

## *Messiah Lutheran Church*

2025 Eastern Avenue

Wesleyville, PA 16510

814-899-6386 [www.messiah-erie.org](http://www.messiah-erie.org)

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. We hope your experience is spiritually rewarding!*

### **Welcome Visitors!**

We are truly blessed that you are worshiping with us today! We have a special gift for you in the Narthex. Please pick one up before you leave.

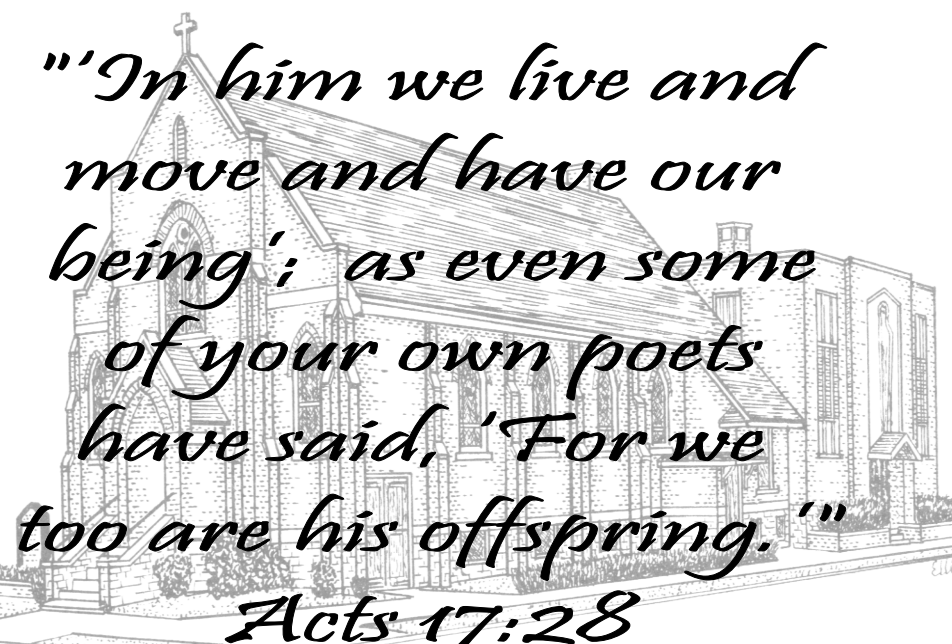
You will find everything you need for worship in this Aid. Ushers are available near the entrance to assist you with any other need.

Please take a few moments to read the Announcements found on the inside cover of this Worship Aid.

**Large Print Worship Aids** are available from the ushers.

*Today we celebrate  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 15, 2022  
8:30am Service of  
Holy Communion*

*"In him we live and  
move and have our  
being"; as even some  
of your own poets  
have said, 'For we  
too are his offspring.'"*  
*Acts 17:28*



### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Jeffrey Piccirilli, Pastor** (C)431-5879 Email: [pastorjeff@messiah-erie.org](mailto:pastorjeff@messiah-erie.org)

**Cindy Anderson, Parish Administrator** Email: [secretary@messiah-erie.org](mailto:secretary@messiah-erie.org)

**Bonnie Stearns, Church Sexton**

## *Announcements*

**S**econd Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **May Vacation Bible School** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**W**esleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church writing “Food Pantry” on the memo line.

**B**ible Study: **Wednesday’s, through May 25 at 6:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pr. Jeff with any questions.

**B**aby-Bottle Tree: **Today** is the last day to take a Baby bottle tags listing baby items for premature babies to age 2 will be on the tree. There are some tags with dollar amounts; these will help off-set the cost of items already purchased. Please place tag on the item and return it by **May 22**. Gifts will go to the Foster Care program. Contact Joyce Hauser with questions

**F**ood Pantry **Food Pantry Volunteers Needed:** At least two volunteers from Messiah are needed on **Monday, May 16 at 10:00am**, to help unload food items and set up for distribution (May 17). Please contact the church office if you are willing and able.

**P**entecost Geraniums: Please consider sponsoring one or more 4 1/2 inch pots from Stan’s Garden Center for **\$3.50** each, to decorate the Sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday. Orders are needed by **May 22**.

**C**hildren’s **Book Drive:** Please consider donating a new or gently used children’s book or two for the Mercy Center for Women’ book nook. This drive is being organized by Gabi Piccirilli as part of her diploma requirements. A collection box will be in the Narthex beginning **Sunday, May 15, through Sunday, May 22**. Your generosity is much appreciated!

**W**ork Day: **May 21 at 9:00am to Noon** to do outside work (spread mulch, weeding, trimming bushes, painting), and to do inside work (clean up the kitchen, closets, and sewing room). Signup in the Narthex or contact Art Anderson at 814-881-1680.

**W**hy the **Orange Banner?:** As of October 17, 2021, we have joined our Native brothers and sisters in solidarity honoring and remembering the children of the First Nations people whose remains were discovered in a mass grave. The 215+ children of the Kamloops Residential School were from the Rosebud Sioux. Orange is the color of the sweaters they had to wear when they were forced to reside at the school.

