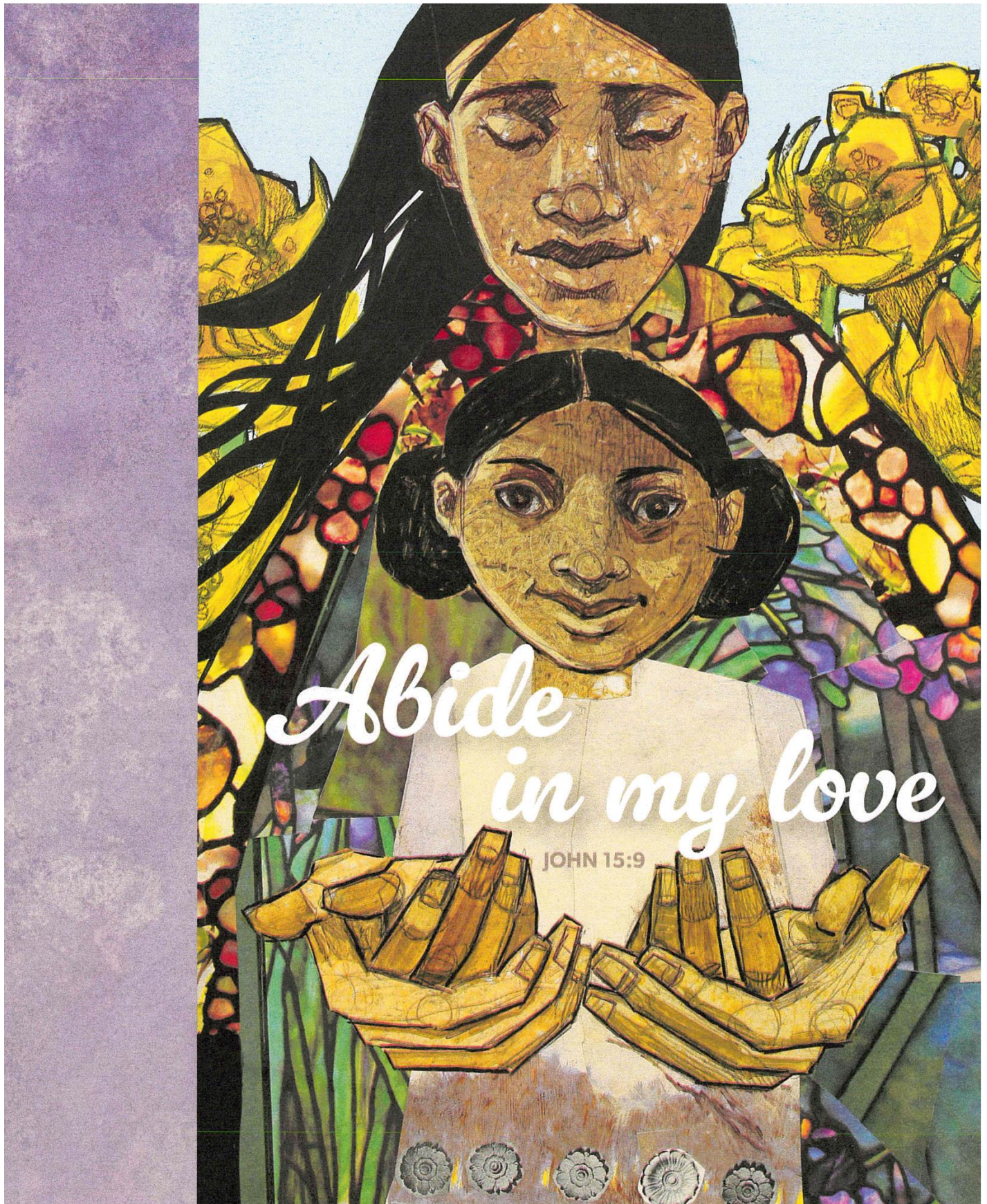


11:00 a.m.

