

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

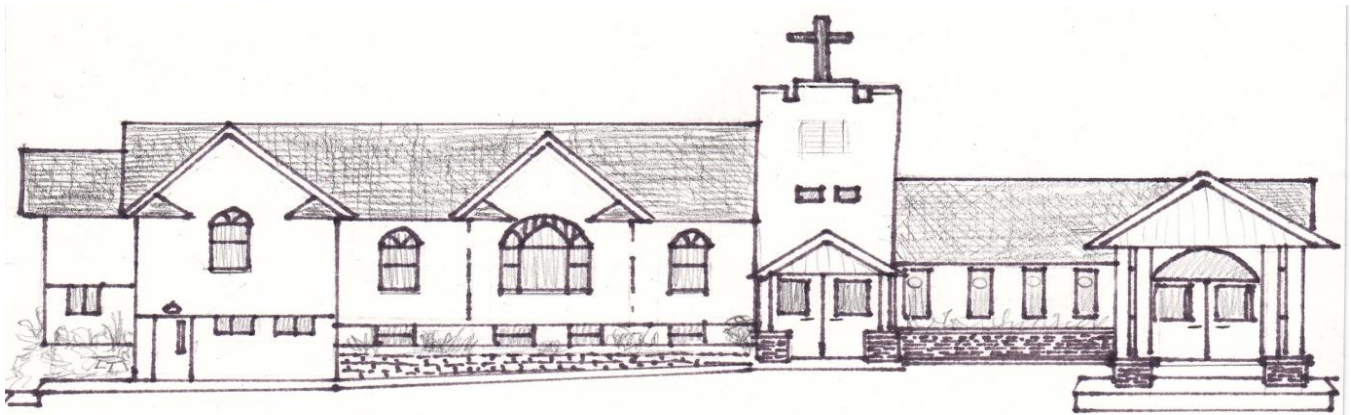
Stpeterlutheranchurch.net

13221 W. Todd School Rd.

Glasford, Illinois 61533

309-389-5342

Pastor Raymond Barclay



Sketch drawn by Alice Diver

Sunday, May 4, 2025
Third Sunday in Easter
Holy Communion

PRELUDE: ORGAN / CLAVINOVA

[*] REQUESTS YOUR RISING IF COMFORTABLE

CALL TO WORSHIP BY OUR CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY:



Introduction to the Worship Service

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

***ENTRANCE HYMN *Borning Cry* (WOV 770)**

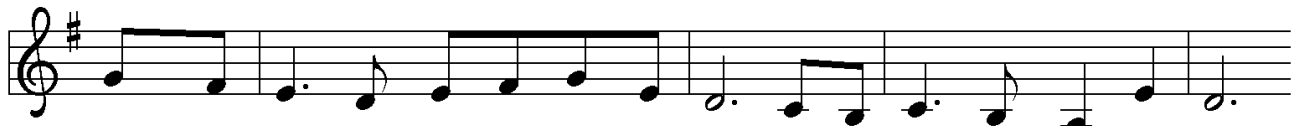
Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some - one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 56)**