*We welcome Neal Durchman as our musician today.*

***Our Mission:***

*Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service,  
and our support*

***Our Vision:***

*To build and strengthen the body of Christ*

**Holy Communion**

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacrament:

1. The Altar rail will not be used;
2. Ushers will dismiss people for Holy Communion starting in the back on the piano side of the church, one pew at a time;
3. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from Pr. Jeff and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
4. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from Pr. Jeff;
5. Communion cups will be placed in the cup trays in every other or third hole to allow for individuals to touch only the cup they are taking;
6. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

**Assisting at Worship:**

	<b>Today</b>	<b>May 22</b>
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	Linda Fryer	TBD
<b>Lector</b>	Bob Pommer	Bob Pommer
<b>Usher</b>	Bob Pommer	Steve Porada
<b>Sound System</b>	TBD	TBD
<b>Video</b>	Gabriella Piccirilli	Savanna Conner
<b>Counters</b>	Bob Pommer, Ron Martucci	Bob Pommer, Ron Martucci
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Karen Pistner, Linda Jones	

## Welcome/Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness [stand/kneel as able]

**P** We are gathered in the name of the Father, and † of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance. God of Life,

**C** **by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new. Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions. Our hearts are slow to believe your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P** Christ is alive and death has lost its power. Know that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father † and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Gathering Hymn

### At the Lamb's High Feast



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal

our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love

flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

## *Greeting*

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!

**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 (Lord, Have Mercy)*

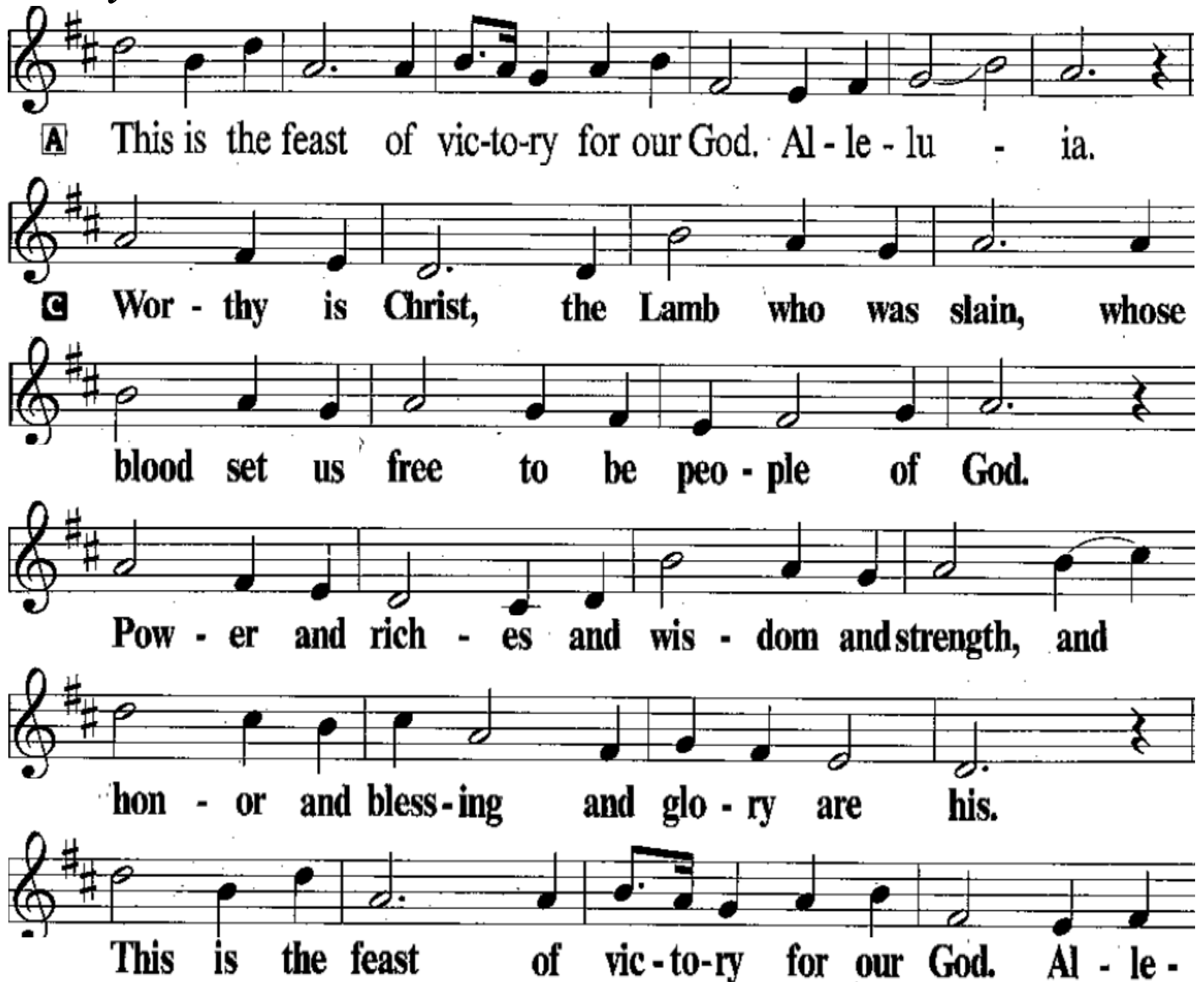


**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

## *Worthy is Christ*



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

**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

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



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of  
 God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:  
 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the  
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -  
 le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day*

- P** Let us Pray: God of the unknown,  
**G** your mysteries are astounding. Give us knowledge where you see fit, and let us sit comfortably with that which we can never understand. Amen.

