FAMILY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — "NO GREATER LOVE…"

MAY 9, 2021 – MOTHERS' DAY

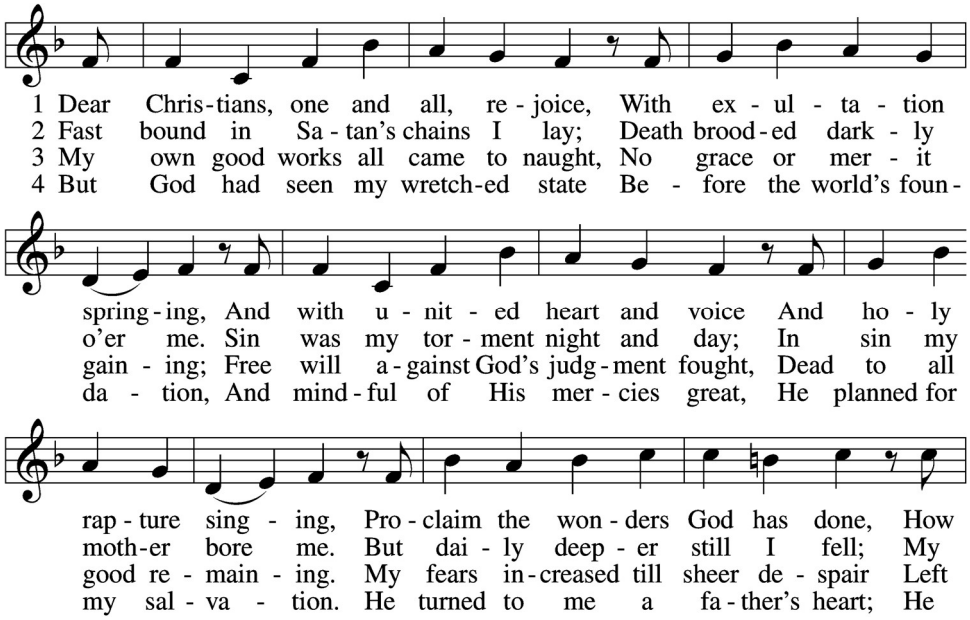
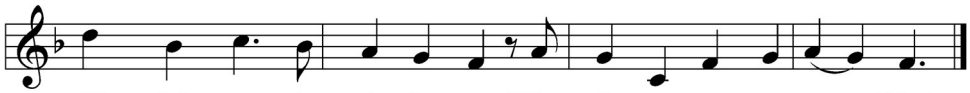
Divine Service, Setting One—LSB 151ff

PRELUDE *"AMAZING GRACE/MY CHAINS ARE GONE"*

PASTOR'S GREETING

(Congregation stands)

ENTRANCE HYMN "DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL REJOICE" ***LSB* 556, *STS.1-4***



Text and tune: Public domain

✢ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✢

INVOCATION AND EXHORTATION

Matthew 28:19b [18:20]

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

C **Amen.**

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.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

A moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

John 20:19-23

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

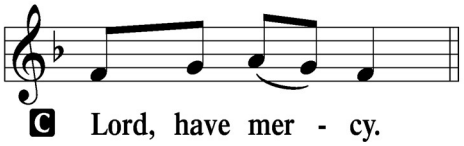
✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

(Congregation remains standing)

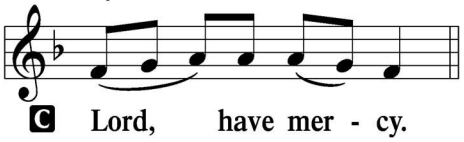
KYRIE — *LORD HAVE MERCY*

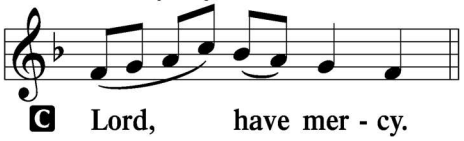
Mark 10:47

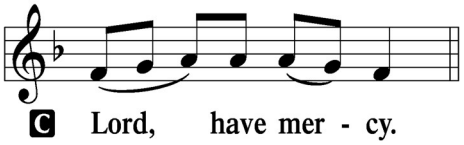
A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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

