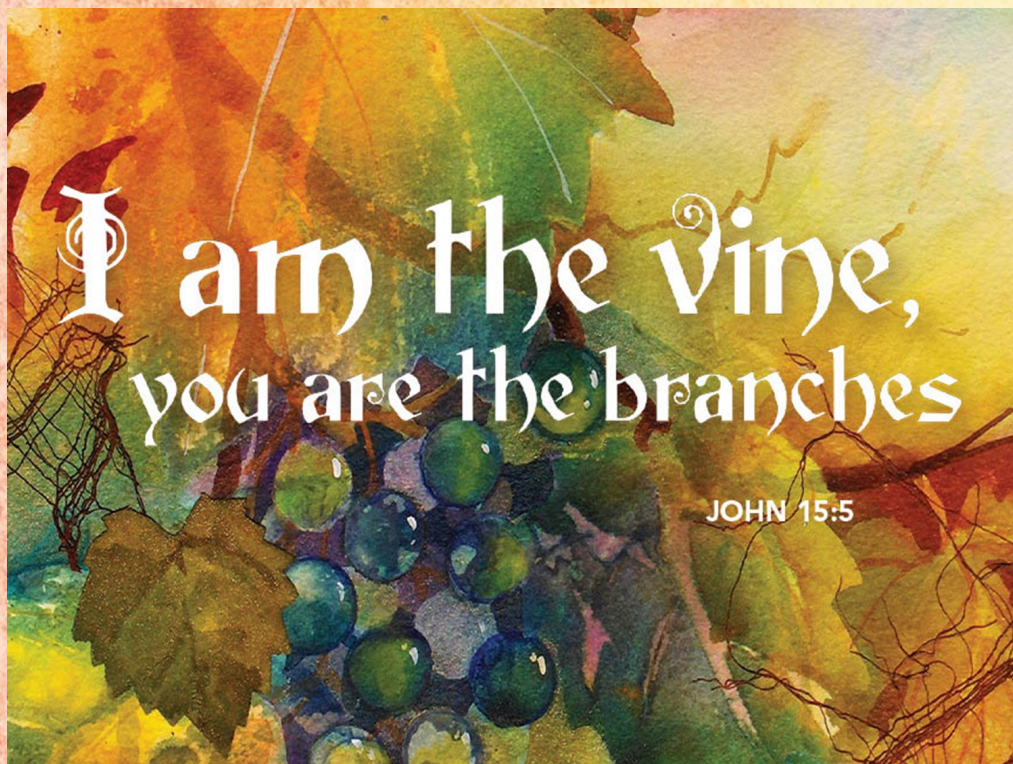


**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 2, 2021**



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Website: [www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Althea Albright

**Music Director:** Mr. Scott J. Breiner

**Church Secretary:** Diana McArdle

**Sexton:** Andrew McCarrick

# Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

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## Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to ***belong*** to the church of Jesus Christ,
  - Equipping those who ***believe*** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- 

### Serving in Worship Today—

**Worship Assistant:** Mary Ann Gring

**Altar Guild:** Brenda Traa

**Sound Technicians:** Jim Foreman, Michael Piskun, Shawn Welfield

### In Our Hearts and Prayers

**Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country:** Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

**Hospitalized - or in need of healing:** Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Dave Brown, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Joyce Kaye, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirsey, Darrell Kopp, Lora, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Cheryl Rusiecki, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, & Lucy Dildilian Yannis

**At Home** - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

**Shores@Wesley Manor:** Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

**Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor:** Lois Rahme

**Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

# Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

## Congregation responses in bold print.

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## GATHERING

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

*Bridegroom*

by James Biery

[Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song]

*Please stand as you are able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **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 in the presence of God and of one another.

