

**Welcome, visitors! Welcome members and friends of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church.
Thank you for joining us in church and on our online service today.**

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our service this morning. +Guests who are baptized Christians, who acknowledge and confess their sinfulness, who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, and who believe that He is really present in Holy Communion to bring us His forgiveness and life, are welcome to the Lord's Table.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS and GRAPE JUICE. We are pleased to offer gluten-free wafers; please speak to one of the ushers who will inform the pastor. In addition grape juice is available in the center circle of the Communion tray.

**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 3 pg. 138**

May 17, 2026

Prelude – “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” – setting, Robert Hobby

(Please rise)

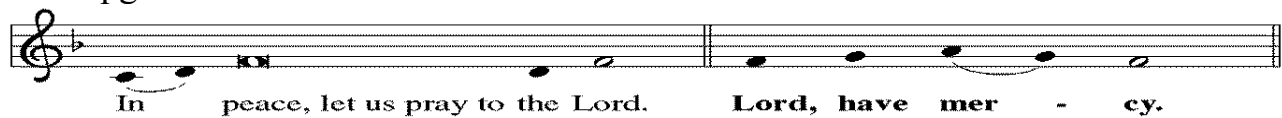
PROCESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 393 A HYMN OF GLORY LET US SING!

GREETING

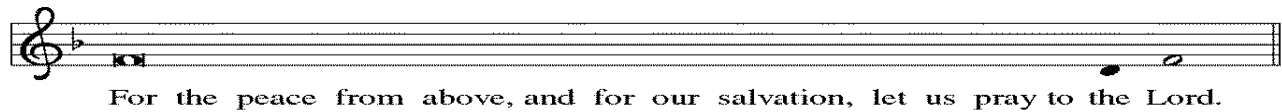
Pastor – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong – And also with you.

KYRIE – pg. 138



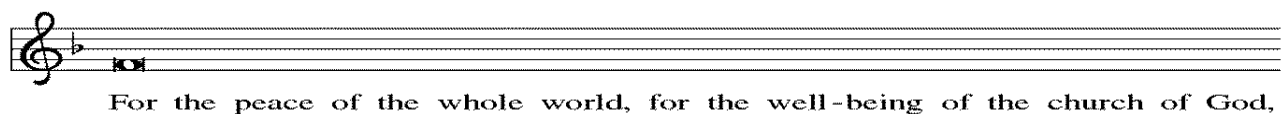
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



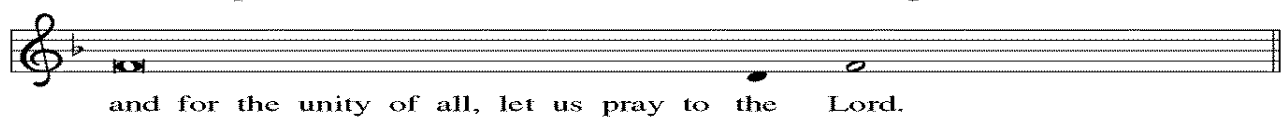
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



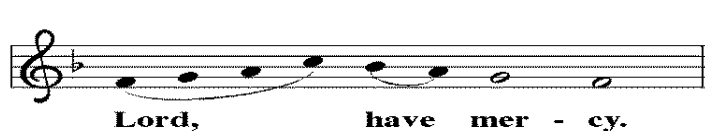
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



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

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

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HYMN OF PRAISE – pg. 140 “This is the Feast.....”
 (Women & Children – Verses 1 and 3) (Men – Verses 2 and 4)

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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

John Armstrong, Worship Assistant

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

(The Psalm will be read alternatively, beginning with Leader)

¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations un- | der our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheri- | tance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns o- | ver the nations;
God is en- | throned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people
of the | God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is high- | ly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