WEB BULLETIN

May 5, 2024



*Abide  
in my love*

JOHN 15:9



*Morning Star Lutheran Church*  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**11:00 a.m.**

**12509 Idlewild Road**

**704.847.4502**

**Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**May 5, 2024**

**Matthews NC 28105**

**[www.mslcnc.org](http://www.mslcnc.org)**

WELCOME! We extend a heartfelt welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, LGBTQIA+, nonbinary or straight. We welcome you regardless of your skin tone, hair color, or the language spoken at your kitchen table. We work to be pro-community, anti-racist, pro-relationship, and pro-Jesus; which means you are welcome here. MSLC is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

INTRODUCTION: This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Page numbers are found in the front of the cranberry hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Hymn #s are found in the back of the cranberry hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

**LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS are available from an usher.**

*The assembly is invited to respond with the words in **bold print**.*

+ *Standing as able*

\* *Kneeling or sitting*

Morning Star Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral land of the Catawba Nation, "Yę iswą" (the people of the river). We acknowledge and honor our indigenous siblings as the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, drum and sing upon this land we now occupy. We open our hearts to the work of healing and justice for all indigenous peoples.

*The music of the prelude is a time to prepare silently for the worship of Almighty God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.*

## Welcoming Scripture Sentences

**Prelude**

*Beautiful Savior*  
Based on *ELW* #838

setting, Robert Hobby

**Welcome**

**+Confession and Forgiveness p. 94**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, sitting or kneeling as able.

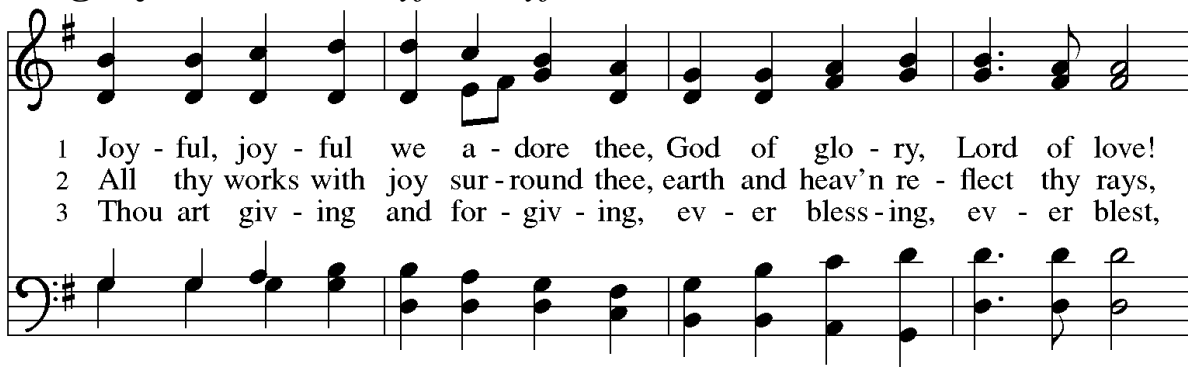
\*Gracious God,

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

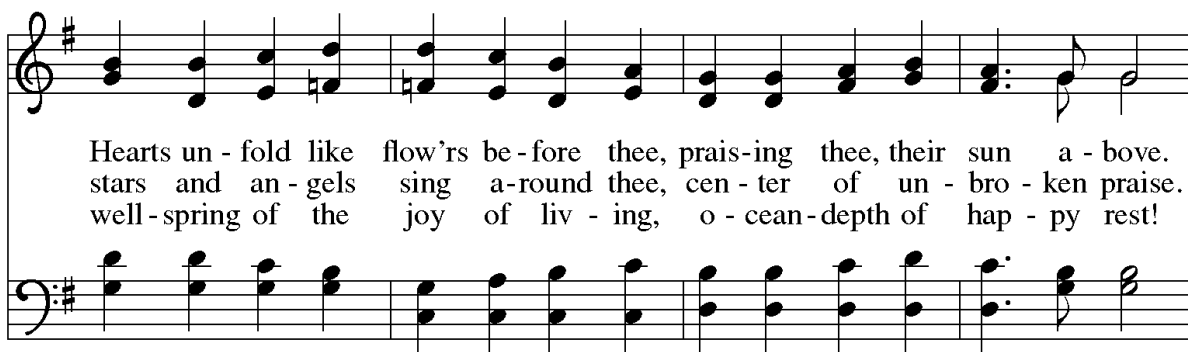
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.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