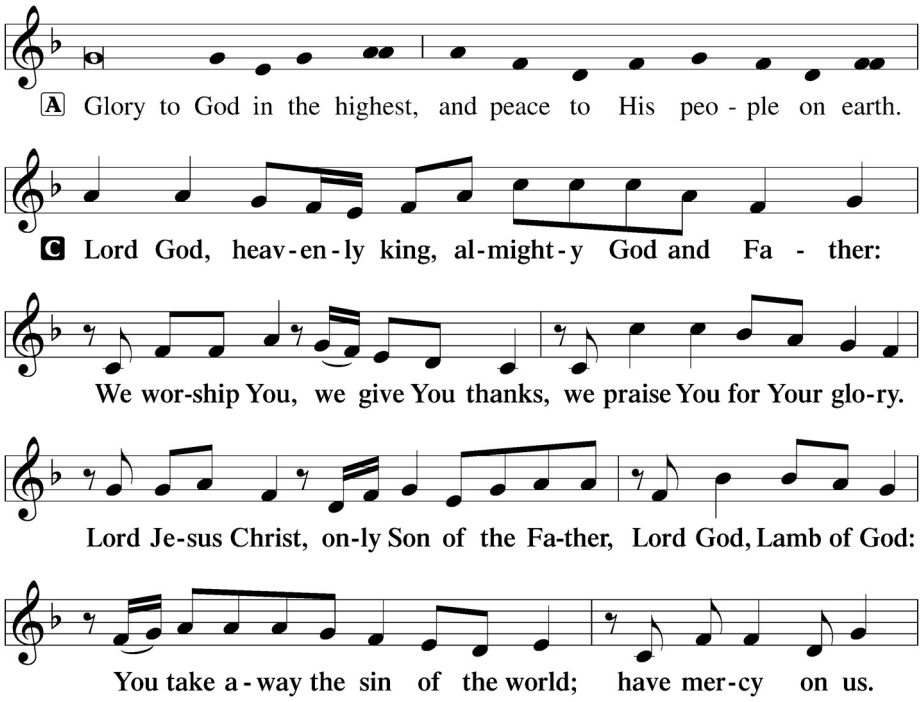


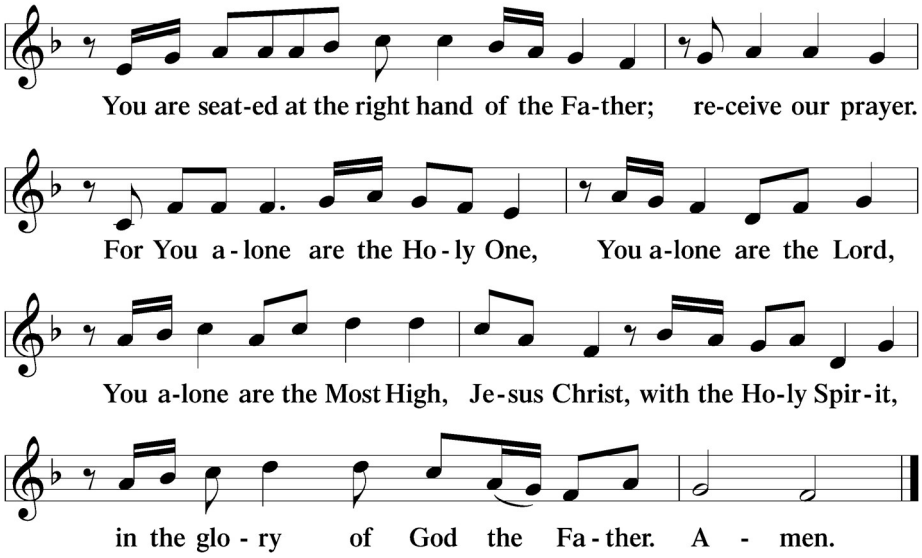
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST* *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*





Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray*: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C **Amen.**

(Congregation sits)