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

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

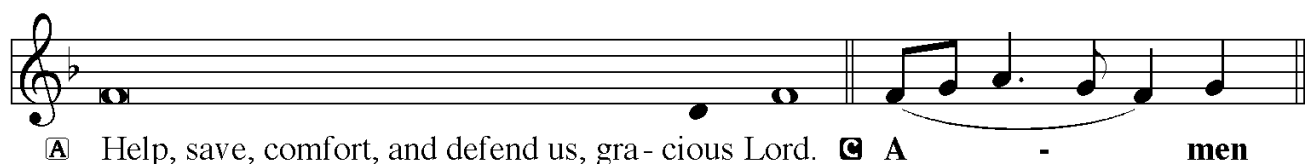
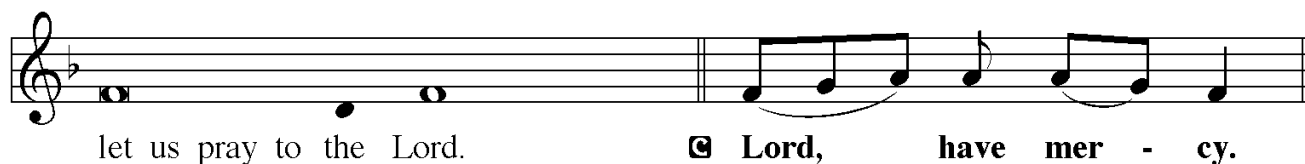
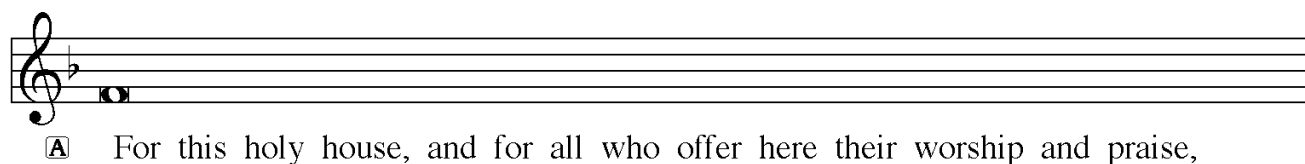
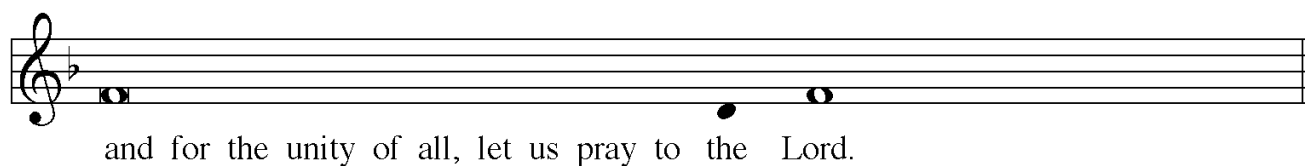
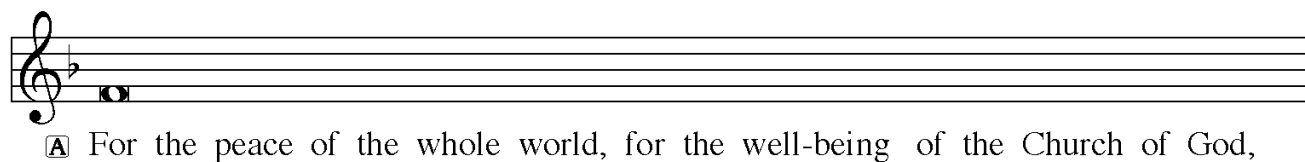
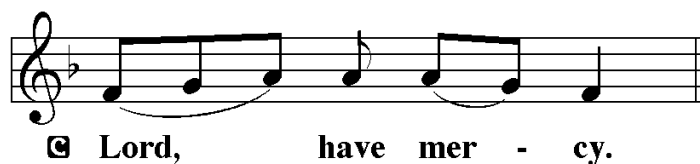
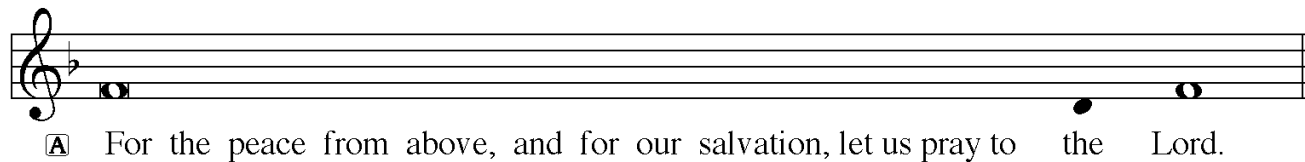
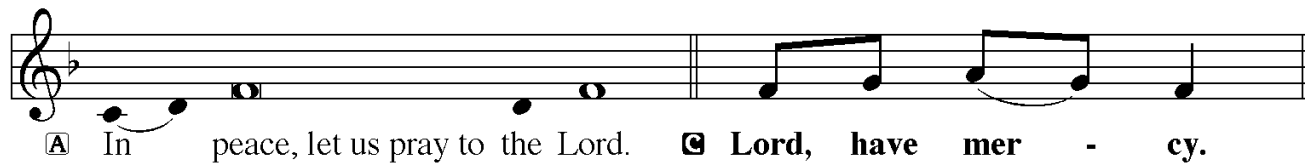
C **Amen**

