

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

**Two settings of "O Blessed Spring"**  
*Dr. Karen Black, organ*

David Cherwien and  
Robert Buckley Farlee

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*New members may be invited forward.*

### PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

P In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*NM I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us welcome these new members into our community of faith.

**C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*New members may return to their seats.*

### GATHERING SONG

**"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"** African American spiritual  
*Cherub Choir; Karen Dickman, Director;*

### CHILDRENS MESSAGE

You are invited to rise.

**GREETING**

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

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

**KYRIE**

*The assisting minister sings the verses. The assembly sings the refrains only.*

**Refrain**

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2. That we may live out your im-pas-sioned re-sponse to the
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for
4. For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for this ho-ly house, for all who  
 hun-gry and the poor; that we may live out truth and  
 friends and fam-i-ly; for life and for love, for our  
 wa-ter and the Word; that you nour-ish our souls with your

wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord,  
 jus-tice and grace,  
 work and our play,  
 bod-y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord.

**to refrain**

## THIS IS THE FEAST

**Refrain**



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

*to verses*



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

**Verse 1**



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



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es,

*to Refrain*



wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

**Verse 2**



Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

*to Refrain*



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# WORD

## FIRST READING:

**Acts 8:26-40**

L A reading from Acts.

<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.

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**1 John 4:7, 16b-21**

L A reading from 1 John.

<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>16b</sup>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.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to rise.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

AHe - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
 life. AHe - lu - ia,\_\_\_ AHe - lu - ia,\_\_\_ al-le-lu - ia.  
 AHe - lu - ia,\_\_\_ AHe - lu - ia,\_\_\_ al-le-lu - ia.\_\_\_\_\_

**GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you O Lord.**

[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."

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Dave Efflandt

You are invited to rise.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"O Blessed Spring"**

**ELW 447**



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
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Please be seated.

**HOLY BAPTISM FOR JULIA GRACE SCHRADER**

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

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child, Julia, baptized into Christ?

Par. I do.

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

Deb Do you promise to help Julia grow in the Christian faith and life?

Par. I do.

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Julia in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Spon. I do.

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

**C We do.**

*You are invited to rise.*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C We renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C I believe in Jesus Christ, 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

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

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

P Julia Grace Schrader, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

Deb Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Julia with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **ANOINTING**

P Julia Grace, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C Amen.**

## WELCOME

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

Deb Let us welcome Julia, the newly baptized.

**C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God, and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## PRESENTATION OF BIBLE

Deb On behalf of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, we present your family with this story Bible. The stories of scripture will fill Julia with faith, hope and love.

*The baptismal party returns to their seats.*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

A We pray for the church in the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep us all, our new members, those who have affirmed their baptisms, and the newly baptized, especially Julia Schrader, in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially Jon Green, Randy Horst, Don Neil, and Kathy Nelson. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## MEAL