+Gathering Hymn #836 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

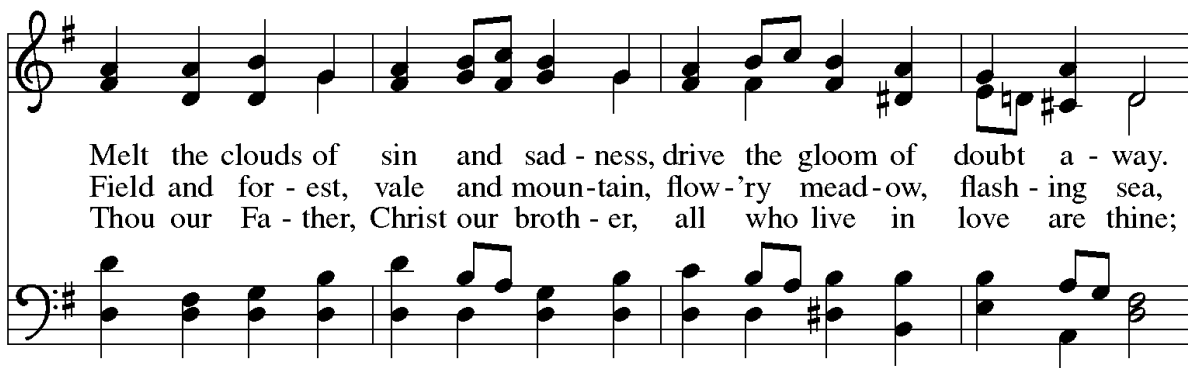
HYMN TO JOY



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922  
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## +Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

## +Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

(printed on back of bulletin)

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

The word of the Lord. OR Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

(printed on back of bulletin)

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

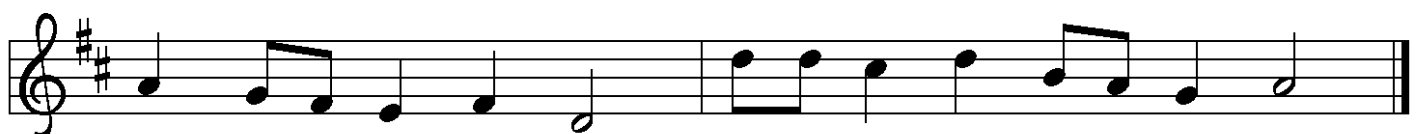
The word of the Lord. OR Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## +Gospel Acclamation p. 142 *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go* Richard Hillert



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 15:9-17**

(printed on back of bulletin)

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

Mr. Steve Lyttle

**Sermon**

Pastor Michael Dickson

*Please stand in body or spirit to sing the hymn of the day*

**+Hymn of the Day #358** *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

RYBURN

Hymn on next page

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953  
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 Music © Oxford University Press.

**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.**



## +The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**Offering** Scan this QR code for electronic giving to MSLC:



## Offering Anthem

*Joyful Celebration*

Pepper Choplin

## +Offertory #182

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord*

Richard Hillert

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.