John Armstrong, Worship Assistant

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

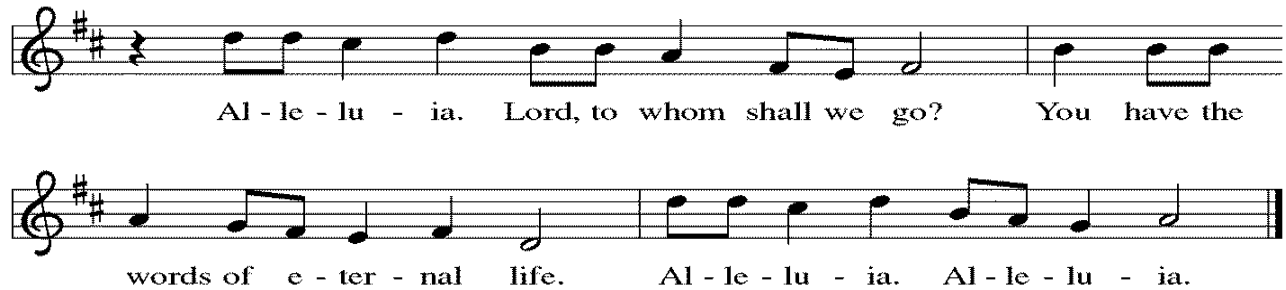
¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

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.

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Pastor – The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Cong – **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

Pastor Karl Rein

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor – The Gospel of the Lord.

Cong – **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jackie Bandelier

SERMON

Pastor Karl Rein

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 475 LORD, ENTHRONED IN HEAVENLY SPLendor

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. 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.

PRAYERS

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. Gracious God, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your church and its leaders in faith, hope, and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

Majestic God, your Son Jesus entrusts his ministry to his followers to care for all you have created. Instill in us a commitment to sustainable ecological practices. Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand and rules the cosmos. Inspire national and local politicians to lead with equity and fairness, raise up advocates and activists for those seeking justice, and cultivate peace throughout the world. We continue to pray for the deliverance of your people oppressed around the world. Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

Merciful God, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Guide with your wisdom the work of surgeons, pharmacists, midwives, and all medical specialists, and bring your healing touch to all who are sick. Especially we pray for healing for: Bill, Pastor Younger, Pastor Scheidt, Chuck, Laurie, Bruce, Carol, Elizabeth, Tom, Ron, Paul, Andrew, Marita, Ezra, Linda, Jay, Jim, Alisa, Sean, Drew, Bob, Lori, Sandra, Herman, Tia, Kristina, Terry, Kathleen, Karyn, Jerry, Gretchen, Lola, Kevin, Marcia, Gene, Jerry, John, Diane & Rodney. We ask that you be with those who are away serving our country, all absent members, and those suffering from manmade and natural disasters. Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

Caring God, your Son Jesus reveals the depths of your love and gathers all people to himself. Accompany us in our work and play to make your presence known in all that we do.

Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, by his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus destroyed death forever. With thanksgiving we remember those who rest from the labors, assured of your promise of everlasting life. Merciful God,

Cong – receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power; use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Cong - Amen.

May the peace of the Lord be with you!

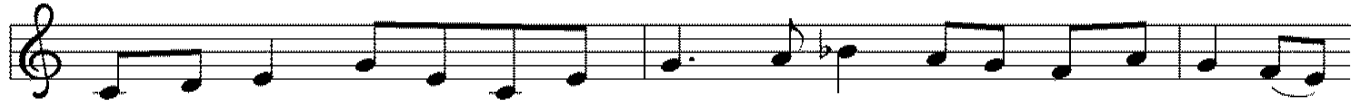
Cong – And also with you.

PEACE

OFFERING

(Please rise)

OFFERTORY – (ELW 182) “Let the Vineyards....”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - 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



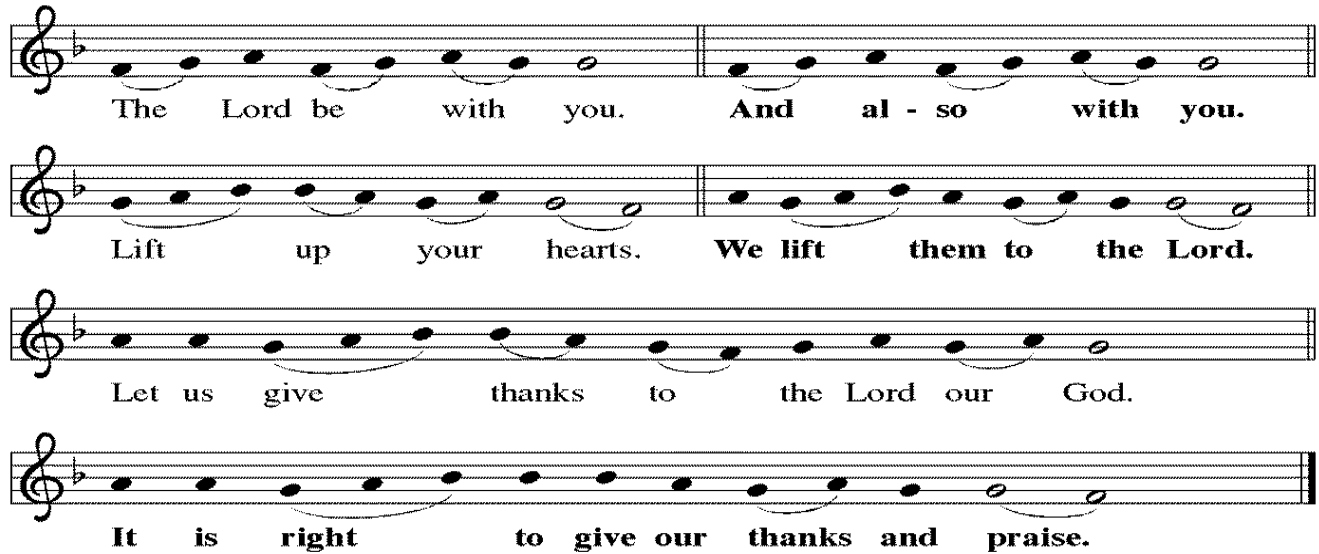
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER.

