

**FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

APRIL 28, 2024

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

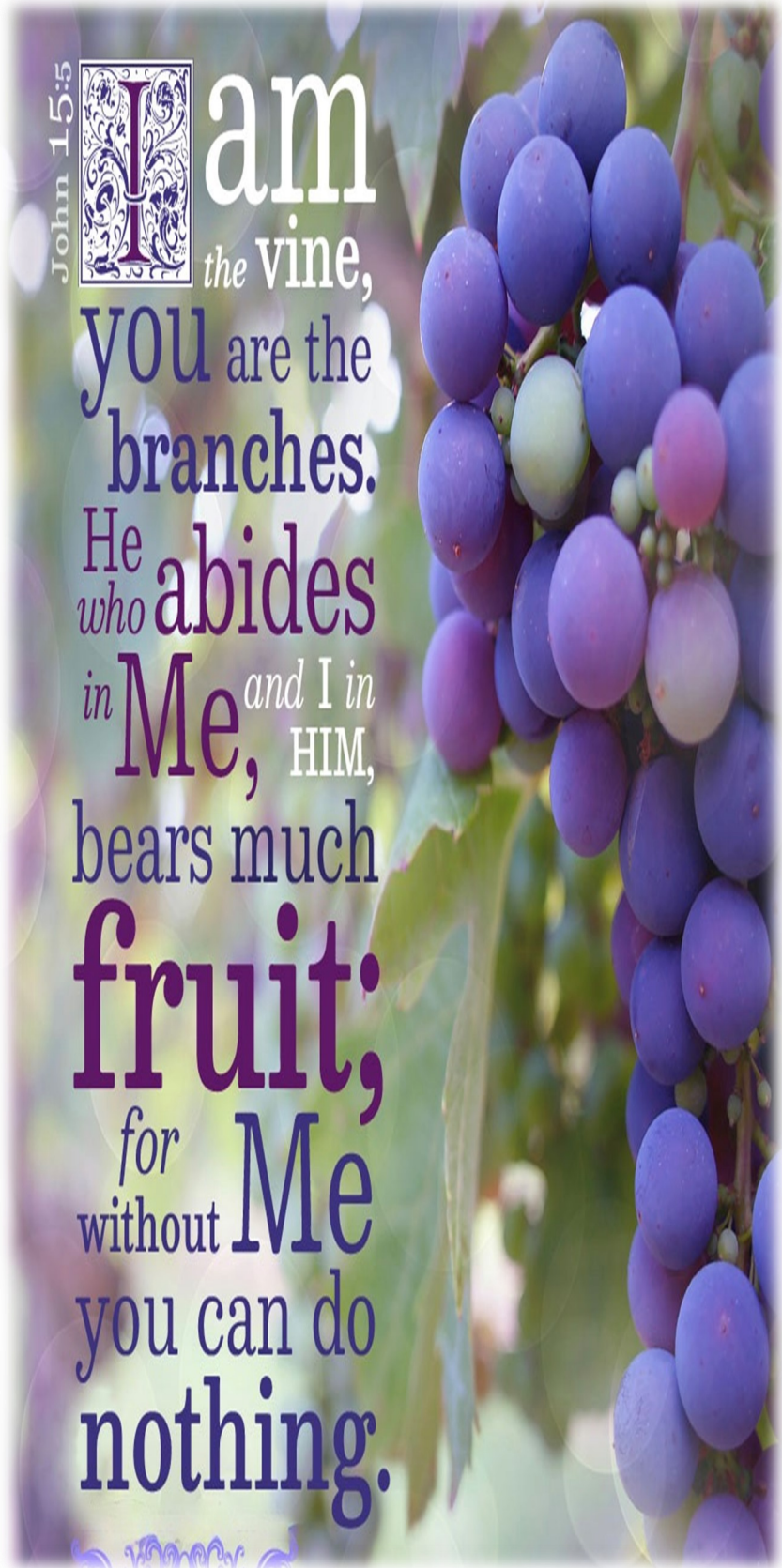
***Sunday*
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service**

