed writing in every day with questions. A week later, Hamed wrote to say that he had given his life to Christ secretly, but that he was afraid of the reaction of his family and workplace. "I felt so much peace after reading the Bible," he said. "I studied the Bible thoroughly and searched online for more commentaries on it." Hamed also said the content of what he was teaching his Islam students had changed, and they had noticed. His wife confronted him, and when he revealed he was following Jesus, she threatened to divorce him. "I am now a secret Christian and have to speak to you in private," he wrote. "The most they can do is kill me, but they can't take away my love for Jesus!" Pray that Hamed and other secret believers like him will stand firm in their faith and have a positive influence on those around them.

PRAYERS REQUESTED THIS WEEK

For **Aaron & Martha Reseburg** celebrating the baptism of their daughter, **Eden Ruth**.

For **Gilbert Voice**, Carol Olson's brother, who is recovering from a heart procedure.

For **John Willey**, Andrew Willey's father, diagnosed with COVID.

For **the family of Andrew Nichols**, fiancé of Cassie Ledgerwood, whose grandfather passed away on Thursday, April 22nd.

For **Adison Jones**, a seventh grade student at Hope Lutheran and class mate of Joel Ada, who will be undergoing surgery for a hole in her heart.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

For those recently confirmed: **Thomas Bodenstab, Alex Buckendahl, Katherine Circle, Evan Domsch, Ashley Martinez, Jenna Shelledy, and Addison Theisen**.

For **Andrew & Laura Hefte** as they celebrate the birth of their son, **Jaxon Rhys**.

For **Matt Scruggs**, son of a friend of Tom & Nancy Hawkins, who has terminal cancer.

For **our expectant mothers: Julie Flores, Stephanie (Seutter) Thomas** and their unborn children. Also for those who long for God's gift of children.

For **Susan Mountain, Mary Rinne, Eric Hundley, Ellie Torres, Jenni Patience, Karen Lentz, John Mahnken, Brandon Ryan, Pat Brackin, Ashley Hung, Pat Gossen, Barb Gossen, and Moriah Obermueller** continuing treatments for cancer; for **Sherri Webb** as she continues to recover from her stroke and foot surgery.

For our partner church in Zacapa, Guatemala: Pray the God would help those with Covid. Pray that God would bless this congregation with church members and the community that they would be strengthened and encouraged in His faith as well.

For all those who are unemployed or under-employed, that the Lord would provide for all their needs and lead them to jobs soon. For those who have secured jobs, we offer prayers of thanksgiving.