*Lesson*

*Acts 17:16-31*

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching

is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Sermon*

*Reflection Time*

*Hymn of the Day There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

***Creed***

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- C** **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.**

***Prayers of the People***

- A** Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation...  
 God in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God, in your mercy respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**



## *Peace*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

### *Instrumental music while the Altar is being prepared*

#### *Offertory Hymn*

#### *Come To the Table*

*[stand]*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

#### *Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self*

**A** Let us pray. *(brief pause)* Merciful Creator,

**C** you satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us ever thankful for all that you provide. Help us to be faithful stewards of your blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### *The Great Thanksgiving*

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### *Preface*

#### *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry. 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. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer*

*The Lord's Prayer*

**P** Let us pray with confidence as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

*Invitation to Communion*

**A** The Risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*Lamb of God*

**C** 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



*Distribution of Communion* [sit]

*Communion Music* Instrumental

*Table Blessing*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**G** Amen.

*Post-Communion Canticle*

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

*Post Communion Prayer*

**A** Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Generous God, we give you thanks for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**G** Amen.

## ***Benediction***

**P** May God, the author of life, † Christ, the living cornerstone and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, bless us now and forever.

**C** Amen.

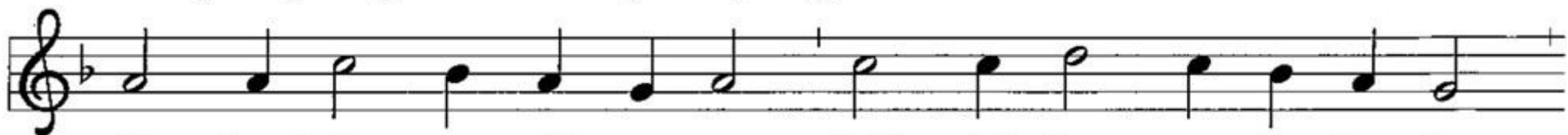
## ***Sending Hymn      Praise and Thanks and Adoration***



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion,    Son of God, to you we give,  
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing,    com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that sin - ners all might live.  
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day  
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!  
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

## ***Dismissal***

**A** Alleluia! Christ is risen. Go in peace and tell what God has done.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

*The Worship Aids are given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Lynn Snyder by Linda & Bill Voigt*

*One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Lynn Snyder by Linda & Bill Voigt*

*One Vase of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Bill & Gerrie Camp by Tracy & Aimee Gustafson*

*The Vigil Candle is given to the Glory of God and in Memory of Lynn Snyder by Linda & Bill Voigt*



(See Acts 9:1-19)

04-28-2003

THIS PAUL GUY IS TRYING TO USE A CREDIT CARD THAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE NAMED SAUL



09-09-2004

THE WINNER OF "THE DISCIPLE" WILL GET TO GIVE UP ALL EARTHLY POSSESSIONS AND FOLLOW ME THROUGH ALL LEVELS OF HARDSHIPS

## The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

A life behind bars awaits those who preach Jesus Christ!



It's called **IRONY** when Saul the great persecutor of the church finds Jesus on the Damascus Road, then becomes Paul the missionary of the same church and spends most of his remaining years in jail. **Acts 8.. GOD'S IRONY**



## Weekly Budgetary Outlook

	<u>Regular Giving</u>	<u>Other Bdgtd. Inc.</u>	<u>Total Bdgtd. Income</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Weekly Avg. Bdgtd. Exp.</u>
May 8, 2022	\$3,388.00	\$27.00	\$3,415.00		\$4,095.54
YTD (18 week)	\$60,704.00	\$9,745.04	\$70,449.04	\$70,352.85	\$77,815.26

***Our Net Gain through 18 weeks is \$96.19.***

***Thank you for your generous contributions!***

“When we give to God, we are just giving back what already belongs to God.”

## This Week at the Church

*(See Newsletter for More Detail)*

**Office Hours :Monday, Closed Tuesday, 10:00am-5:00pm,  
Wednesday-Closed, Thursday, 10:00am-5:00pm,  
Friday-10:00am-5:00pm**

<b>Sun. 5/15</b>	<b><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
<b>Mon.</b>	6:30PM	Meditation Group
	8:30PM	NA Group
<b>Tues.</b>	6:00PM	Church Council
<b>Wed.</b>	6:00PM	Bible Study –FH
<b>Thu.</b>	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group
<b>Fri.</b>	7:30PM	AA
<b>Sat.</b>	9:00AM-Noon	Work Day-Outside & Inside
<b>Sun. 5/22</b>	<b><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion