



Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

We hope you feel welcome here.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked * and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you. At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. by Cindy Berry
Debbie Witt, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT

New Hope for Families

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

C: In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

P: Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

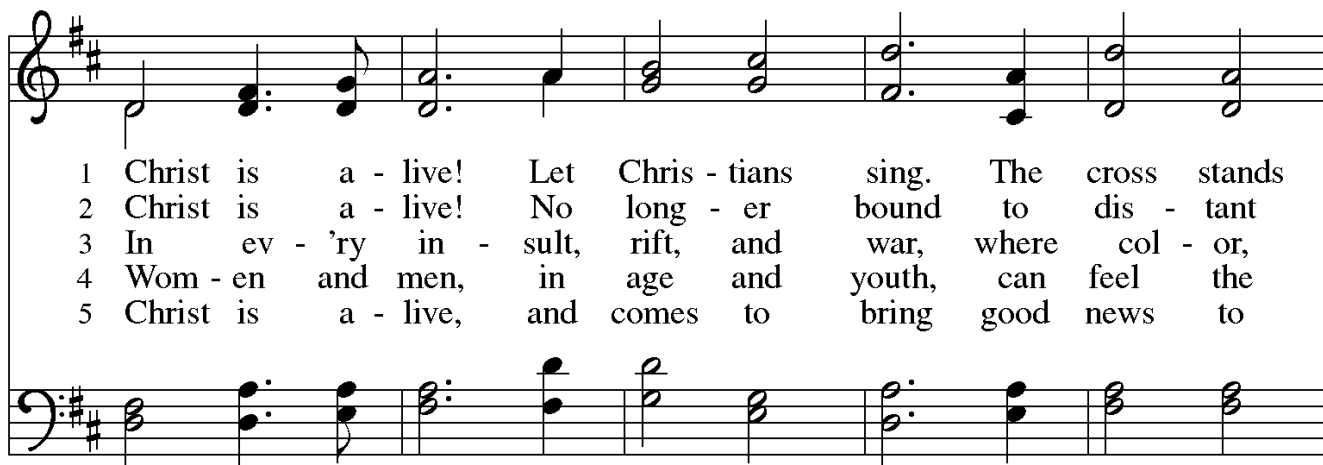
C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN


Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW#389

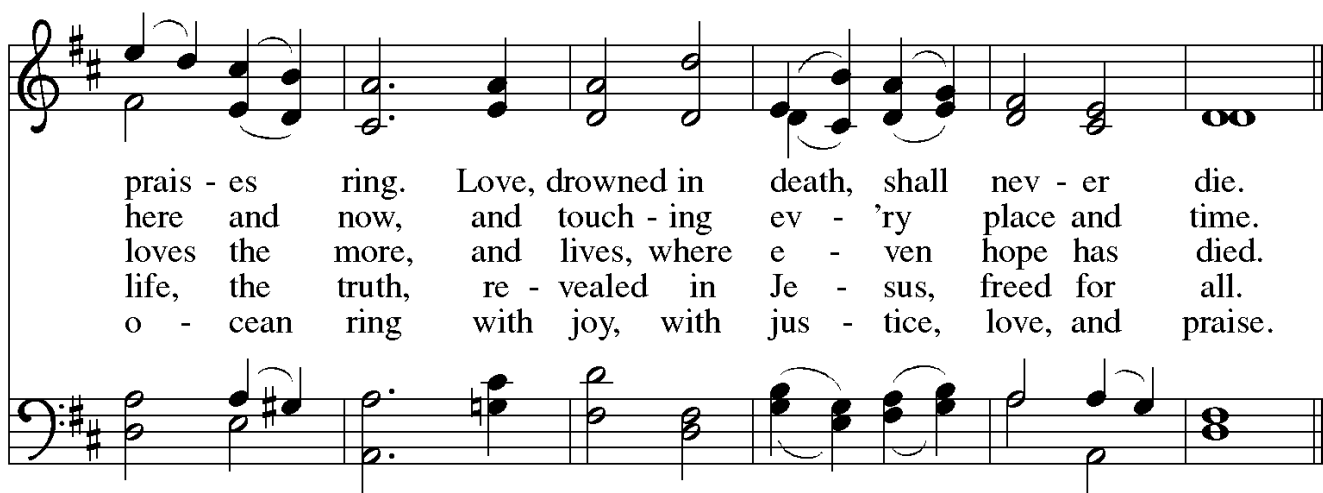
Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