## +Offering Prayer

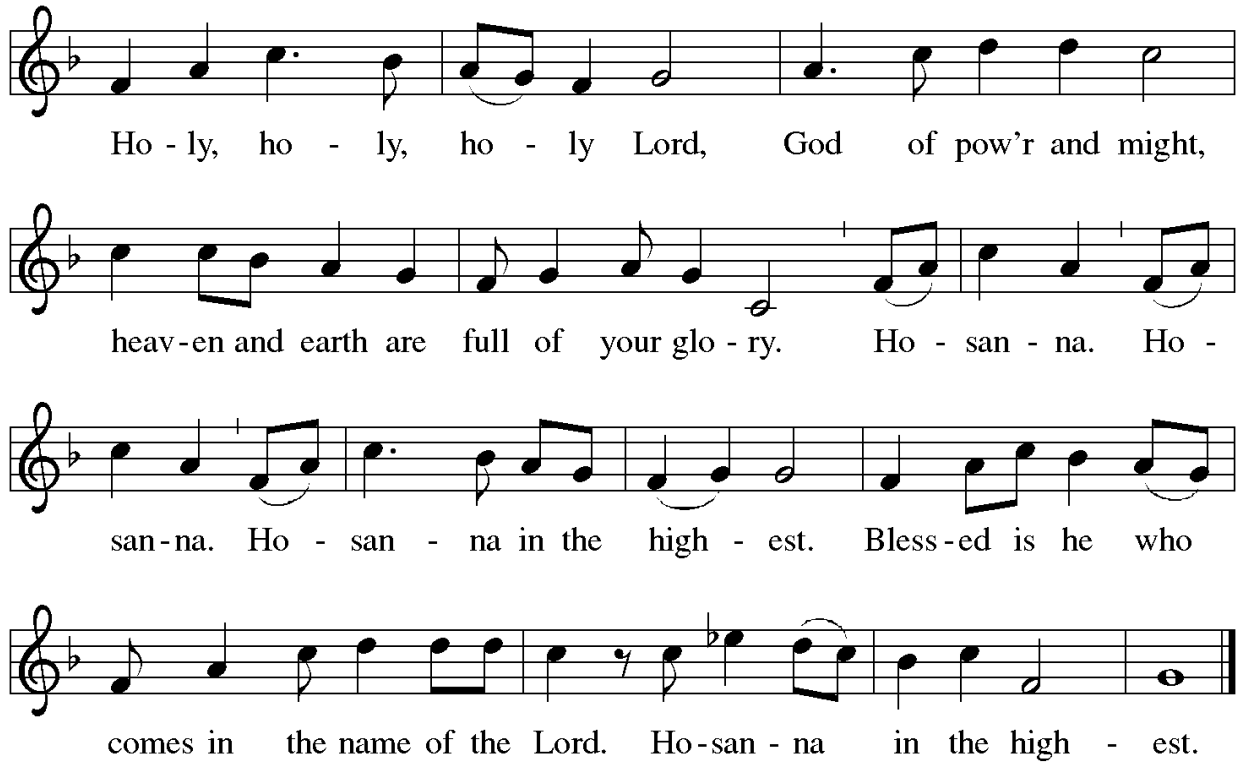
## +Great Thanksgiving p. 129

The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

+Sanctus p. 144

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Richard Hillert



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 and Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer p. 145 (traditional)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

+Invitation to Communion

**Holy Communion** (come down the center aisle, fill in rail beginning at the far end,  
receive at the rail; and then be dismissed in groups)

**Agnus Dei p. 146**

*Lamb of God*

Richard Hillert

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 Hymn #838**

*Beautiful Savior*

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Communion Hymn #708

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEROPONI

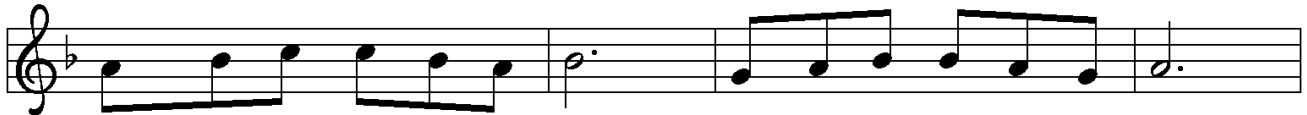
*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



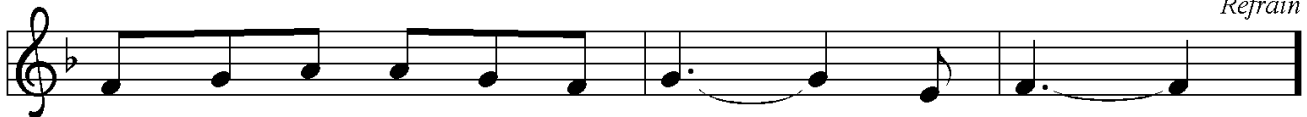
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,

2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,

3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

*Refrain*



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.

neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.

all these are neigh - bors to us and you.

this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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**+Table Blessing**

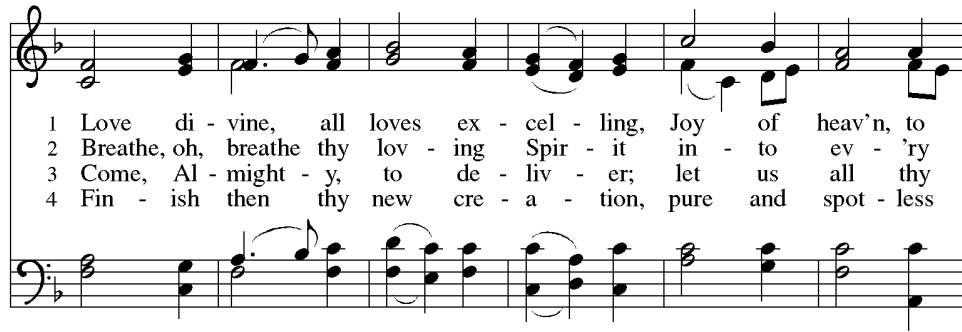
**+Prayer after Communion**

**+Sending Announcements**

+Sending Hymn #631

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

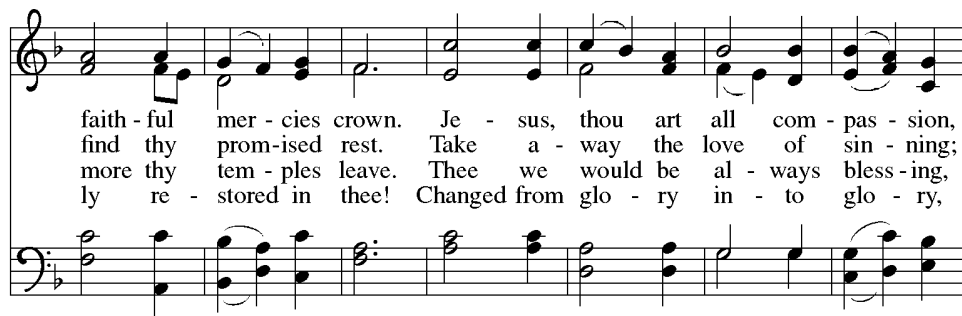
HYFRYDOL



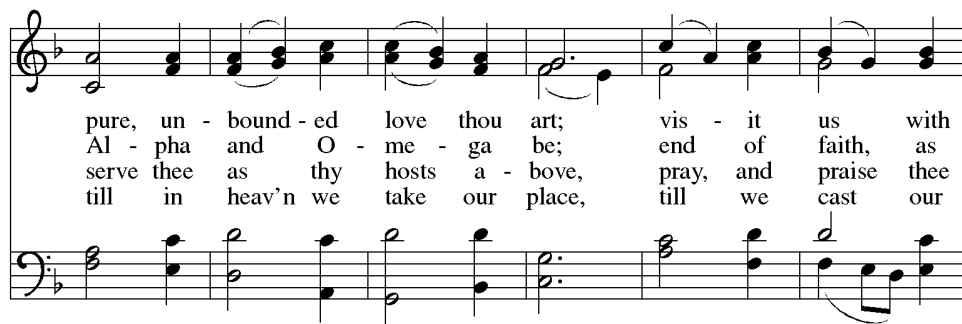
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887



## +Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## +Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude

*Cwm Rhondda*

Paul Manz

Based on the tune at *ELW* #705

*All are welcome to come forward and watch the organist play the postlude.  
The music of the postlude sends us out into God's world to do mission work.*

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

<b>GREETERS:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Caren Ballantine, Martin Donahue
<b>GREETERS:</b>	11:00 a.m.	Debbie Swayney, Buddy Swayney
<b>USHERS:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Rick Fliss, Cindy Fliss
<b>USHERS:</b>	11:00 a.m.	Dennis Burgoon, Bob Fennema
<b>COMMUNION:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Roger Lyman, Gail Frankenburg, Jean and Dick Swiontek, Judy Tompkins, Patti Szmuriga, Ralph Edelman
<b>COMMUNION:</b>	11:00 a.m.	Tom Schick, Buddy Swayney, Debbie Swayney
<b>READER:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Rich Ballantine
<b>READER:</b>	11:00 a.m.	Sarah Hollingsworth
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Donna Miller
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b>	11:00 a.m.	Linda Turner
<b>COUNTERS:</b>		Sarah Hollingsworth, Betty Jackson

## MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor, Rev. John Mouritsen

Minister of Music, Mr. Edmund Tompkins  
Associate Minister of Music, Dr. Katie Ann McCarty  
Business Administrator, Mr. Jerry Sutton  
AV Technician, Ulric Chadwick  
AV Technician, Elizabeth Hollingsworth  
Nursery Attendant, Mrs. Chrissy Stublaski

Minister with Youth, Mr. Mark Hustedt  
Parish Secretary, Mrs. Janet Kobe  
Church Sexton, Mr. William Bauer, Jr.  
AV Technician, Victoria Hollingsworth  
Chapel Manager, Mrs. Susan Lyttle  
Nursery Attendant, Mrs. Teresa Scott

Gallery at Morning Star Curators, Ms. Amelia Osborne and Mr. Tom Eure

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THIS WEEK’S** prayer concerns list, Taking Faith Home, and children’s bulletins are located on the credenzas in the Narthex. Please take your bulletin home or recycle in the container in the Narthex.

**WELCOME PASTOR MICHAEL DICKSON**, Assistant to the NC Bishop, as he leads in worship today while Pastor John is away. Pastor Michael Dickson works half-time for the synod as a liaison and resource for congregations engaging issues of justice and advocacy. Additionally, he serves half-time as pastor for care and community ministries at First Lutheran Church, Greensboro. Michael is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill (2014) and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (2021), but has also been formed by his time learning from Lutherans in Palestine, along the U.S.-Mexico border, and at Camp Agapé in the woods of North Carolina. He is passionate about accompaniment, the work of reconciliation, and our call to be a public church. He is excited to share, preach, and listen alongside congregations across the state as we contemplate how God is calling us into the world.

