The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering plates are in the back of the sanctuary. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

The pass thru room at the top of the steps next to the office is now broadcasting our church service LIVE every Sunday. If you need to leave the sanctuary for any reason, you are welcome to continue worshiping by viewing the service in that room.

The Prelude

Please stand.

Easter Acclamation

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

- P In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come.
- C Amen.
- P Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.
- P Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

- C make us one as you are one.
- P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.
 Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C make us one as you are one.
- P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
 Baptized into you, O Living One,
- C make us one as you are one.
- P Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
- C Amen.

Please be seated

Gathering Hymn

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones Verses 1 & 4–All Verse 2– Women: Men Join at Alleluia Verse 3– Men; Women join at Alleluia



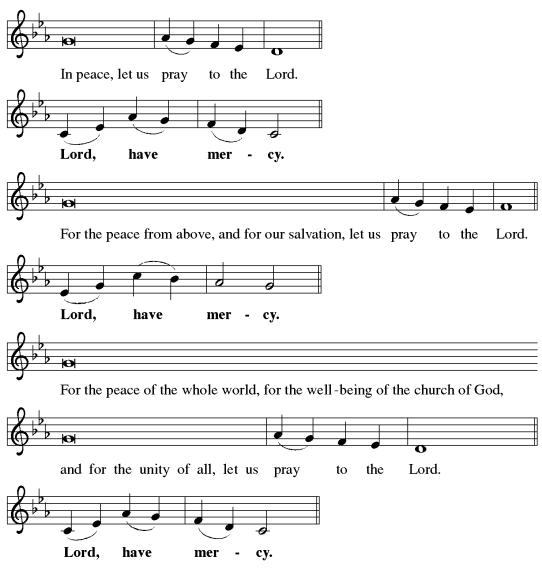
Hymn #424

4

The Apostolic Greeting

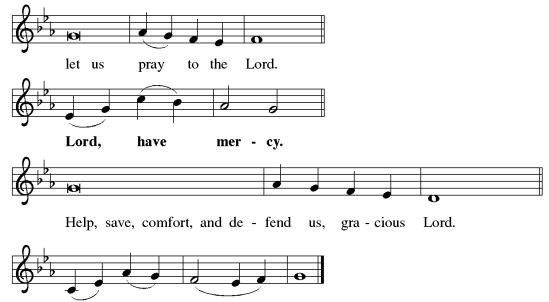
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Kyrie





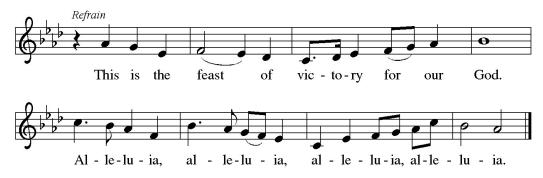
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



A - men, a - men.

Hymn of Praise

The Congregation sings the refrain and the verses.





The Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading

A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Acts 11:1-18

who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 (Read responsively with the lector.)

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

- ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from Revelation.

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

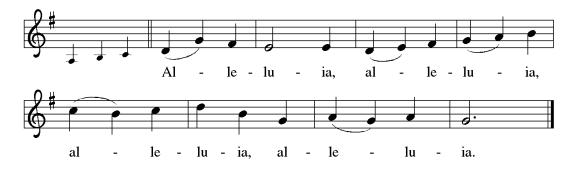
for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

C Glory to you, O Lord

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Please stand.

The Hymn of the Day

Baptized in Water Hymn #456 sealed by the cleansed by Bap-tized Spir in ter, it, the 1 wa Bap-tized sealed by the Spir in dead the 2 ter, it, in wa Bap-tized sealed by Spir the marked with the 3 in it. wa ter, blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for sign Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, are God's of we 0 faith - ful - ly sing. God's praise ise, prom now we thank-ful - ly God's now praise sing. giv en. we joy - ful - ly chil God's dren; now praise we sing. -

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Presentation

The candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the minister at the font. The assembly may be seated.

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

The minister addresses parents and sponsors.

P Amy and Kate, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Nora Grace baptized into Christ?*Response: We do.*

P As you bring her to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the Word of God and the Holy Supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life? *Response: We do.*

The minister addresses sponsors.

P Luara, do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response: I do.*

The minister addresses the assembly.

P People of God, do you promise to support Nora and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the parents and sponsors. The assembly may join in the responses.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? *Response: I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response: I renounce them.*

The minister addresses the entire assembly.