### OFFERING MUSIC

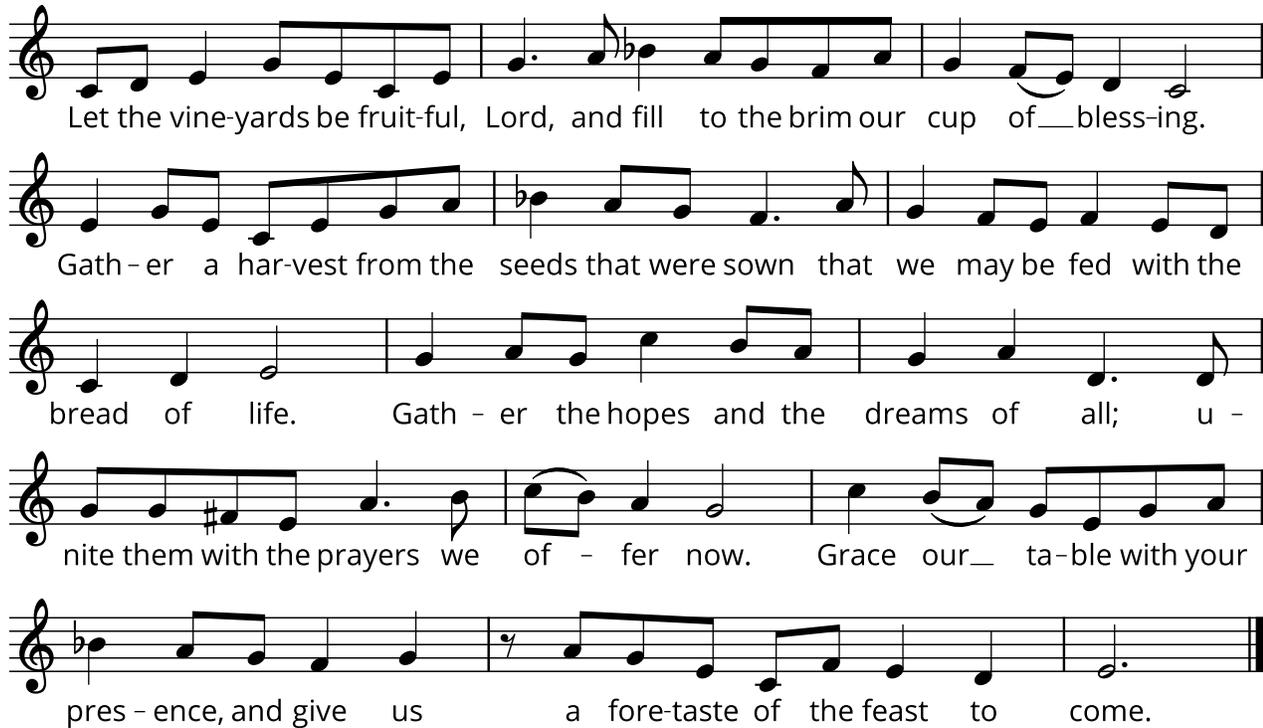
**"Beloved, God's Chosen"**

**Robert Hobby**

*Chancel Choir; Mark Lehmann, Director; Dr. Karen Black, piano, Jennifer Wipperman, flute*

*You are invited to rise.*

## OFFERTORY



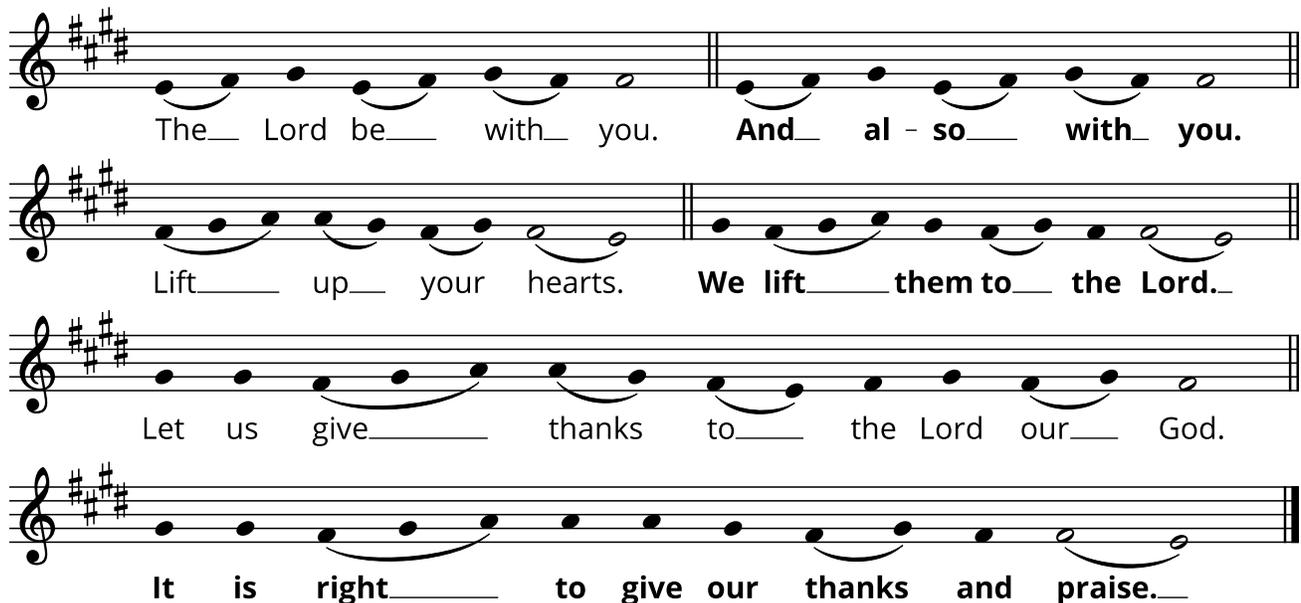
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of\_\_bless-ing.  
Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the  
bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our\_\_ ta-ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