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

Cong – Amen.

Preface Dialogue

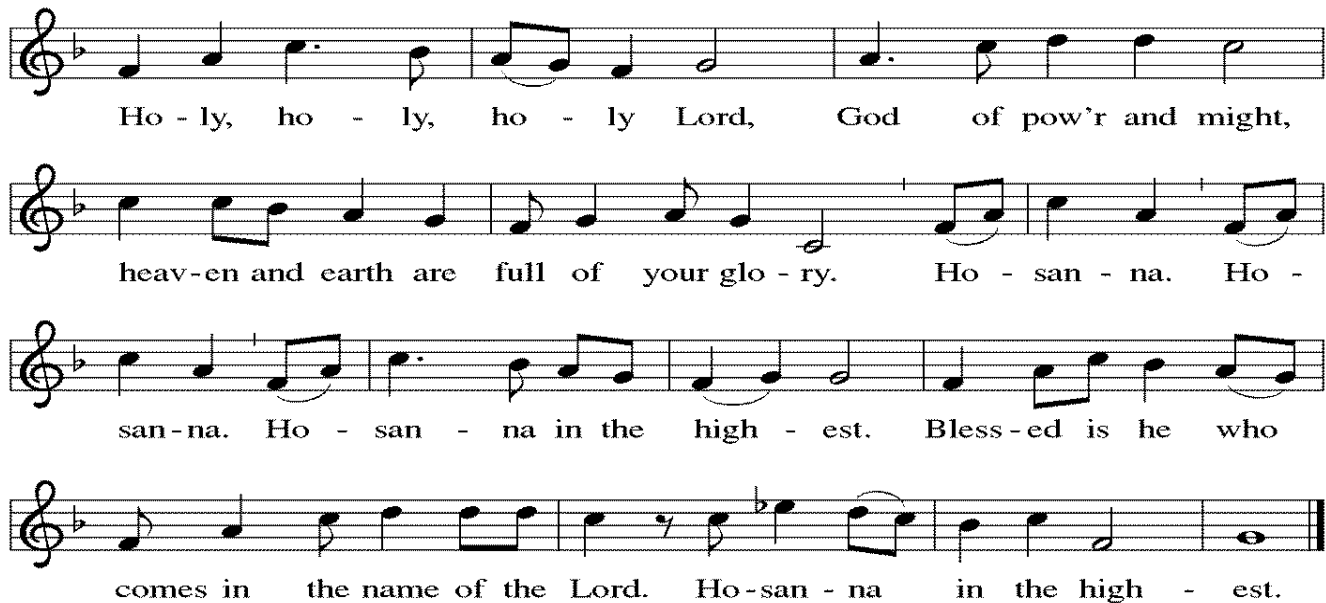


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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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, who enthroned forever at your right hand intercedes for us as our great high priest. 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.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING IV (ELW pg. 111)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Cong – Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Cong – Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Cong – Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you. O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

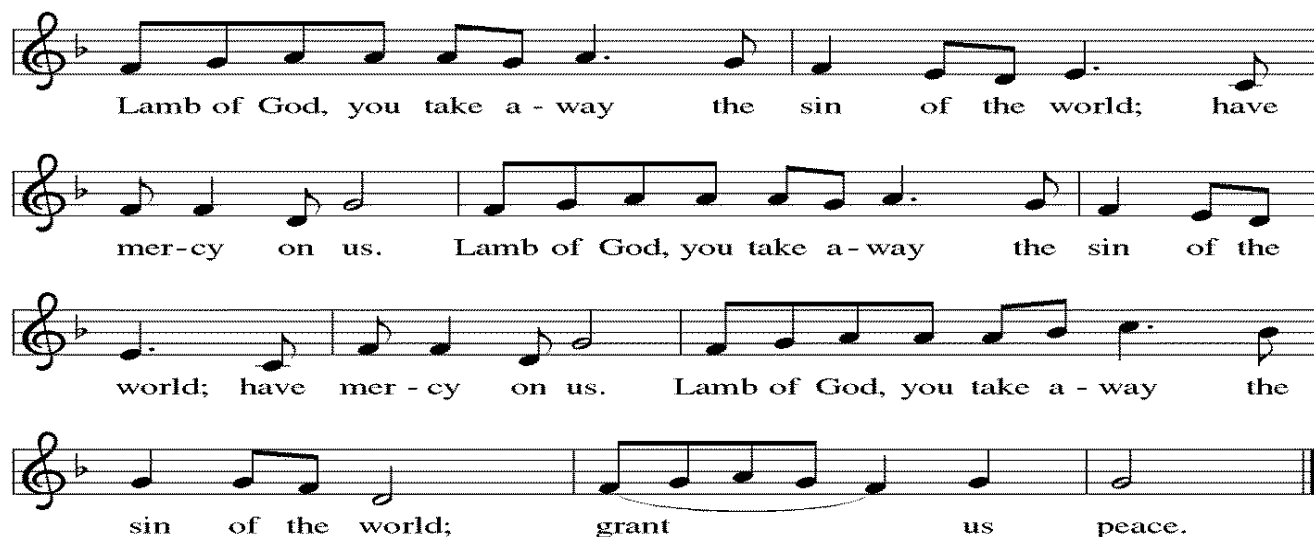
Cong – Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(Please be seated)

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.

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COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 401 GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HEED OUR PLEADING

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN – (ELW 204) “Thankful hearts and voices raise.....”



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Cong– Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Cong – Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN – ELW 434 JESUS SHALL REIGN

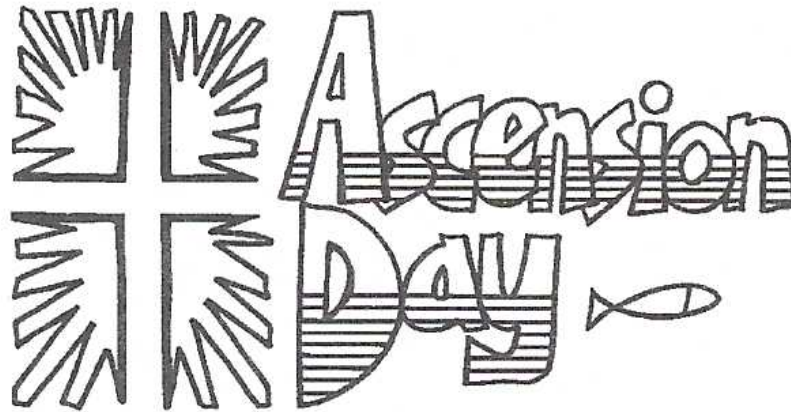
(Please be seated)

Postlude

Pastor - Go in peace. Serve the risen one.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

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A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

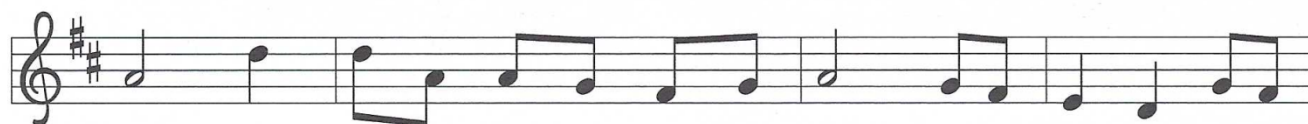
393



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the
4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they
sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.
say, "this is his glo-rious tri-umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
LM and alleluias

475 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 2 Though the low - liest form now veil you as of
 3 Pas - chal Lamb, your of - f'ring, fin - ished once for
 4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, strick - en

got - ten from the dead, you a - lone, our strong de -
 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there your an - gels
 all when you were slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 rock with stream - ing side, heav'n and earth with loud ho -

fend - er, lift - ing up your peo - ple's head. Al - le -
 hail you, branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le -
 min - ished shall for - ev - er more re - main, Al - le -
 san - na wor - ship you, the Lamb who died, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! cleans - ing souls from
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 join with them; we in wor - ship join with them.
 ev - 'ry stain; cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
 glo - ri - fied; ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

PENTECOST, HOLY SPIRIT

Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema

401

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. *Refrain*

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924

English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

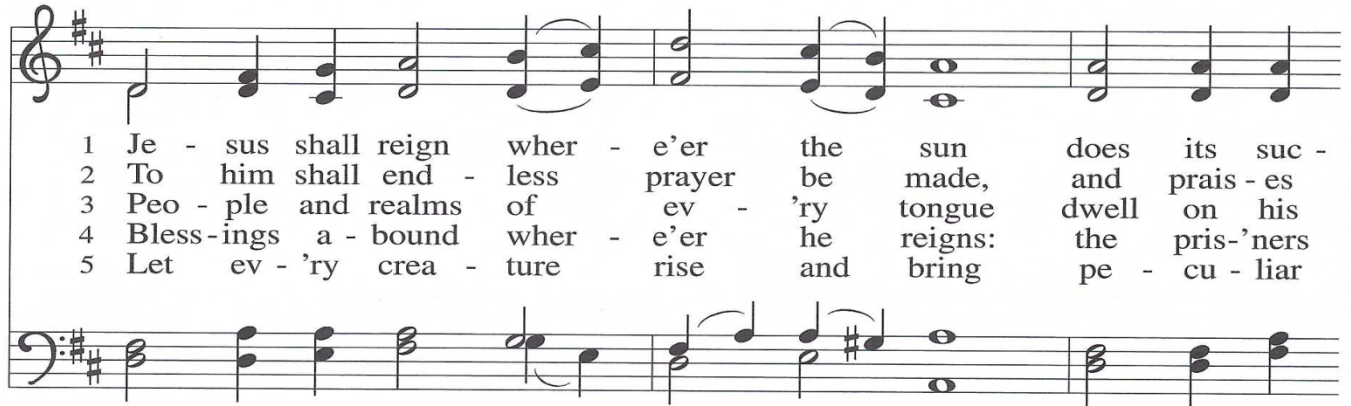
Arr. © Egil Hovland

NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA

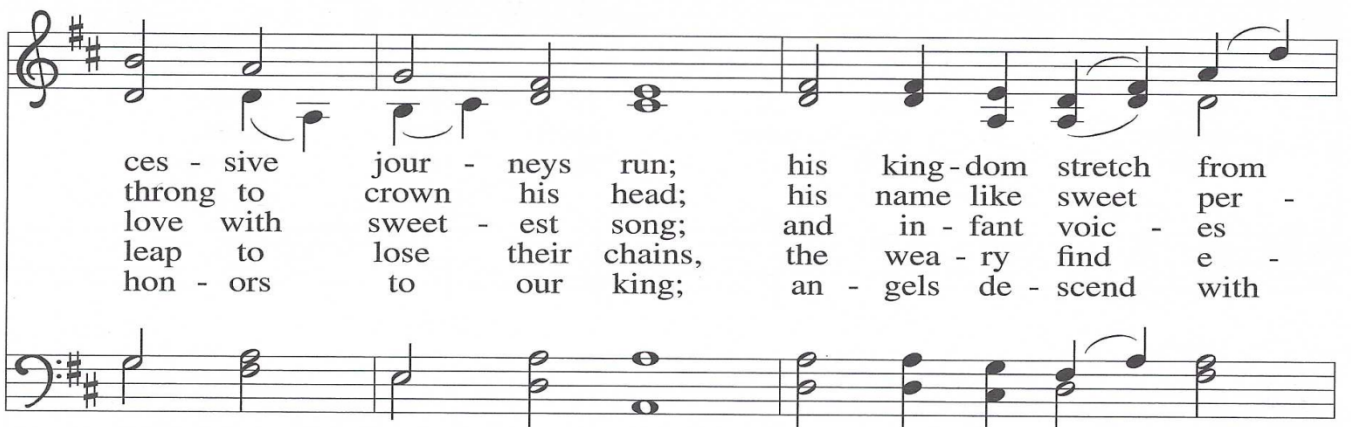
CM and refrain

Jesus Shall Reign

434



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.