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

 C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Font

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded 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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

- P Nora Grace Destafano, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The minister continues:

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

- P Sustain Nora with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
- C Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

- P Nora, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized:

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly.

- P Let us together welcome our new sister in Christ.
- C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The Prayers of the Church

The assembly remains standing for the prayers.

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

- P Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

- 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.

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C And also with you.

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

Anthem

Spirit, Open My Heart

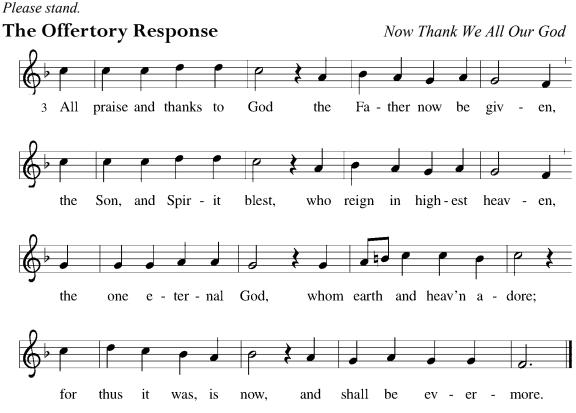
Ruth Duck

The Choir will sing the verses. The Congregation will join at the refrain.



Offering

During this time our offerings are represented through the gift of music, bread, and wine. Following the service you are invited to give your financial gifts in the offering plates located in the back of the sanctuary.



Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace

along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

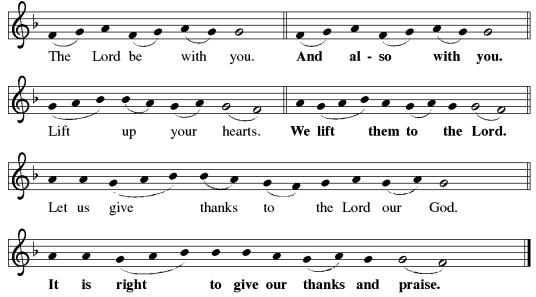
breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

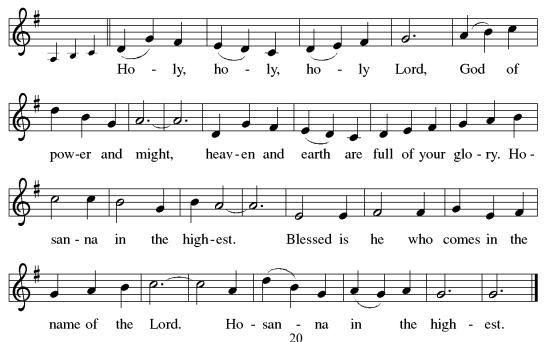
C Amen.

Great Thanks giving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

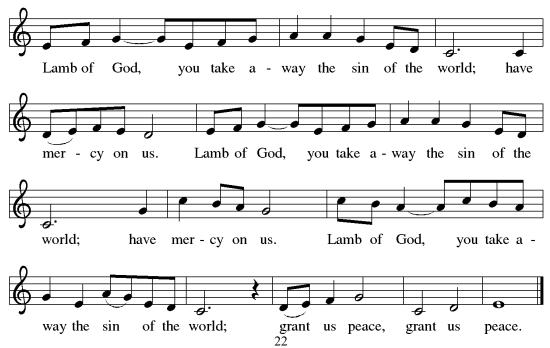
Lord's Prayer

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The Lamb of God



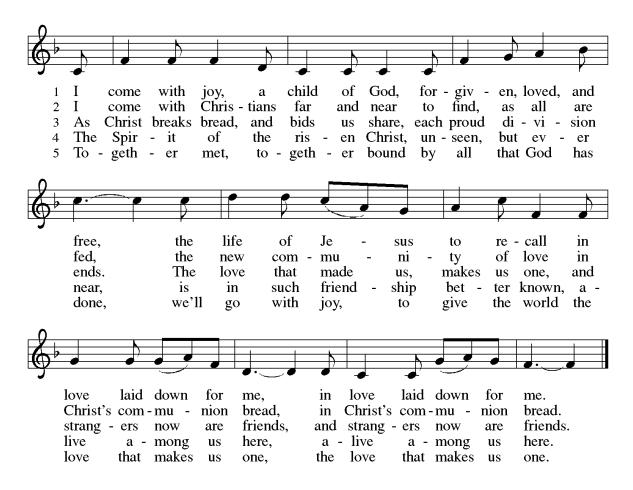
The Distribution of Holy Communion

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Pick up a communion cup as you approach the altar. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will place the bread into the hands of communicants. The first chalice contains wine, the second chalice contains grape juice. A gluten free wafer is available upon request. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Hymns During Communion

I Come with Joy Here Is Bread You Satisfy the Hungry Heart Hymn #482 Hymn #483 Hymn #484

I Come with Joy



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

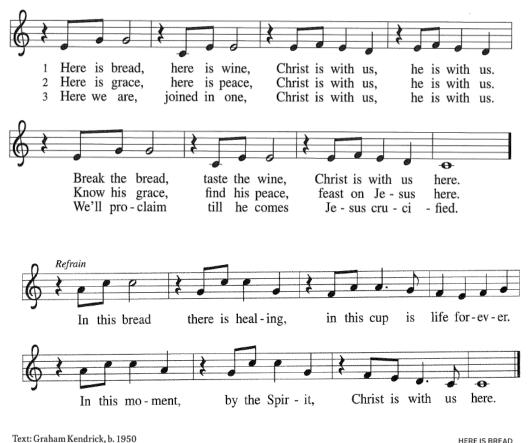
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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Here Is Bread



Music: Graham Kendrick, D. 1950 Ext and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere HERE IS BREAD 3344335 and refrain



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

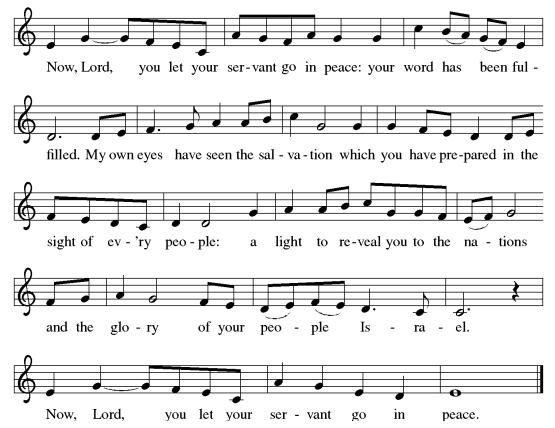
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Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Nunc Dimittis



Post-Communion Prayer

- A Let us pray. Living One,
 in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
 Send us now to tell of your wonders,
 sing of your glory,
 and proclaim your risen life
 to a wounded and weary world.
- C Amen.

The Blessing

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C Amen.

The Sending Hymn

You Servants of God

Hymn #825 Music provided on the following page.

The Dismissal

- A Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

+++

You Servants of God



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

Semi-annual Meeting of the Congregation

Please stay for the Semi-annual meeting today following worship.

The book of reports is available in the narthex.

Sponsors

The bulletin is sponsored by Coleen Aston and dedicated to our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

The flowers are sponsored by Sandy Stouffer in memory of Dick Bricker.

Readings for next week: Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

May 18	May 25
Acolyte	Acolyte
Sam Ruggiero	Charlie Schwenk
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Tim Smith Patti LaPorte	Sandy Stauffer Sharon Bentley
Lector	Lector
Cheryl Amey	Suzann Schwenk
Greeter	Greeter
Sandy Stauffer	Lisa Ferree
Usher	Usher
Georgeanne Burkholder	Don Eckert
Bread Provider	Bread Provider
Sue Froehlich	Donna Null
Altar Guild Set-up	Altar Guild Set-up
Sue Froehlich	Donna Null
Altar Guild Clean-up	Altar Guild Clean-up
Sue Froehlich	Donna Null
Council Person	Council Person
Sharon Bentley	Charlie Schwenk
Counters	Counters
BA Smith	Bob Slade
Sandy Rohrback	Sandy Stouffer
•	
Technology	Technology
•	Chip Froehlich Jeff Reed

Coming up at Holy Spirit

Today	Semi-annual Meeting, <i>following worship</i> Heritage Choral Concert, 4:00 p.m. Prayer & Meditation: ZOOM , 7:30 p.m.
May 21	Prayer & Meditation: In Person, 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, 11:00 a.m.
June 3	Book Club, 7:00 p.m. My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante
June 11	Second Sunday, following worship. Creation Care & Earth Day (no meal)
X	



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Pastor- The Rev. Gretchen Ierien Music Director- Allison Carlson