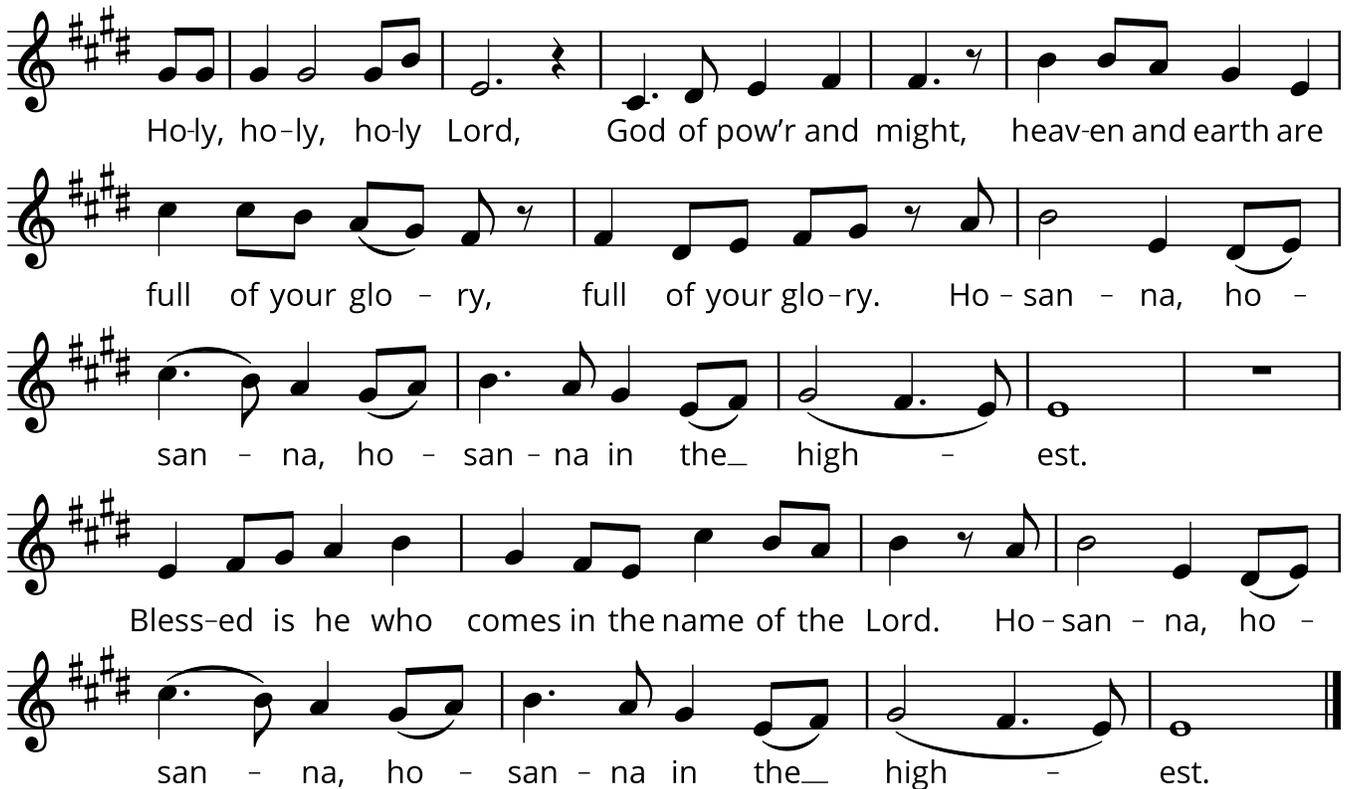


The\_\_ Lord be\_\_ with\_\_ you. **And\_\_ al - so\_\_ with\_\_ you.**  
Lift\_\_ up\_\_ your hearts. **We lift\_\_ them to\_\_ the Lord\_\_**  
Let us give\_\_ thanks to\_\_ the Lord our\_\_ God.  
**It is right\_\_ to give our thanks and praise\_\_**