**10:30 A.M.
Adult Bible Class/
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday
[www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](http://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs., M-F
8 am to 12 pm
CCLI # 2585510**



John 15:5
I am
the vine,
you are the
branches.
He
who abides
in Me, and I in
HIM,
bears much
fruit;
for
without Me
you can do
nothing.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 28, 2024

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

Next week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Risen and ascended Lord, You are the vine and I am the branch. Apart from You there is no life. By Baptism You have grafted me into Your gracious life. Cause Your Word to abide in me and make me fruitful to the glory of Your Father, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - When Jesus uses the image of the vine and speaks of vineyards, He is choosing something very familiar to His hearers. Viticulture is well known around the world. More than eighteen million acres worldwide is used for growing grapes—from Panama to Tajikistan to Zimbabwe! Today, the cultivation of vineyards is still an important agricultural component in both Israel and the Jordan, lands where Jesus walked and taught. Life in the vineyard is vital! As branches grafted to the Vine that is Christ, we are vitalized by His power. As we worship, God's life-supporting power infuses us! It is time to continue growing!

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 66:1-4, 8-9; 40:5

P Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!

C **Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious.**

P Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.

C **All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name.”**

P Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,

C **Who keeps our soul among the living, and does not allow our feet to be moved.**

P Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

OPENING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus **LSB 770**



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!

(Continue on next page) ³



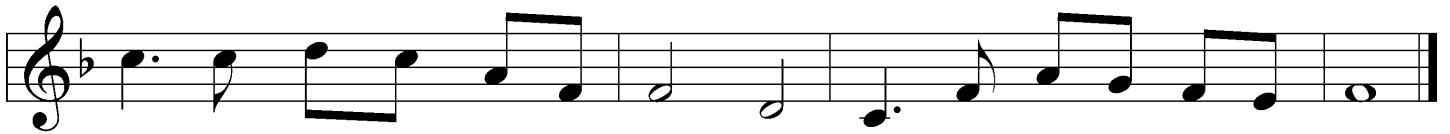
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I**

pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 145:1-2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

P “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.”

C I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever.

P Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever.

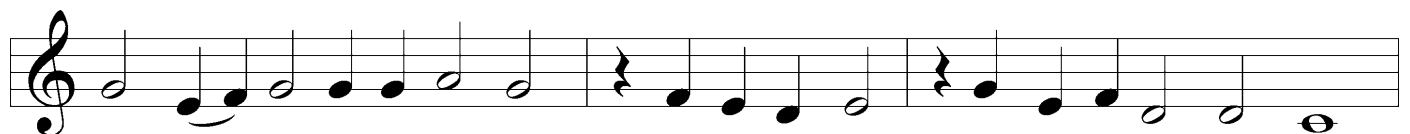
C The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.

P All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You.

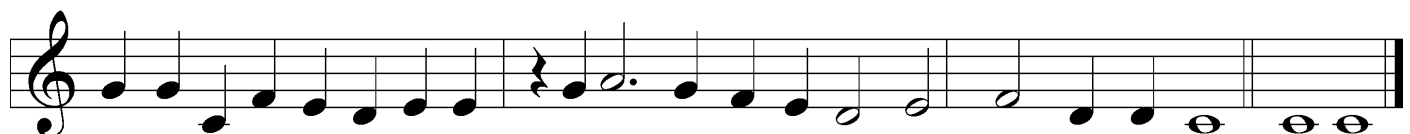
C My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.

P “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.”