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

We Know that Christ is Raised

ELW # 449

Verses 1, 2, &amp; 4, All; Verse 3, Choir



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

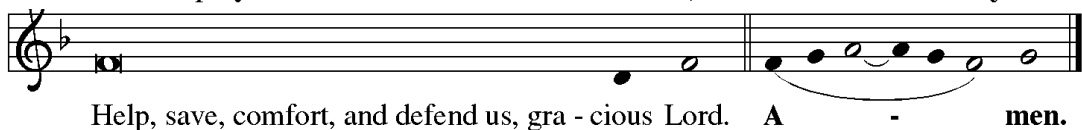
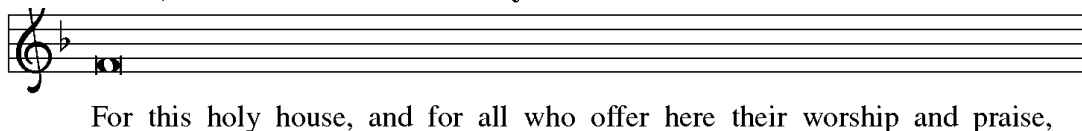
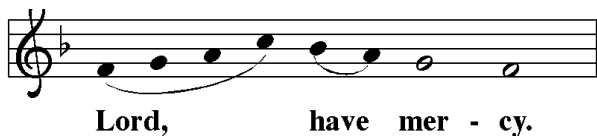
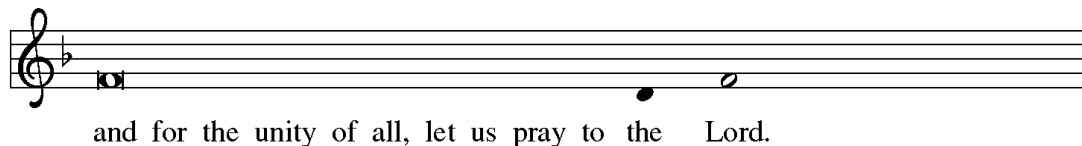
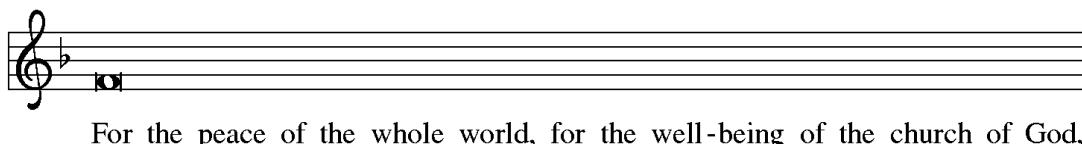
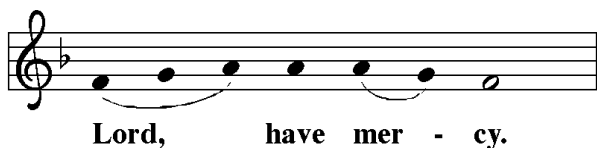
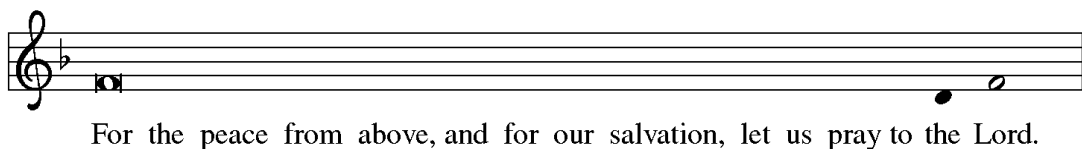
Text © John B. Geyer.

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## GREETING

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

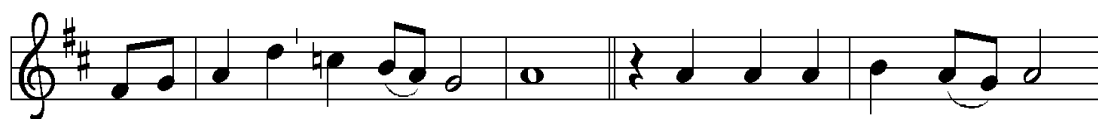
## KYRIE



## THIS IS THE FEAST



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



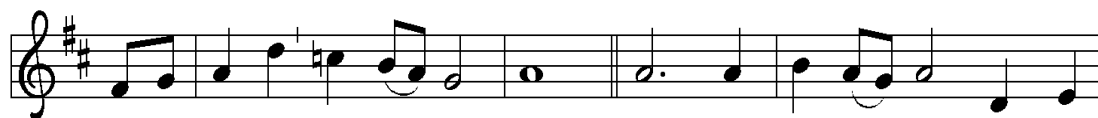
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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.



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,

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.

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,

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*brief silence*

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.*

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

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

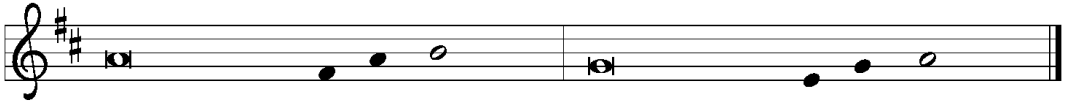
<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water!



What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



### PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

- <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- <sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**  
**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- <sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD, / who rules o- | ver the nations.**
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”



**SECOND READING: First John 4:7-21**

A reading from First John.

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**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.

**GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to St John, the 15th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.*

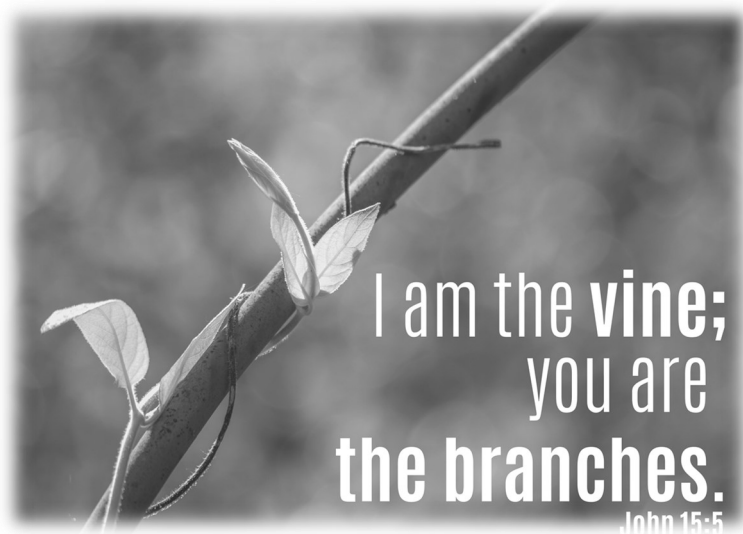
[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide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

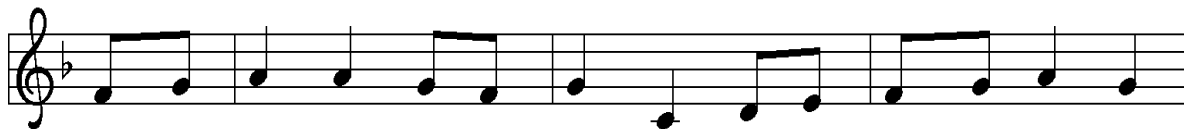
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON**

Rev. Althea Albright





1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

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## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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

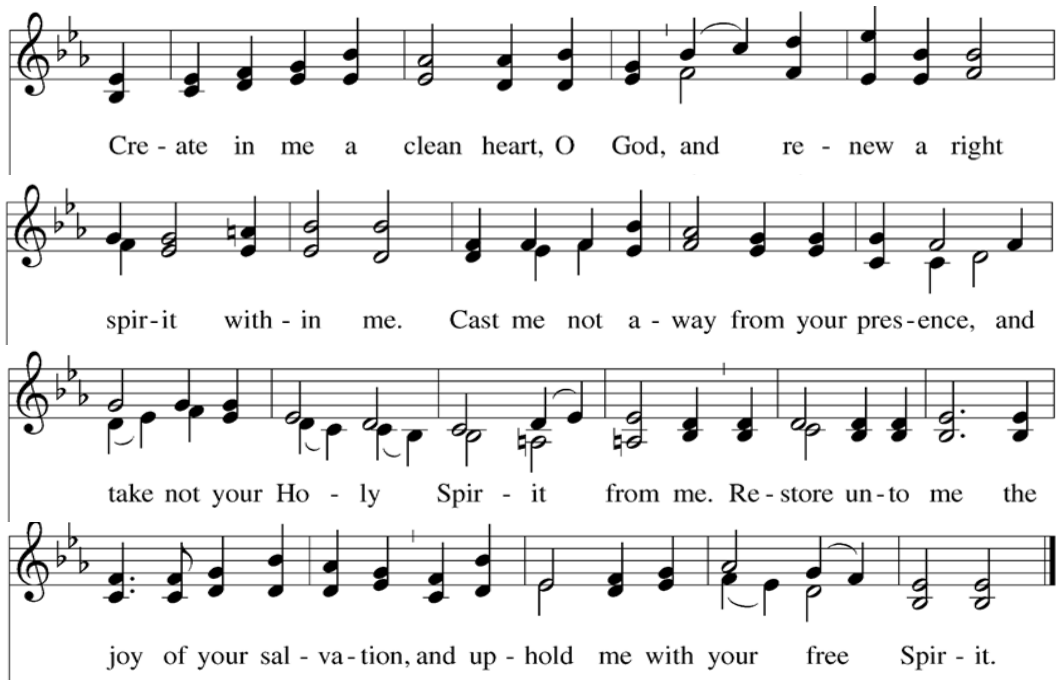
## WEEKLY OFFERING

*We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.*

## OFFERTORY

*Please stand as your are able*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

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

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Pastor:* Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*Brief silence.*