**VISIT** the Gallery at Morning Star show, *Renew*, before the exhibit closes on May 19. For more information, see the website at [www.thegalleryatmorningstar.com](http://www.thegalleryatmorningstar.com). The next Gallery show, “roots & wings” is now accepting online submissions. To submit, visit [www.thegalleryatmorningstar.com/call-to-artists](http://www.thegalleryatmorningstar.com/call-to-artists)

**GIVE** the gift of blood TODAY in the Big Red Bus which will be in the church parking lot from 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sign up at [www.oneblood.org/donate-now](http://www.oneblood.org/donate-now) and use location Morning Star Lutheran Church.

**PLAN AHEAD** and mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

- Sunday, May 12 is Mother’s Day and **second Sunday food collection**
- Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m. Gallery tea on ecological burials
- Saturday, May 18, 4 p.m. Charlotte Bronze Handbell concert
- Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m. unified worship celebrating:  
*Pentecost, Youth Sunday, and Graduation Milestone*
- Sunday, May 26, 10 a.m. unified summer worship continues
- Friday, June 7, 6 p.m. new Gallery exhibit “roots & wings” reception
- Sunday, June 9, 11:45 a.m. Church Picnic at Crooked Creek Park
- Sunday, June 16. 10:00 a.m. Lutheran Men lead worship
- Monday – Friday, June 24-28 SUMMER CAMP from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
  - Register at [www.mslcnc.org/daycamp](http://www.mslcnc.org/daycamp)

## **THIS WEEK IN MINISTRY AND MISSION AT MORNING STAR**

### **SUNDAY, May 5**

#### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Big Red Bus Blood Drive in parking lot till 2:00 p.m.
- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults in classrooms & conference room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 2:00 p.m. ~ Girl Scout Troop 387 meeting in FLC gym and classrooms

### **MONDAY, May 6**

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in FLC Gym
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall and Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Worship and Music Mission Team meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Stewardship Mission Team meeting in FLC Conference Room

### **TUESDAY, May 7**

- 11:00 a.m. ~ Centering Prayer in FLC Room 134 and Administration Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. ~ The 12 x 12 AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Women's VdC Reunion Prayer meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Men's VdC Reunion Prayer meeting in FLC Conference Room
- 6:15 p.m. ~ Instrumental Praise Ensemble rehearsal in Worship Center
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Bible Quest Study in Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Radiance Ringers rehearsal in Worship Center
- 7:00 p.m. ~ Connect Mission Team meeting in Administration Conference Room

### **WEDNESDAY, May 8**

- 7:30 a.m. ~ Queen's Grant High School AP Testing in FLC Gym (till noon) – please no noise in FLC
- 9:00 a.m. ~ TOPS meeting in FLC Room 108
- 10:00 a.m. ~ Women of the ELCA Ruth Circle meeting in Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Choir Room
- 1:00 p.m. ~ Staff Meeting in Administration Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Yoga Class at Labyrinth (rain location Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Youth Dinner and Program in FLC Gym and Youth Room
- 7:30 p.m. ~ Young Clappers Youth Handbell rehearsal in Worship Center

### **THURSDAY, May 9**

- 11:30 a.m. ~ Queen's Grant High School AP Testing in FLC Gym (till 3 p.m.) – please no noise in FLC
- 6:00 p.m. ~ Joyful Noise Ringers rehearsal in Worship Center
- 7:05 p.m. ~ Praise Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsal in Choir Room

### **FRIDAY, May 10**

- 7:30 a.m. ~ Queen's Grant High School AP Testing in FLC Gym (till noon) – please no noise in FLC
- 9:00 a.m. ~ Walkers in the parking lot and grounds
- 11:00 a.m. ~ AA Meeting in Fellowship Hall and Choir Room

### **SATURDAY, May 11**

- 10:00 a.m. ~ AA Group meeting in the Choir Room or on Patio

### **SUNDAY, May 12**

#### **Seventh Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day**

#### **Healthy Food Collection for the Matthews Help Center**

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Non-traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)
- 10:15 a.m. ~ Faith Formation for children, youth, and adults in classrooms & conference room
- 11:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship in the Worship Center (nursery available)

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Psalm 98****SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.

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