GLORIA PATRI

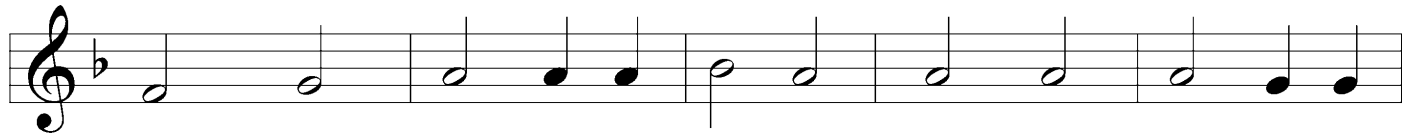


G Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

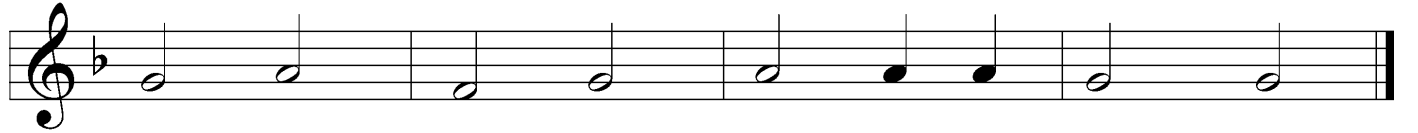


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. 5

KYRIE

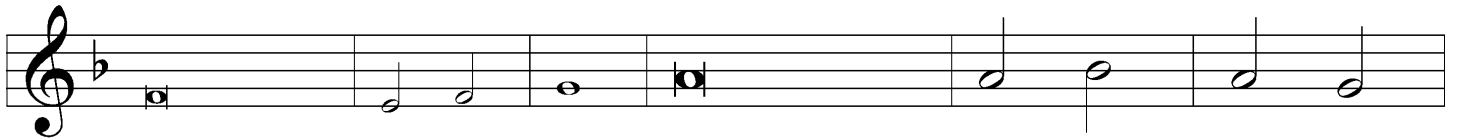


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

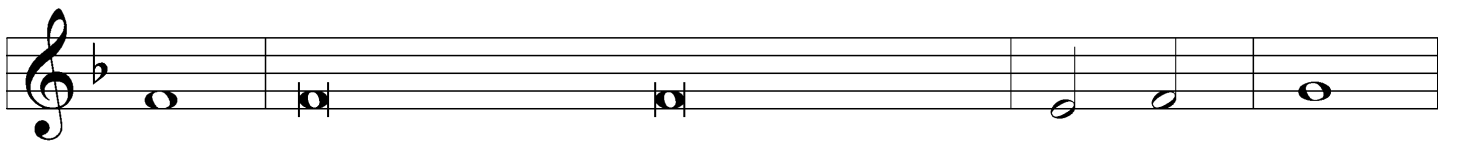


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

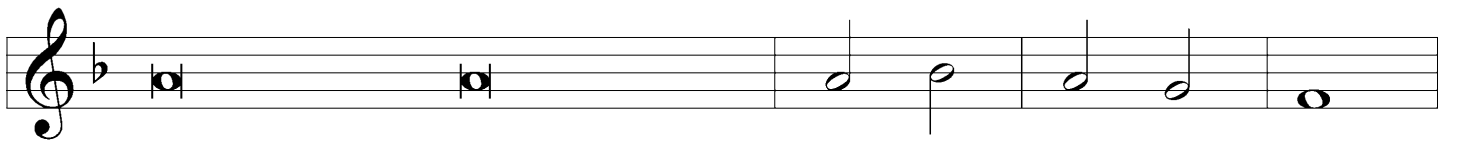
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



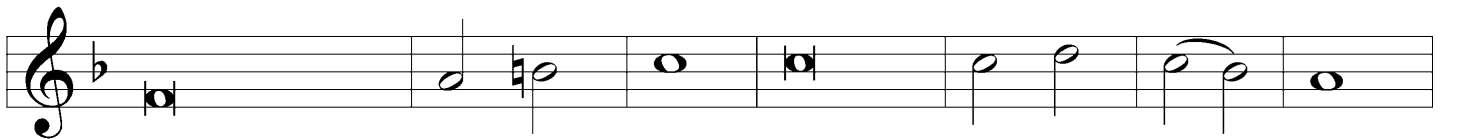
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



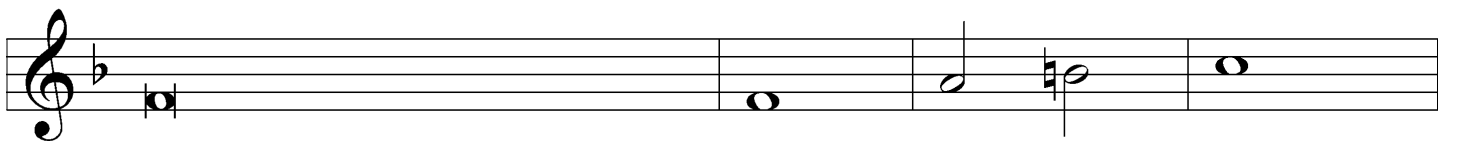
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



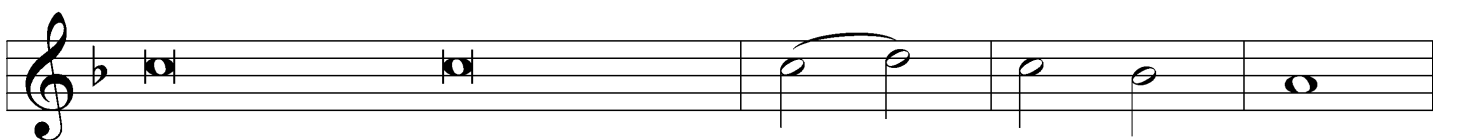
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



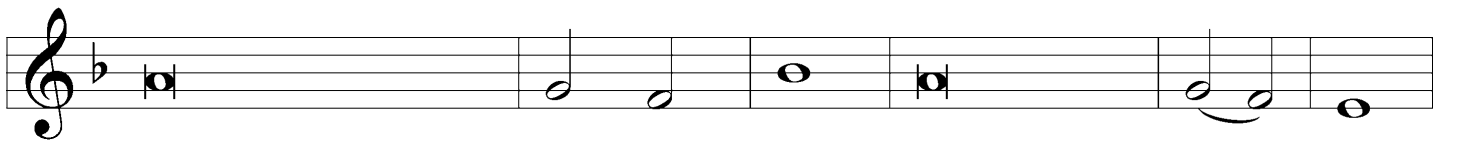
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



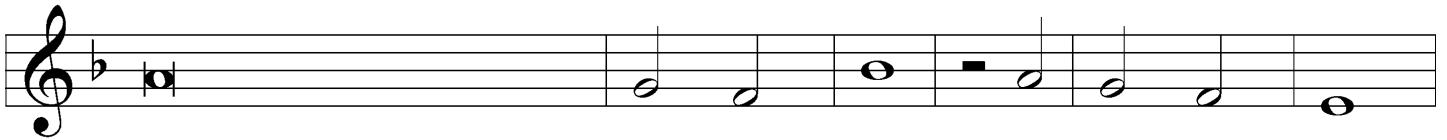
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



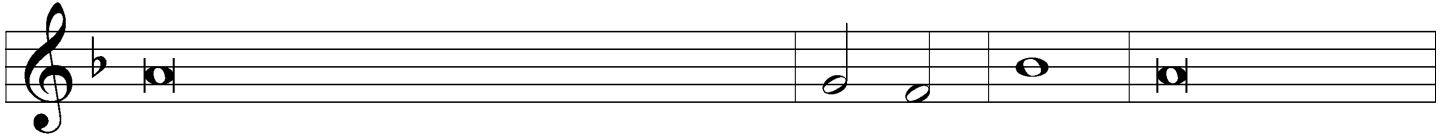
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



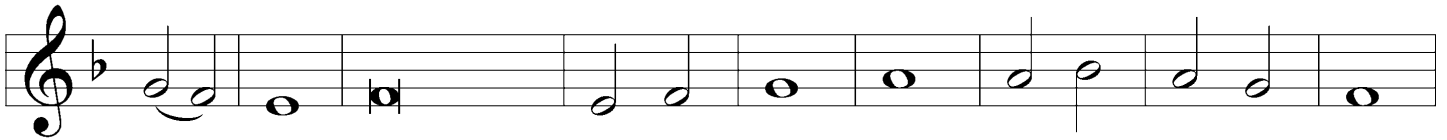
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



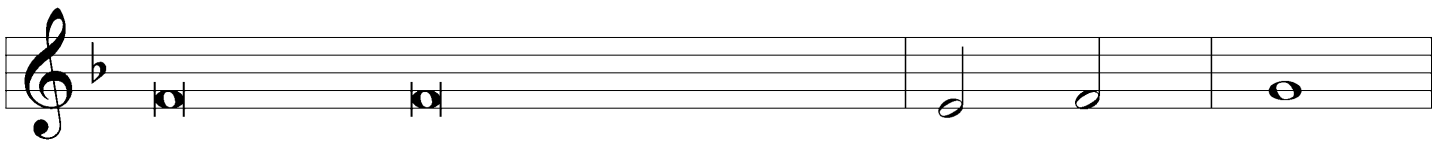
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

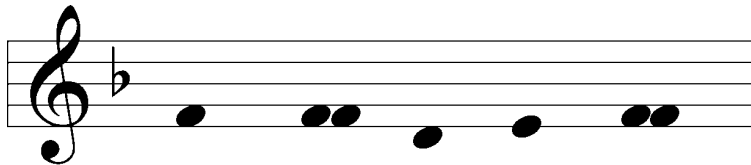


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

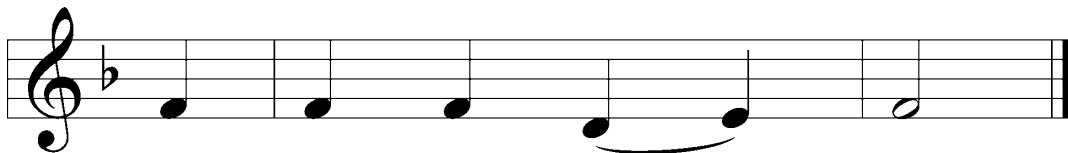


art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

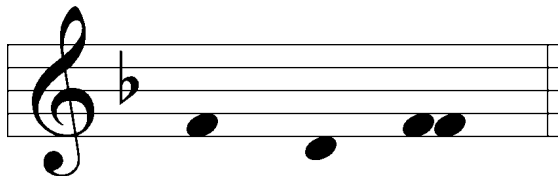
SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



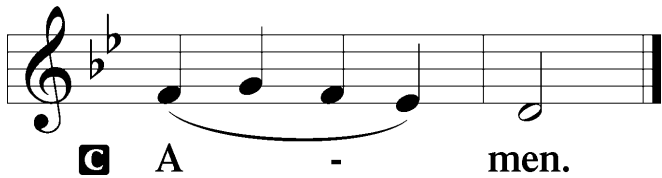
C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You

promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please sit

FIRST READING *Acts 8:26–40*

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.”

34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 150*

P O Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

C Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

P Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!

C Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

P Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!

C Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

EPISTLE *1 John 4:1-11*

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

Continue on next page 9

6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not

know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and

they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -



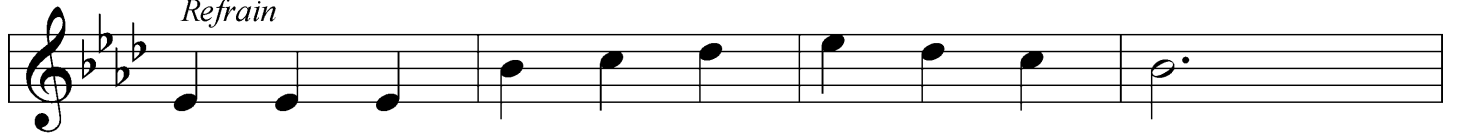
sound-ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen-dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for-

Continue on next page 11



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!



