

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*ELW Holy Communion Setting 3*  
*April 28, 2024*  
*10:00 a.m.*



**Christ the Servant**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Those bringing you today's service include:  
Rev. Kenny Champagne, Presiding Minister  
Alexander Bean, Minister of Music  
Mark & Lisa Schoepfle, Lay Readers  
Walter Richardson, Cantor  
Peter Metaxotos, Usher and Communion Preparation

**A Note for Families:**

Christ the Servant embraces all the wiggles and giggles that the youngest in our midst might make! It can be challenging to have young ones in worship, but research shows that one of the best ways to pass along your faith to a child is by worshiping with them. So, bring them to worship! The noise of children is the sound of a church that is full of life. There are children's activity bags available if needed and children will be invited forward during worship for an interactive message just for them.

**WELCOME**

Whether you are a long-time member or a first-time guest, your presence is a blessing to us! Let us know that you are worshiping with us by scanning this QR code with your phone and completing the form. We promise to protect your information and would like to help you get connected to the mission and ministries of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church. Thank you for worshiping.

Please stand

**CONNECTION CARD****EASTER ACCLAMATION**

He is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**ENTRANCE HYMN****Take Me to the Water**

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,  
 2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,  
 3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,  
 4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.



take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
 I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.  
 he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.  
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
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.

*Refrain*  
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.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of  
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## READING: Acts 8:26-40

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

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

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
 Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 22:25-31 (Sung Responsively)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the <sup>l</sup> great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>l</sup> fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat <sup>l</sup> and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>l</sup> live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>l</sup> to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow <sup>l</sup> before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs <sup>l</sup> to the LORD,**

**who rules o- <sup>l</sup> ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>l</sup> down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>l</sup> fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall <sup>l</sup> serve the LORD,**

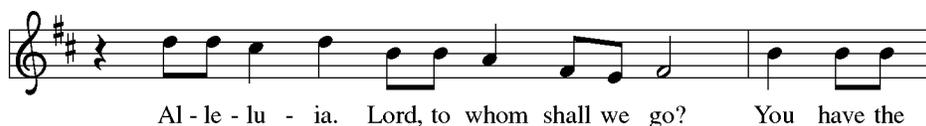
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>l</sup> tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>l</sup> yet unborn,

saying to them, "The <sup>l</sup> LORD has acted!"

*Please stand*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 447) "O Blessed Spring"**

## **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 OF INTERCESSION**

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to request any prayers you'd like lifted up either publicly in worship or privately by our prayer team or pastor. Scan this QR code and complete the prayer request form to have your prayers included in the coming weeks.*

## **PRAYER & CARE REQUESTS**



## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

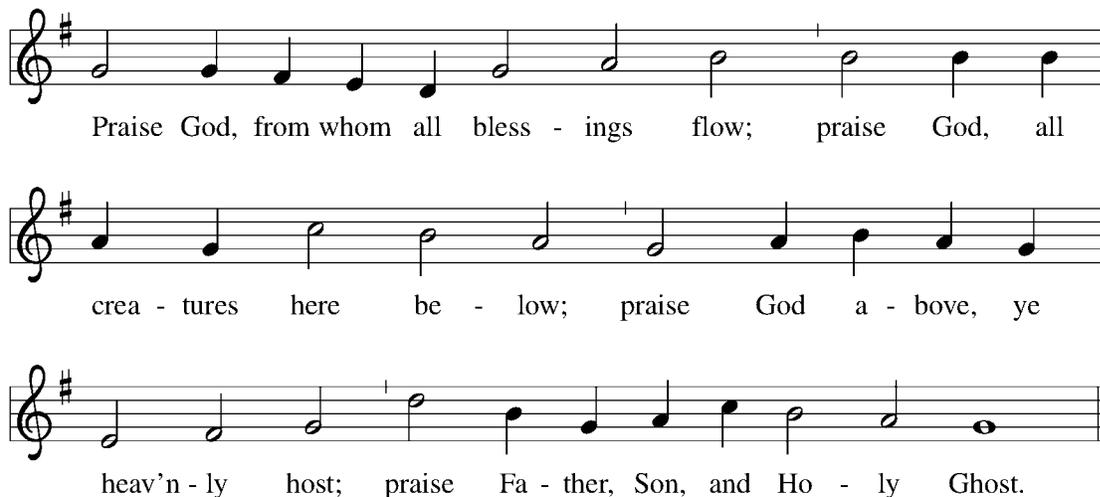
*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*