***INVOCATION (LBW p. 57)**

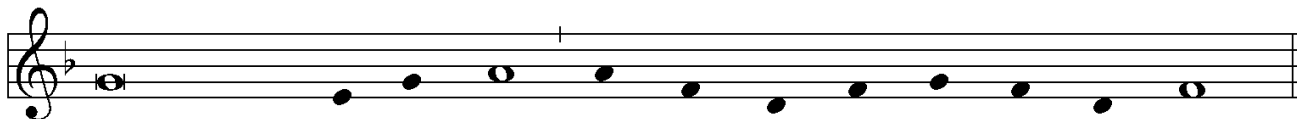
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

***KYRIE (LBW p. 57)**



***HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)**



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . . .

O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

FIRST LESSON: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

The First Lesson is from the 9th chapter of Acts.

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

Here ends the reading.

PSALM: Psalm 30

You have turned my wailing into dancing. (*Ps. 30:12*)

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift-¹ ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph¹ over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried¹ out to you,
and you restored¹ me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O LORD,¹ from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down¹ to the grave.

⁴ **Sing to the LORD, you ser-¹ vants of his;
give thanks for the remembrance¹ of his holiness.**

⁵ For his wrath endures but the twinkling¹ of an eye,
his favor¹ for a lifetime.

⁶ **Weeping may¹ spend the night,
but joy comes¹ in the morning.**

⁷ While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never¹ be disturbed.
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong¹ as the mountains."

⁸ **Then you¹ hid your face,
and I was¹ filled with fear.**

⁹ I cried to¹ you, O LORD;
I pleaded with¹ the Lord, saying,

¹⁰ **"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down¹ to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de-¹ clare your faithfulness?**

¹¹ Hear, O LORD, and have mer-¹ cy upon me;
O LORD,¹ be my helper."

¹² **You have turned my wailing¹ into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed¹ me with joy.**

¹³ Therefore my heart sings to you¹ without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you¹ thanks forever.

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 5:11-14

The Second Lesson is from the 5th chapter of Revelation.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped. Here ends the reading.

*VERSE (LBW p. 62)

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia." The piece ends with a double bar line.

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 21:1-19**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 21st chapter.

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

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY: “HEADING BACK TO THE BOATS ALREADY?”

HYMN OF THE DAY *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (WOV 771)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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***CREED (LBW p. 64)**

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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**

***THE PRAYERS**

- P God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.
- P Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries (*local bodies of water may be named*) so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place (*specific ministries may be named*). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- P We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places (*especially Monica, mother of Augustine*). May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. 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 (LBW p. 66)**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
P Peace be with you.
P Let us share God's peace with one another.

***OFFERING (LBW p. 66)**



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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)**

P Let us pray.

P Blessed are you,

C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

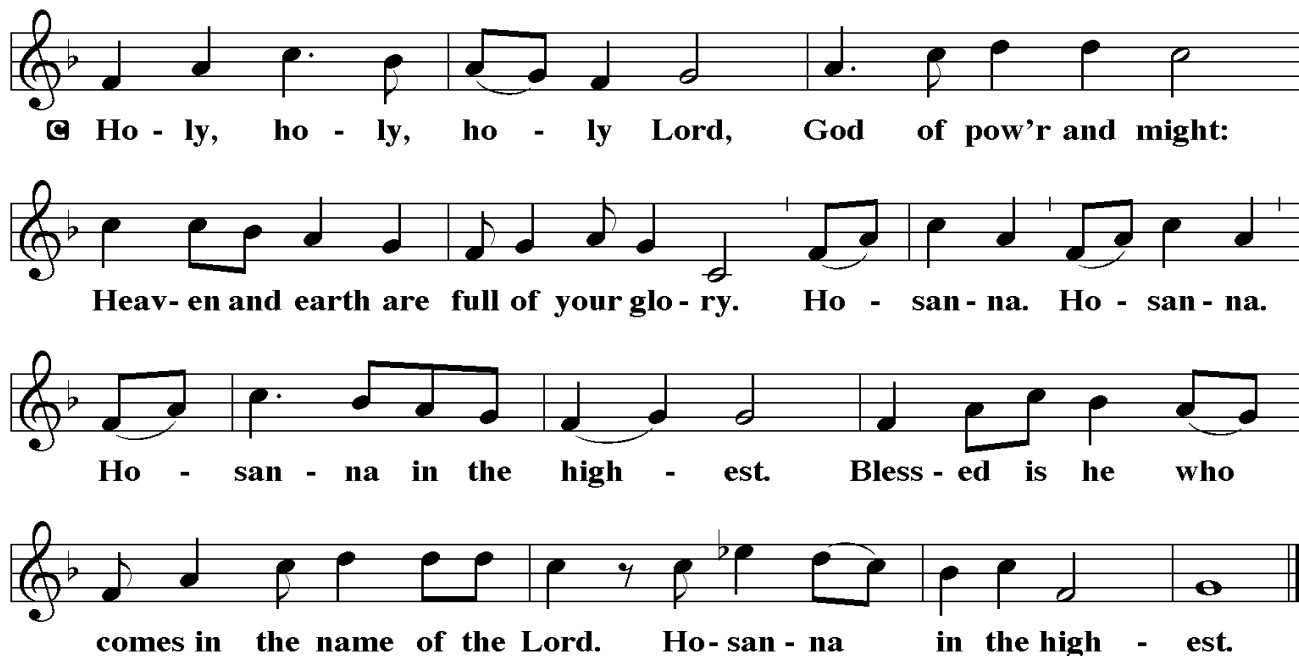
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (LBW p. 68)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS (LBW p. 69)**