2 Walk - ing the way,	Christ in the cen - ter	Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine,	We are the branch - es;	Life in the
4 Weep - ing, be gone;	Sor - row, be si - lent:	Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God,	Eas - ter for - ev - er,	Gold - en Je -

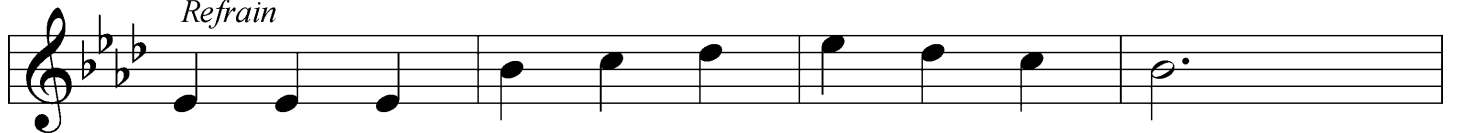


sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;	Break - ing our bread,	Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree;	Heav - en to earth,	Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.	Cher - u - bim sing:	“O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,	Riv - er of life,	Saints and arch -



glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing,	our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture	now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!”	Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion	to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

SERMON

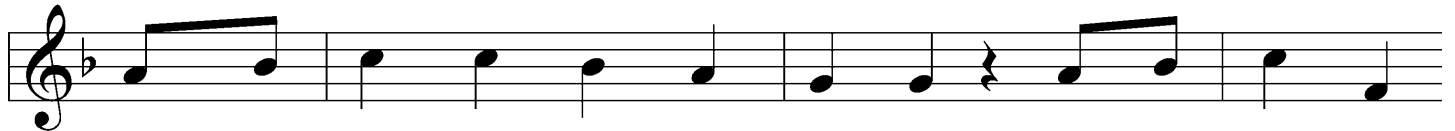
"Much fruit or nothing!"

(John 15:5)

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens* **LSB 589 vs. 1,4**



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

[through use of American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB, p. 215

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be

(Continue on next page) ¹³

hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

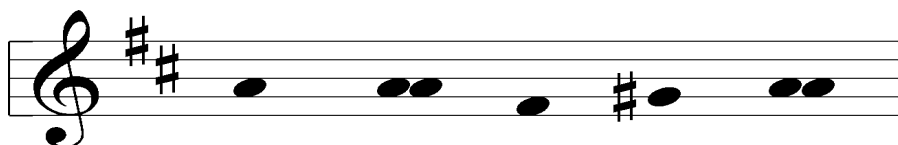
P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

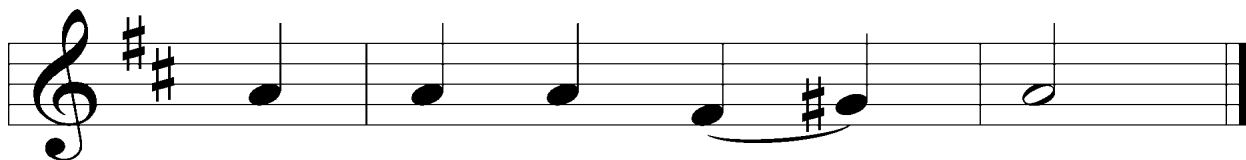
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

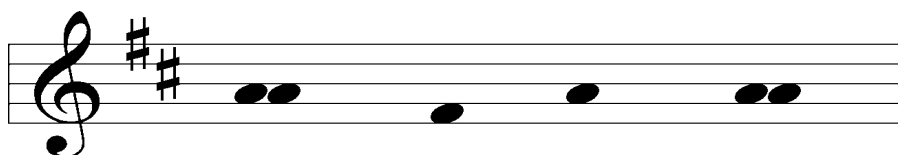
BENEDICAMUS



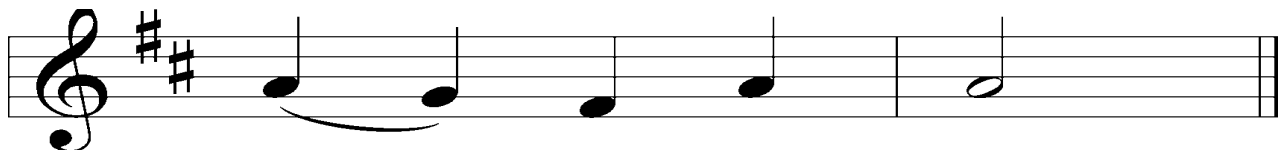
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