B. Wayne Bisbee

*Please stand*

## DOXOLOGY

### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord!**

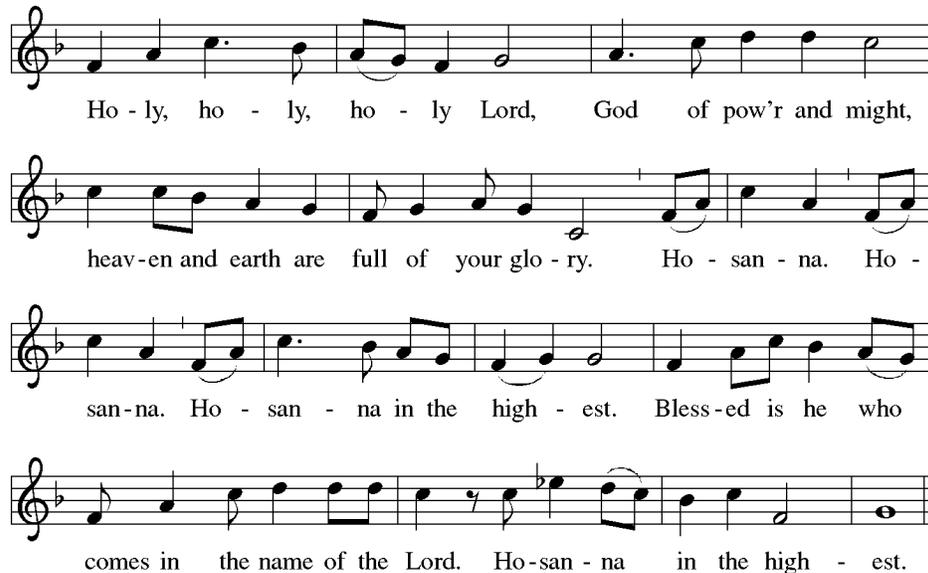
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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 AT THE TABLE

See, God's home is among us. God will dwell with us as our God. We will be God's people, and God will be present to us.

**God will wipe every tear from our eyes. Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.**

Christ has died! Christ IS risen!  
**Christ will come again!**

It was in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it saying:

**"This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

And 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 sins. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Send your Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of all people  
With courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let all God's people say Amen!  
**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

*Please be seated*

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*Communion is offered to all who choose to partake in the meal, no matter your age, your faith, or circumstances, this meal is for YOU! Communion is done through intinction. As you come forward through the center isle you will be handed a piece of bread and then invited to dip it into either wine or grape juice. If you accidentally eat the bread before dipping, you may request another piece of bread. Gluten free options are available, please ask when receiving the bread. Our communion bread was made in a commercial bakery and may contain, or may have been exposed to, one or more of the following allergens: peanuts, tree nuts, sesame, milk, eggs, wheat, soy.*

## COMMUNION SONG



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 MUSIC

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
**Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **MISSION MOMENTS**

*Please stand*

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord makes his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord looks upon you with every favor and gives you peace.

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

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG (ELW 452) "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"**

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Celebrate! Think! Serve!