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.

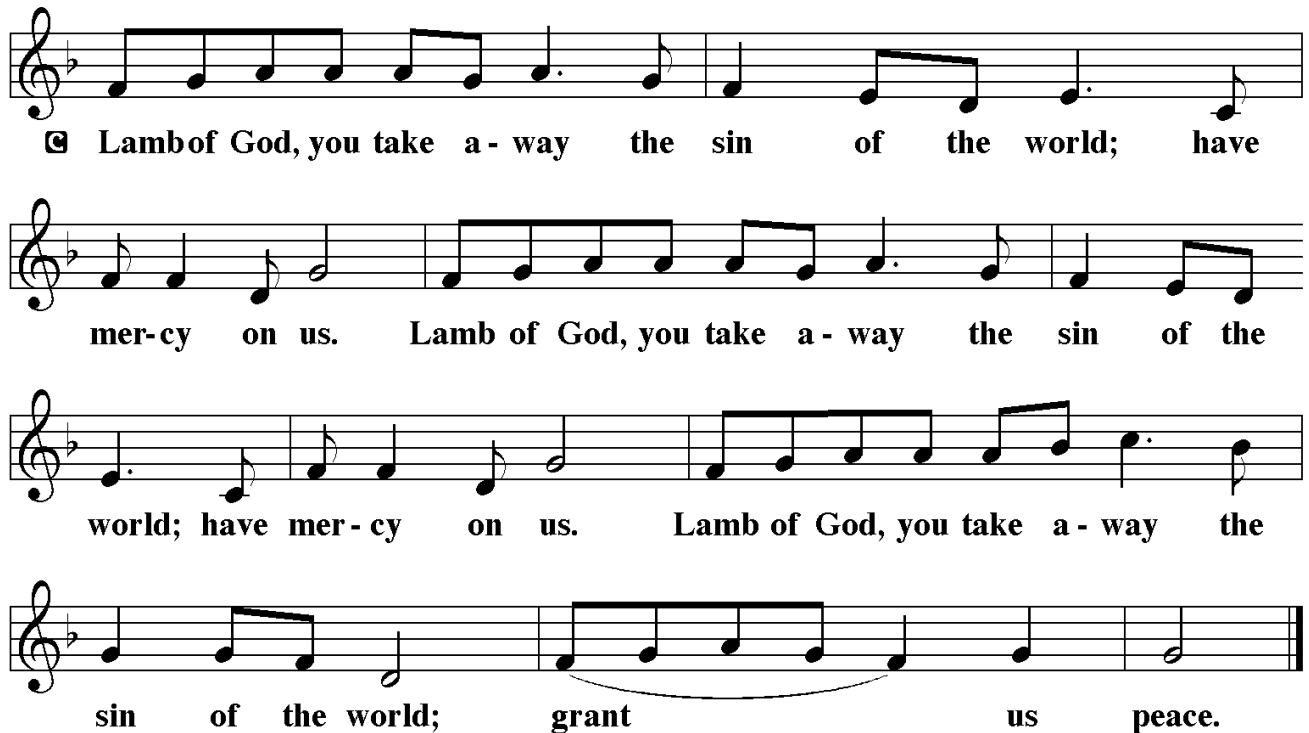
***THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)**

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)**

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.