## PREFACE

P 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:

## 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, 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, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the\_ high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

## LORDS PRAYER

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

**C** 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

*We trust that Jesus Christ is truly present in the meal of Holy Communion. All baptized Christians who share that trust are welcome to Christ's meal.*

### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**SONG DURING COMMUNION**

**“O Come to the Altar”**

**Verse 1**

Are you hurting and broken within,  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling.

**Verse 2**

Have you come to the end of yourself,  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling.

**Chorus**

O come to the altar;  
The Father’s arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.

**Verse 3**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes.  
Come today; there’s no reason to wait.  
Jesus is calling.

**Verse 4**

Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy;  
From the ashes a new life is born.

**Jesus is calling.**

**Chorus (2x)**

**Bridge (2x)**

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

**Verse 5**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you’ve found

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**SONG DURING COMMUNION “Where Charity and Love Prevail”**

**ELW 359**



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God’s char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er’s faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
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*You are invited to rise.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**C** **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **BLESSING**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

**P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.

**C** **Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

### **“Living Hope”**

1. How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the  
2. Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could  
mountain I could not climb. In desperation I turned to  
fathom such boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from  
heaven and spoke your name into the night. Then through the  
glory to wear my sin and bear my shame. The cross has  
darkness your loving-kindness tore through the shadows of my soul.  
spoken; I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me his own.  
The work is finished the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.  
Beautiful Savior, I'm yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Ha-le - lu - jah, praise the one who set me free! Ha-le - lu - jah, death has  
lost its grip on me! You have bro-ken ev-'ry chain. There's sal - va-tion in your name.  
Je-sus Christ, my liv - ing hope. 3. Then came the morning that sealed the  
prom-ise, your bur-ied bod-y be-gan to breathe. Out of the si-lence, the Roar-ing  
Li - on de-clared the grave has no claim on me.  
Je-sus, yours is the vic - to - ry! Ha-le lu - jah, praise the  
one who set me free! Ha-le - lu - jah, death has lost its grip on me! You have  
bro-ken ev-'ry chain. There's sal - va-tion in your name. Je-sus Christ, my liv - ing  
hope. Je-sus Christ, my liv-ing hope. Je-sus Chirst, my liv-ing hope.

CCLI Song # 7106807

Brian Johnson | Phil Wickham

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## DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

## POSTLUDE

“Living Hope”

## SPONSORSHIPS

**Altar flowers** are provided by Rod and Bonnie Drenkow in thankfulness for St. Paul's new associate Pastor, Nikoli Falenschek who will be starting at St. Paul's in June.

**Radio broadcast** is sponsored in thankfulness for good family and friends by Dianne Westendorf

## WORSHIP LEADERS & WELCOME

**Preacher:** Pastor Dave Efflandt

**Assisting Minister:** Bob Buckingham

**Lector:** Rick Juchems

**Ushers:** Bill & Beth Halovic, Tom & Amber Downing

**Worship Team:** Derek Jordan-Ouerson, percussion, James Lockie, bass guitar, Kyle Lockie, Jeff and Shoshanna Coon, Christine Anderson

**Organist:** Karen Black

**Pianist:** Devin Wipperman

**Communion Ministers:** Jon Tehven, Patricia Shaw, Ann Benschoter, Betty Westmeyer, Dan Black

**Sacristan:** Ellis Boots

**Livestream:** Lyla Pier-Atkinson

**Fellowship Helpers:** Meredith Keelan and Lanelle Lawson

**Altar Guild for April:** Beth Bachman and Michele Fischer

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## STAY IN TOUCH



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LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
301 1ST ST NW  
WAVERLY, IA 50677  
319-352-3850  
life@stpaulswaverly.org

### Pr. Dave Efflandt:

Call 319-352-3850 and use the voice menu for pastoral care

### Pr. Patricia Shaw:

Home: 319-596-4145

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