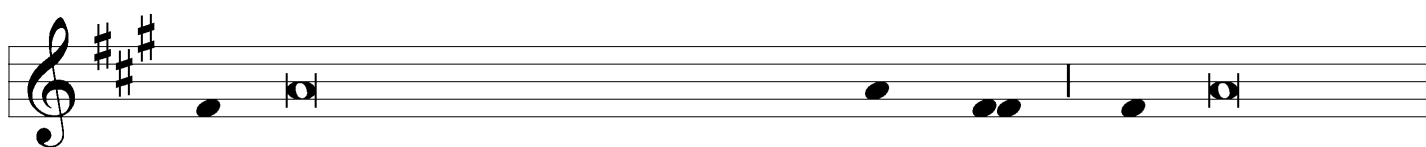


A Bless we the Lord.



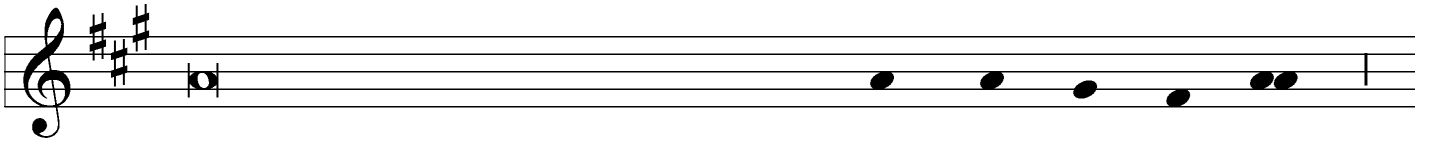
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

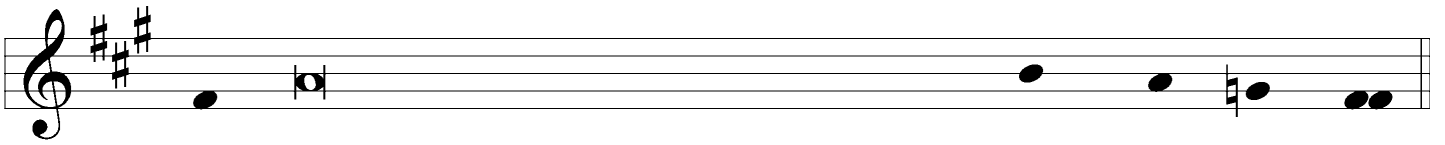


P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

(Continue on next page)



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please sit

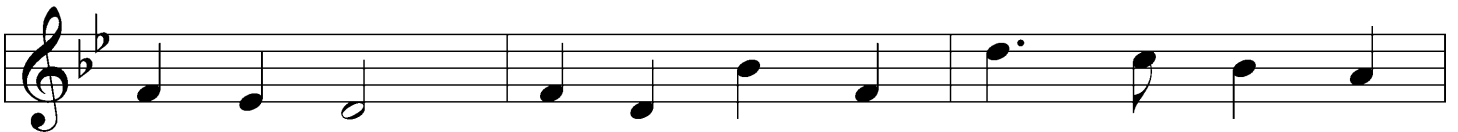
SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

LSB 924



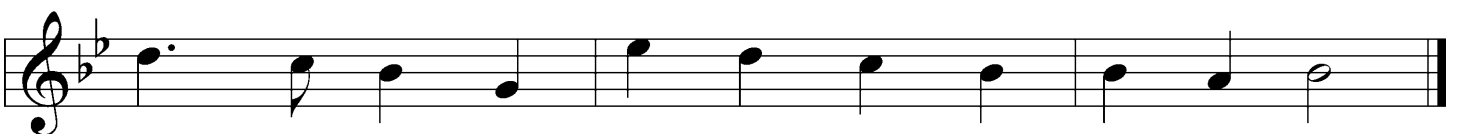
1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for April to June 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for **Sunday School and Bible Study**
at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Rev. Weber is leading the class.