*Leader:* God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Pastor:* You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Leader:* You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

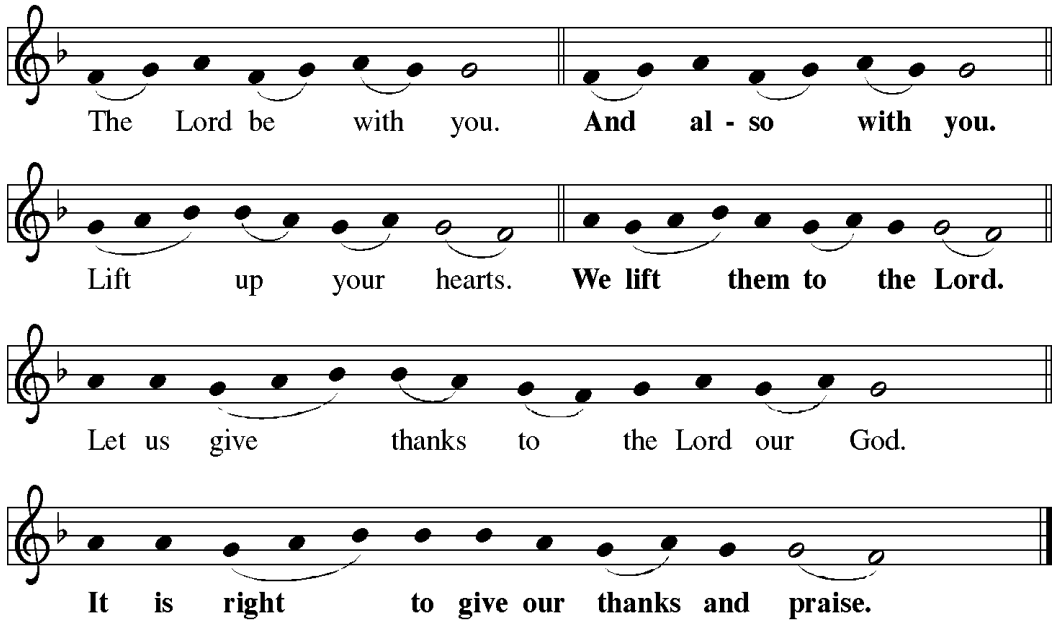
**Your mercy is great.**

*Pastor:* In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
 who in dying has destroyed death,  
 and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
 with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

May all blessing, praise, and thanks be to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**



## LORD'S PRAYER

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

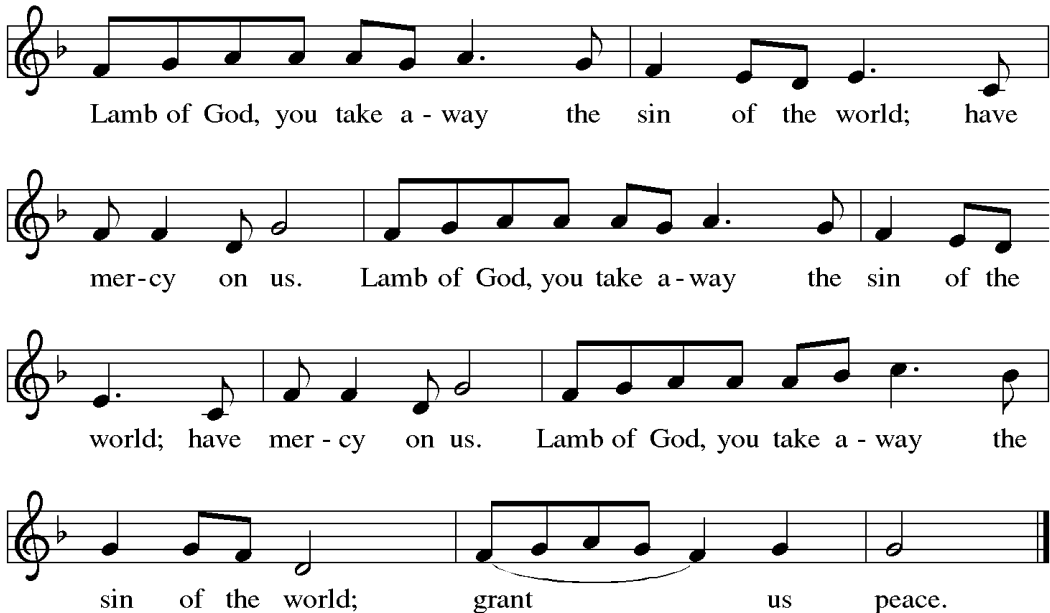
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

Come to us, Lord Jesus.

## COMMUNION HYMN



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.

*We will partake of the bread and grape juice together.*

*Wait for direction from the pastor.*

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **God's love endures forever.**

Let us now commune with the Lord together.

This is the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.** *(brief silence)*

This is the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.** *(brief silence)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

May Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

Shout to the Lord

ELW # 821

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

*Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.*

### POSTLUDE

*Engelberg*

by David Cher-

wein

[We Know that Christ is Raised]

### DISMISSAL

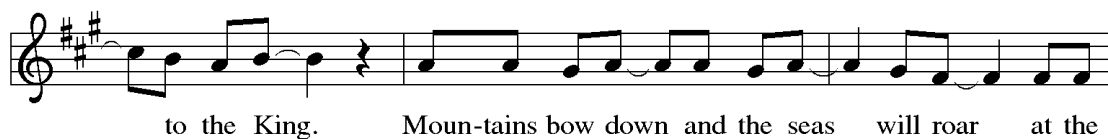
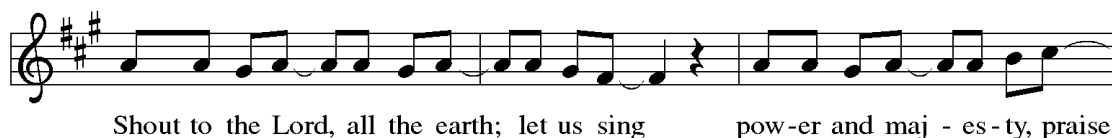
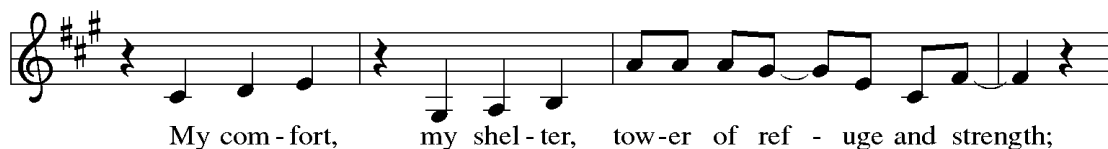
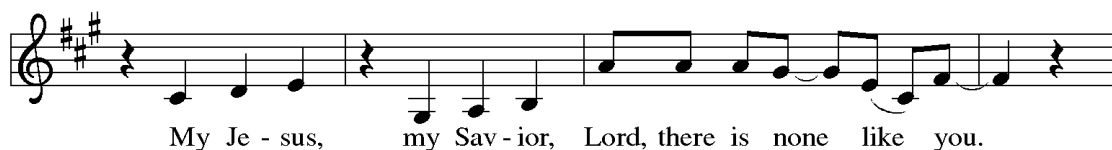
Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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## SENDING SONG

## Shout to the Lord

ELW # 821



# Events This Week - May 2 - 9, 2021

**Sunday 5/2** Fifth Sunday of Easter  
 8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge  
 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service  
 Holy Communion

**Monday 5/3**  
 Food Pantry Closed  
 7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall

**Tuesday 5/4**  
 Food Pantry Closed  
 6:30 pm - NA

**Wednesday 5/5**  
 Food Pantry Closed  
 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

**Thursday 5/6**  
 5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00 - Facilities Team Meeting - Lounge

**Friday 5/7**  
 10:30 am - Grace Stitches

**Saturday 5/8**

**Sunday 5/9** Sixth Sunday of Easter  
 8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge  
 10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service  
 Holy Communion

**Happy Mother's Day!**



**2021 FLOWER CHART** is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Available for weekly dedications are Candles, Sanctuary Flowers, Bulletins, Wine & Anthems. Please sign your name next to the date and item on the chart you wish to have dedicated in the bulletin.

**Be sure to fill out the payment envelope with all the information for the bulletin, a week before (or sooner) your desired date, place it in the Offering plate or bring to the church office.** Thank you, Diana

## Available Dedications on the Flower Chart

5/9 - Bulletins, Wine, Music  
 5/16 - Candles, Bulletins, Wine, Music  
 5/23 - Candles, Bulletins, Music  
 5/30 - Bulletins, Wine, Music  
 6/6 - Flowers, Bulletins, Wine, Music  
 6/13 - Candles, Bulletins, Wine, Music  
 6/20 - Candles, Bulletins. Wine, Music  
 6/27 - Candles, Bulletins, Music

## Dedications

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

In Memory of  
 John and Katherine Staples  
 Given by John Staples, Jr.