**Thanks be to God.**

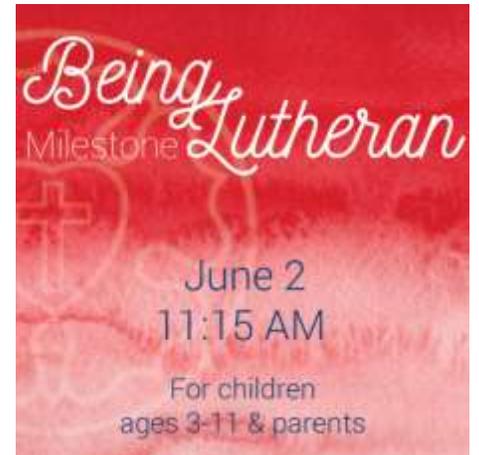
*The service is now ended. You may feel free to depart in peace or you are welcome to stay and enjoy the postlude.*

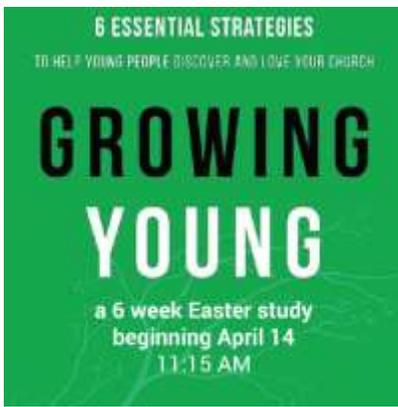
## **POSTLUDE**

*Azmon*

Alexander Bean

# Save the Date

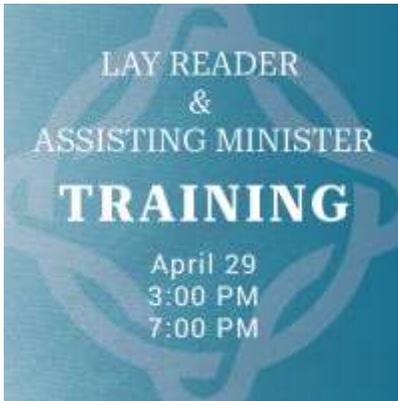




**April 14 – May 19 Following Worship**  
You are invited to explore the characteristics of congregations that are “Growing Young” and how we are called to new life as a community of faith, every day! Order the book if you’d like to read along by scanning the QR code to find the book on Amazon.

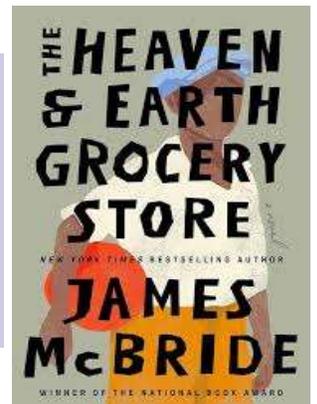


**May 10**  
Help your neighbor as together we sort food at Cornerstones new Food Hub which is distributed to local food pantries across the region! Sign up through Cornerstones volunteer portal on our website. Space is extremely limited so sign up TODAY!  
[www.ChristServes.org/serving-others](http://www.ChristServes.org/serving-others)



Whether you are already a Lay Reader or if you’d like to start helping read and assist in worship, you are invited to one of two training times on Monday, April 29 to learn more about these worship leadership roles. From reading scripture to helping to serve communion and other parts of the liturgy, *your* help is needed to continue to make our worship excellent!

The CTS book club will meet on May 18 discussing *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Story* by James McBride. The New York Times describes the book as "A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel.... Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing." Peg & Vaughn Siegenthaler are hosting at their home, please RSVP ([msiegent@aol.com](mailto:msiegent@aol.com)) by May 15 as a light lunch will be served.



Our very own Margaret Tambi is responding to God’s call and helping her nephew lead a revival in Sierra Leone this winter. She is in need of support through donations of specific items. A list of needs can be found on our website.  
[www.ChristServes.org/serving-others](http://www.ChristServes.org/serving-others)

We continue to collect food for the families of South Lakes High School. A list of needs and details can be found on our website at...  
[www.ChristServes.org/serving-others](http://www.ChristServes.org/serving-others)