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)



☐ 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 (LBW p. 71)

P The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky* (LBW 75)

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ-mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the East a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; they but saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the Christ-mas
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions un - to him as
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the Christ-mas star drew nigh.
 Lord and King, un - to him as Lord and King.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
 him whose praise the ages sound.
 We too have a star to guide us
 which forever will provide us
 with the light to find our Lord,
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 As a star, God's holy word
 leads us to our King and Lord;
 brightly from its sacred pages
 shall this light throughout the ages
 shine upon our path of life,
 shine upon our path of life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLAA, Danish, 1830

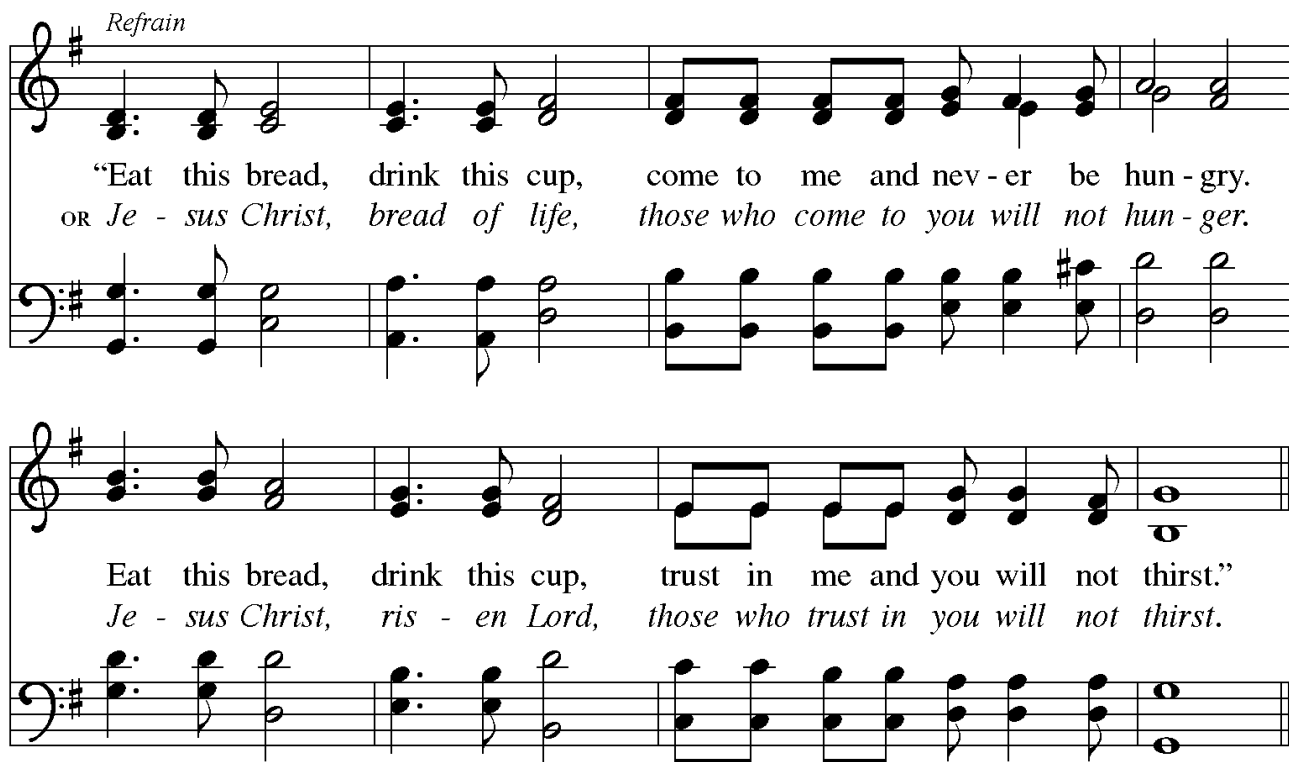
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COMMUNION HYMN *Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life* (WOV 709)

Eat This Bread
Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain



The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system is the Refrain, consisting of two lines of music. The lyrics for the first line are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger." The second system continues the melody with the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." and "Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)**

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

C Amen



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek 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 (LBW p. 74)**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

***BENEDICTION (LBW p. 74)**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen**

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen



REFLECTION

1. What has ever happened to you that caused you to change something about yourself?
2. Do you feel that Jesus has slowed down from asking you to 'follow' Him?
3. Does it make any difference as to 'what side of the boat' you 'fish' from?