May's Activities

Youth Confirmation Class
Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 2nd

Elders' Meeting
Tuesday, May 7th @ 9:00 a.m.

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12th

Immanuel Lutheran School

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27th
(no classes)

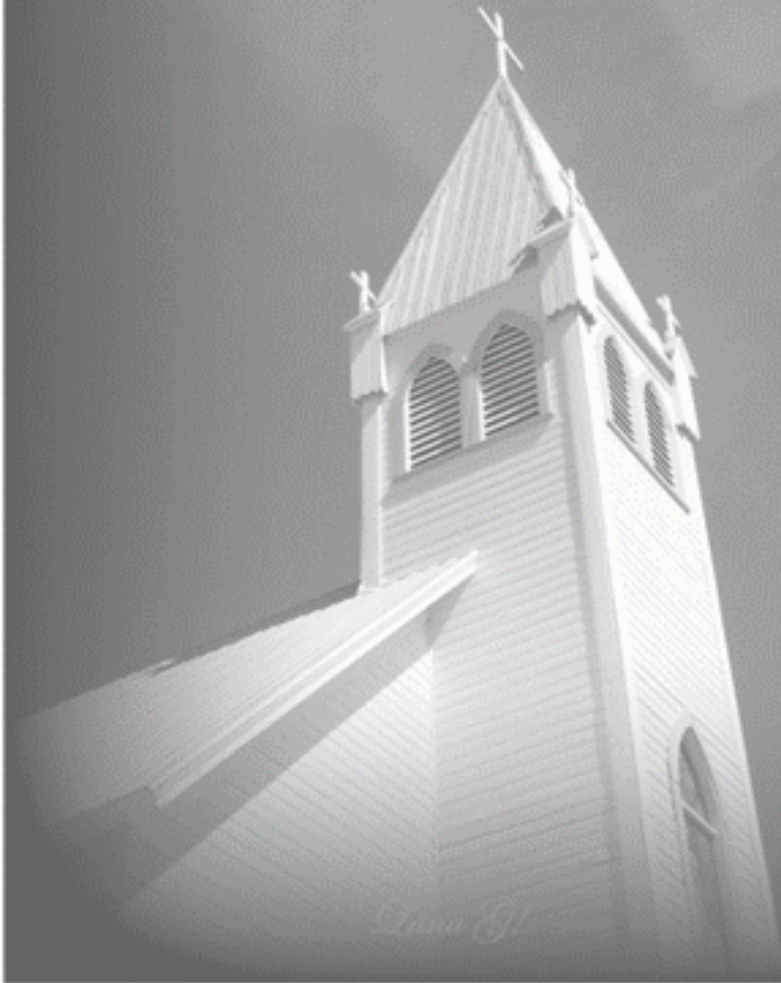
Graduation/Promotion Night
Thursday, May 30th @ 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Last Day of School Reverse Day, Lock-In
Friday, May 31st from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

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Praise the LORD!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heaven!

Psalm 150:1



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Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse: ***John 16:33***

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

4/21/2024

Sunday Worship	31	
Plate:		\$ 115.00
Envelopes:		\$ 728.00
Envelopes-Other:		
On-line:		
Donation:		
	Total:	\$ 843.00
Bible Class:	14	\$ 22.00

Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings:

Acts 10:34-48

Palm 98

1John 5:1-8

John 15:9-17

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

“God is love,” and He has manifested Himself to us by sending “his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him” (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, “he has given us of his Spirit,” so that we also believe and confess “that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.” In this way, we “abide in him and he in us,” and we “love one another” (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip’s preaching of “the good news about Jesus” to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when “they came to some water,” the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into “the true vine,” Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He “bears much fruit” in us (John 15:3–5).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	April Sunday Servants:	May Sunday Servants:
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	S Wehling/R Cisneros/M Perez	BJ Neuhaus/M Weber
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	
Usher:	Earl Nehaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am