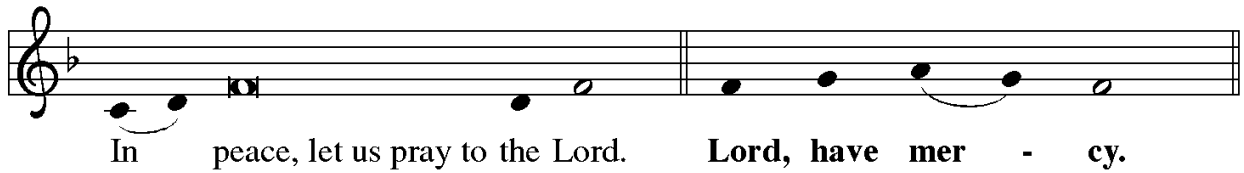
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*GREETING

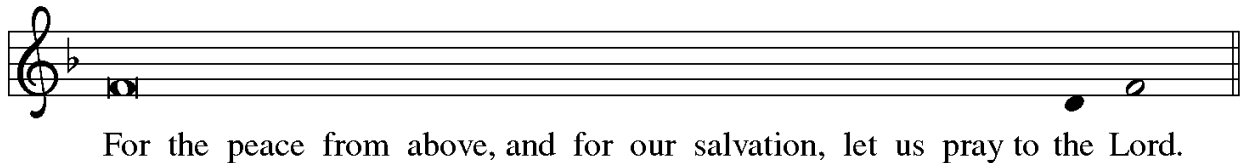
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

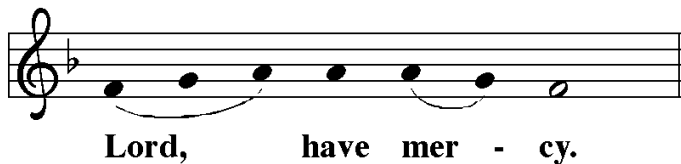
*KYRIE



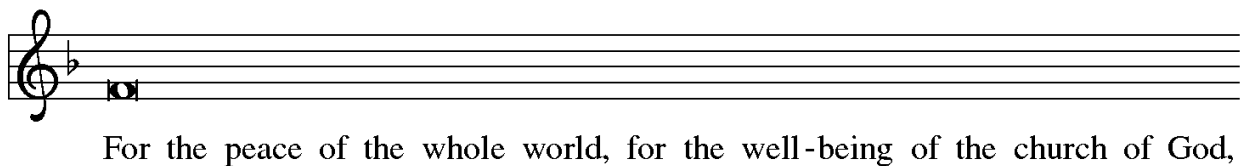
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



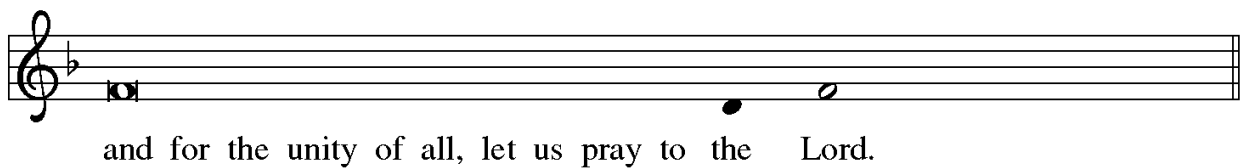
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



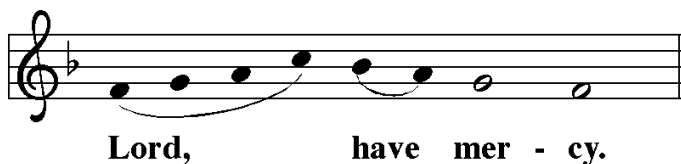
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do and suffered alongside all of creation. In our trials, may we recognize your presence with us at all time and in all things and trust that your loving grace enfolds us for all eternity, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by divine authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

¹¹Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.
¹²**Who among you takes plea- | sure in life
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**
¹³Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.
¹⁴**Turn from evil | and do good;
seek peace | and pursue it.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-14

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become sluggish in hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives

on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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.

***HOLY GOSPEL** John 5:24-29, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes the One who sent me has eternal life and does not come under judgment but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son

of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Creator has life in the Creator's self, so the Creator has granted the Son also to have life in the Son's self, and the Creator has given him authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out: those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Lecia Beck

*HYMN OF THE DAY

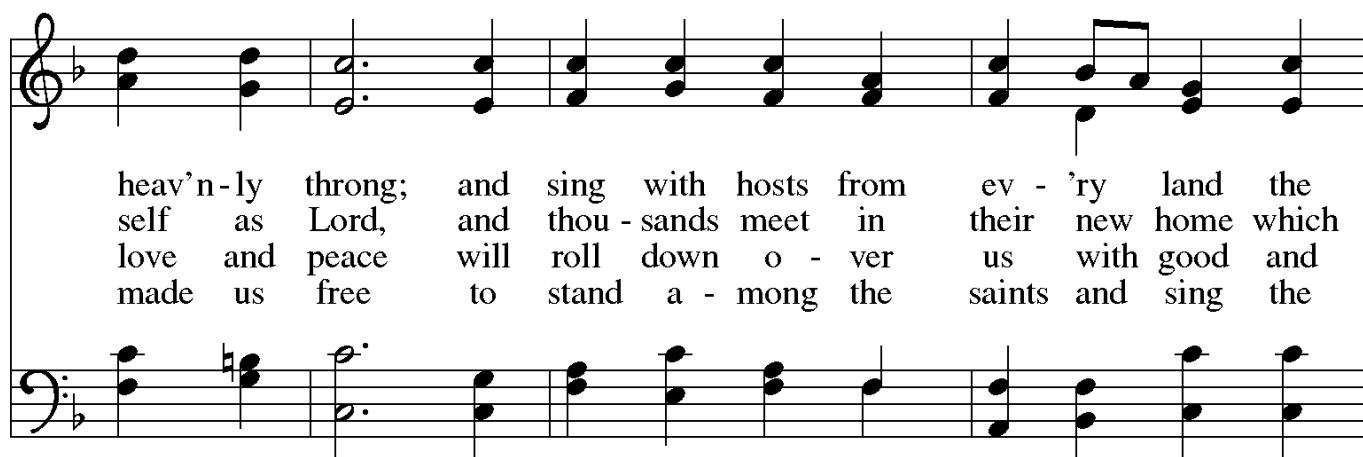
Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

ELW#441

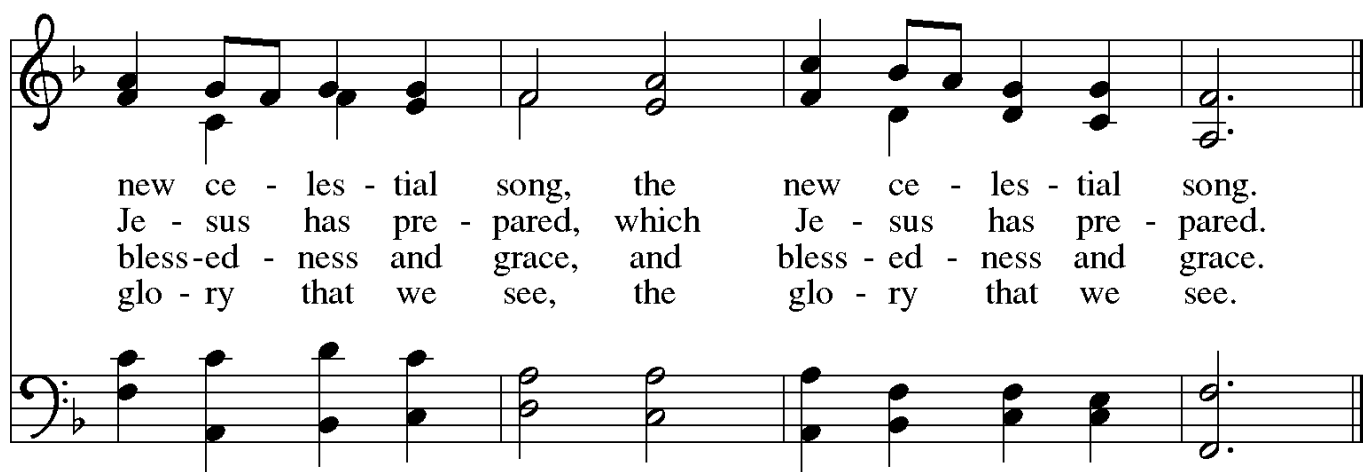
Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; text sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***NICENE CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: God our Salvation, you call us into new life. Draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life. Equip your church with compassion and new vision to serve Christ's mission to the world. Bless our Sister Parish, Iglesia Santo Domingo de Guzman in Chichipate, Guatemala, and unite us with them in Easter joy. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Womb of Creation, every living thing belongs to you. Energize our care for the natural world, especially Indiana endangered species: the Trumpeter Swan, the Barn Owl, and the Marsh Wren. Bless trees and all who plant them on Arbor Day, especially our three-congregation tree planting with Beth Shalom, University Baptist, and

Canopy Bloomington. May the trees of the fields clap their hands. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Ark of Safety, your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. Guide the leaders of all nations with your wisdom. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence and discord and bring peace to Iran, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Ukraine, and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our Strength, you pour out your love on those who are oppressed or discouraged. Support and comfort all who are marginalized, especially those who suffer the cruelties of racial or ethnic prejudice. Give protection to the vulnerable and abused, better housing and worthy employment to the mistreated, strength to parents and caregivers, and hope to children and youth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Compassionate God, our hearts are restless until we find our rest in you. Meet the deepest needs of all who suffer, that together we may taste and see the goodness of God, Elif, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Evelyn, Helen, Jacky, Lois, Keri, Marcia, Robert. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints, especially Mark the Evangelist whom we commemorate this week. As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by the door or you can also give on our website (stlconline.org). St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners.



8:30 a.m.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Kyrie

Franz Schubert

11 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

The First Song of Isaiah

Jack Noble White

*OFFERTORY HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

ELW#619

Verses 1 and 3

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
 3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
 4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
 guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
 wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my

once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
 me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry soul to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.</p> | <p>7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;
 he lives my mansion to prepare;
 he lives to bring me safely there.</p> |
| <p>6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 he lives and loves me to the end;
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!</p> | <p>8 He lives, all glory to his name!
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;
 what joy this blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!</p> |

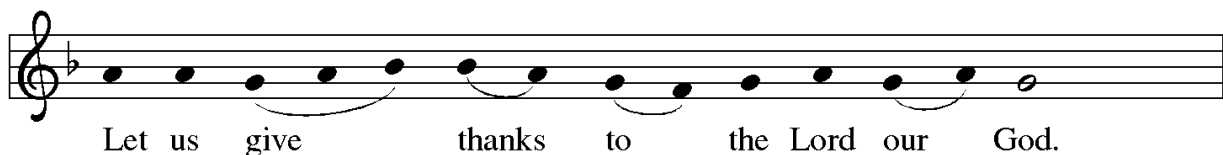
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: 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:



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. Blessed is the one who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. German is provided on the next page.

**C: 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.**

Vater Unser, der Du bist im Himmel.
Geheiligt werde Dein Name.
Dein Reich komme,
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, also auch
auf Erden.
Unser täglich Brot gib uns heute
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.
Führe uns nicht in Versuchung
sondern erlöse uns vom Bösen,
denn Dein ist das Reich und die
Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers are offered with pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

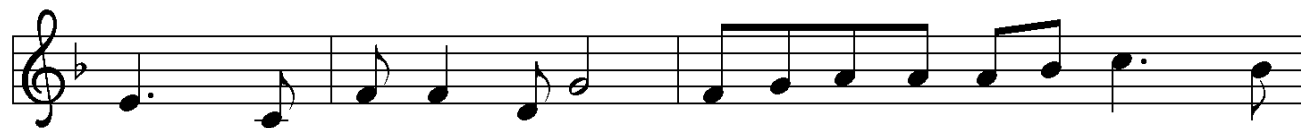
LAMB OF GOD



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



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



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



sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Master, Let Me Walk With You

ELW#818

I Want to Walk as Child of the Light

ELW#815

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.
Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a-like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit-y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

*EUCHARISTIC BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.


C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

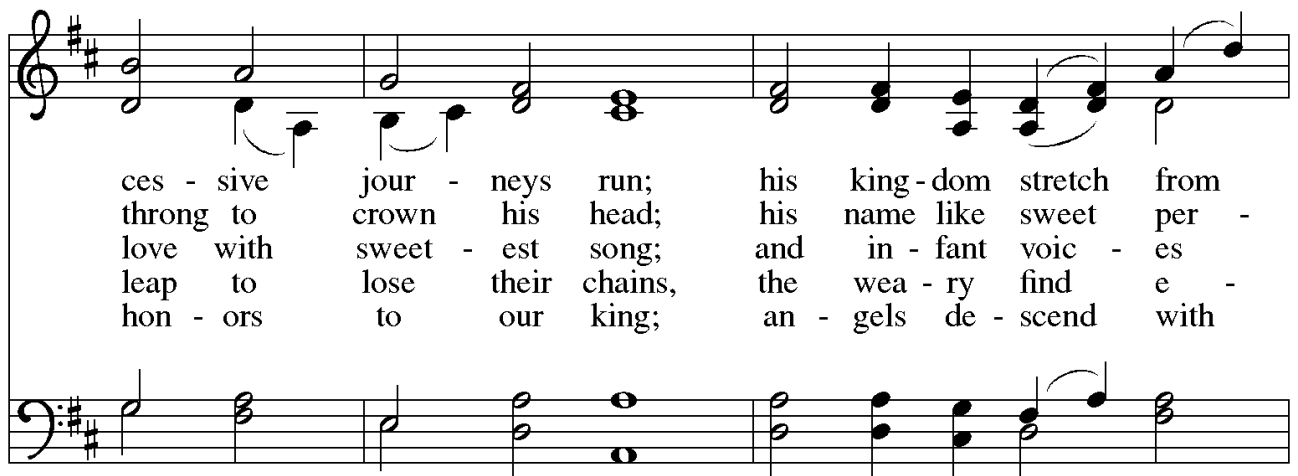
Jesus Shall Reign

ELW#434

Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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Today's readings are selected from
A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A
by Wilda C. Gafney.

The texts for the scripture readings are from the
New Revised Standard Version,
emendations are provided by
the pastoral staff of St. Thomas.

At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday April 23

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum:

Creation Care Committee

11 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting

Thursday April 27

10 a.m. Unmasked Exhibit at IU

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday April 29

10 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday April 30

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum: Sister Parish

11 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Annual Congregation Meeting

3 p.m. Collaborative Tree Planting

Condolences

The St. Thomas community offers condolences to Shirley Mingee on the death of her brother, Larry West, which occurred on April 17, 2023. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Announcements

Annual Program Meeting

The Annual Program Meeting of St. Thomas Lutheran Church will occur on **Sunday, April 30 after the 11 a.m. service (around 12:15 p.m.)**. This meeting will be in a hybrid format, and you can join here: <https://bit.ly/3JIP7D2>. Annual reports should be submitted to the church office as soon as possible. The full bulletin of reports, agenda, and nominations for elected roles will be available in the weeks leading up to the meeting.

New Hope for Families "Come to the Well"

Both **today and Next Sunday April 30**, come gather with us around the well displayed in the narthex! To celebrate our congregation's partnership with New Hope for Families, we are taking up a special collection. We are requesting baby wipes (for sensitive skin), toilet paper, liquid hand soap refills (must **not** be antibacterial), and Kroger gift cards/cash/checks. All congregants, including the youngest among us, are invited to bring coins to place in the well. Your continued generosity is helping to move families in Monroe County from homelessness to stability.

Three-Congregation Tree Planting Day

Celebrate Arbor Day with Beth Shalom, University Baptist, St. Thomas, and CanopyBloomington--a local non-profit created to maximize Bloomington's tree canopy and sustainably manage Bloomington's urban forest--with **an all-ages tree planting event on April 30 at 3 p.m.** CanopyBloomington is providing the trees free of charge to the congregations and will provide education about tree planting and maintenance. Sign up on the Welcome Desk to join us.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at St Thomas Lutheran Church will be **Tuesday, May 30 through Thursday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Students in seventh through twelfth grade are invited to help. Lunch will be provided. The cost will be \$20/child, with a \$50/family maximum. Financial assistance is available. Online registration is open now and will close on May 1. For any questions, to volunteer or to request financial assistance, please contact Pastor Lecia, Pastor of Youth & Christian Nurture.

Choir Concert and Reception

We celebrate Easter and acknowledge spring has officially arrived though the weather has not made up its mind! During this season we anticipate the St. Thomas Spring Adult Choir Concert on **Sunday, May 7, at 4 p.m.** Following the concert, there will be a reception held in Heritage Hall. The congregation is invited to contribute time and/or food items to the reception if possible. An information / sign-up form is on the Welcome Desk in the narthex. If you are able to contribute in some way, please indicate with your name in the area of interest. Bless you for your thoughtful consideration.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Elif Ogan, Caretta Van Ruler, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Audrey Alpers, Deborah O'Brien, Mike Ost, Bob Osborn, Andrew Halvorson, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Jan Coulter, Evelyn Niemeyer, Helen Kane, Jacky Harner, Lois Selk, Keri Smith, Marcia Wade, and Robert Cooper.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at skcolston@aol.com to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Care: Shirley Minge, Charlene Braun

Bread & Wine: Kathleen Boggess

Coffee Crew: Susan Goodison

8:30 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Kris Stewart

Lectors: Kent & Barb Unger

Ushers: Jim & Marti Doering

Communion Steward: Kathleen Boggess

Greeters: Shirley Minge, David Ellies

Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

11 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lectors: Jennifer Garl, Gloria Hitchcock

Acolyte: Mary Rust

Lord's Prayer Leader: Noelle Drake

Ushers: Randy & Nancy Nye

Communion Steward: Kaye Hill

Greeters: Tom & Jan Sinn

Council Coordinator: Sam Eichmiller

The altar flowers this week are given
by Leah Iversen in honor of the birthday
of her father, Tom Sinn.

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Melissa de Graaf
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**