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for coming!

~ Strength & Healing Concerns~

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Pam Rabe	Judy Livingston	Pat Janssen	Bill Juraco	Phyllis Fischer
Lyle & Mary Lou Nannen	Judy Wyss	Virginia Mahan		Pat Geltmaker
Richard Sathoff	Ray Hammerich	Cyndi Benson		Carl Satterlee
Dave Kroepel	Linda Meyer	Debra Watkins Grant	Blaza	
Doug Rabe	Alice Lopez	Derek Cruitt		Heather Hayden
Lisa Pate	Marsha Shafer	Greg Strickfaden		Marie Haage
Greg Sewell	Linda Hollenback	Kendall Manwaring		

And All Soldiers Serving Our Country

~ ST. PETER HAPPENINGS ~

****Don't forget to pick up your May Messenger before you leave! ****

May 4th – Communion Sunday

Rachel's Day

May 11th – Non-Communion Sunday

May 14th – 9am Sewing

6pm Council Meeting

May 17th – 8am Men's Breakfast @ Glasford Baptist

WELCA ladies are in need of sheets & fabric for quilting. Any size or type, we can even use flannel as batting.

We are also in need of cash donations for sewing kits. The average sewing kit costs \$15-20.00. Joann Fabrics is going out of business so I can get quilting material at a discount. Please give donations to Colleen, Alice, or Renee.

Thank you in advance!

Thank you to all the Spring Clean-up Crew!

- Charles & Karen Rice
- Bobbie Dean
- Sharon Phelps
- Joan Scott
- Lynne Huey
- Darrell Moore
- Tom & Rosemary Haynes
- Ed Fischer
- Marilyn Strickfaden
- Trish Deppermann

Thanks so much!!

~ THANK YOU ~

MUSIC:	Linda Garmon
READER:	Rosemary Haynes
GREETER:	Council
COMM ASSTS:	Karen Randle
	Gary Rosenbohm
	Loren Benson

Would you like to be part of a committee to pick out parking lot lanterns? The council feels we should repair / replace them now while we are updating the island trees & lot. Contact Alice if interested.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

May 4, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Grace upon Grace

The risen Christ is difficult to recognize at first. According to today's gospel reading from John, even as he approached his disciples on the beach, they "did not know that it was Jesus" (John 21:4). Neither did Mary Magdalene recognize him outside the tomb on Easter morning. She assumed he was the gardener (20:14-15). Apparently, resurrection changes Jesus to the extent that he appears a stranger even to his closest friends.

That is, until he makes himself known to them again. In Mary's case, he simply speaks her name. "Rabbouni! Teacher!" she replies, newly hopeful as she carries the good news to the others (20:16-18). For the disciples in the fishing boat, it is a miraculous catch that brings Jesus' identity to light. "It is the Lord!" the beloved disciple says to Peter, who promptly dives overboard to reach Jesus on the shore (21:7).

As the story draws to a close, Jesus returns to his disciples with signs that he will continue to be with them. He calls them by name, feeds them with abundance, and invites them again into lives of purpose: "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep" (21:17). In this way, the end of the Gospel of John recalls the beginning. Jesus, crucified and risen, continues to grant his followers "grace upon grace" (1:16).

Moreover, the end of John signals the beginning of Jesus' ministry alongside disciples through the ages. The risen Jesus is a mystery to us too. We may not readily recognize him in the course of daily life. Yet even as he is hidden from view, he is also revealed. In baptism, he calls us by name. At his table, he feeds us with abundance. At the doorways of our gathering places, he invites us again and again into lives of purpose. Grace upon grace.

Christ is risen indeed. Come, follow him!

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