The First Reading

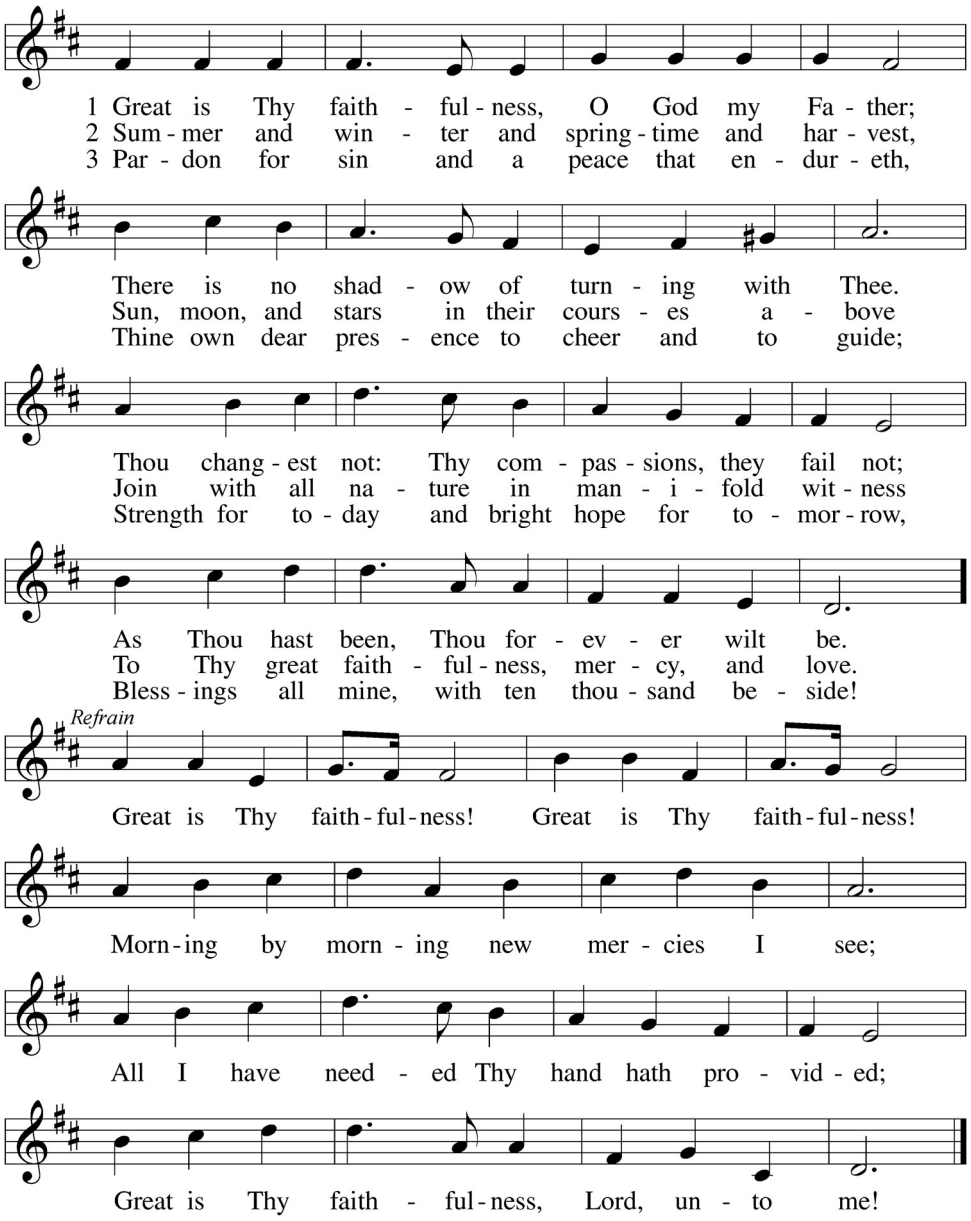
L The First Reading is from the Book of Acts 10:34-48.

L Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS" *LSB 809*

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The Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

P Christ has risen from the dead. [God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and honor.

C **He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands; He has put all things under his feet.**

The Epistle Reading

L The Epistle reading is from 1 John 5:1–8.

L Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

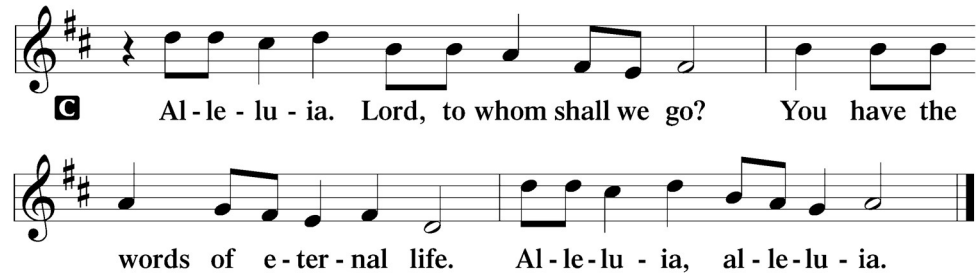
This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

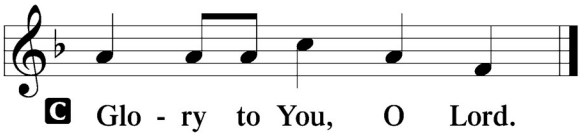
C **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation stands)

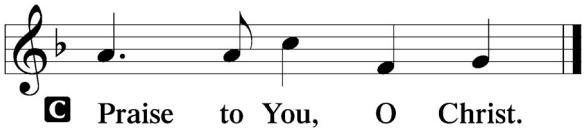
Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68

The Holy Gospel

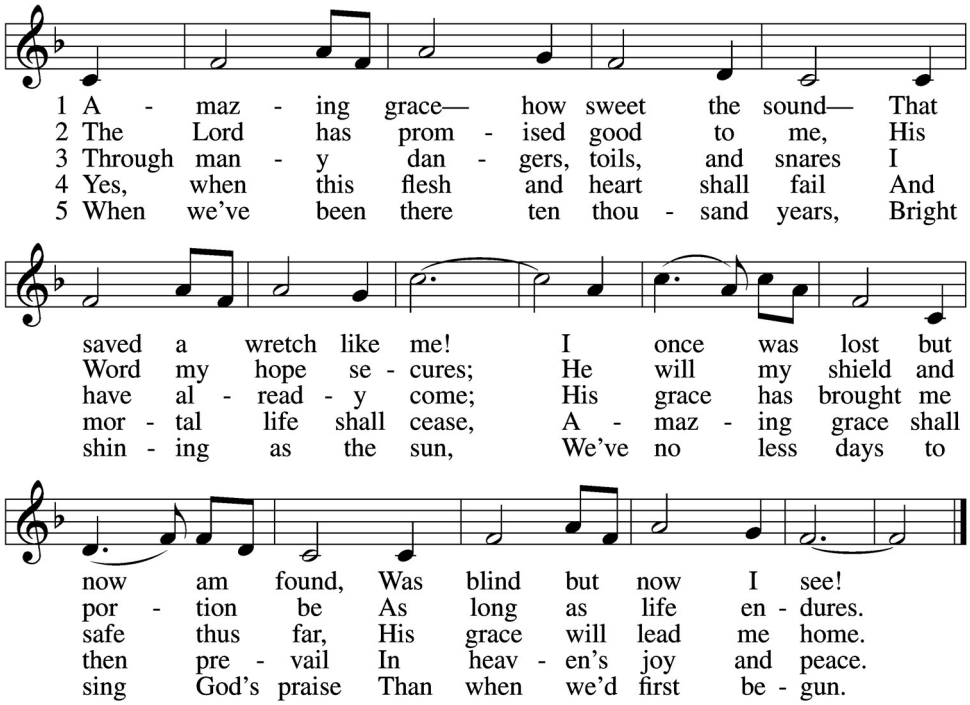
John 15:9–17

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

P [Jesus said:] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

(Congregation sits)

SERMON HYMN "AMAZING GRACE" *LSB 744, STS.1-4*



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SERMON *"NO GREATER LOVE…"*

(Congregation stands)

THE NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

℗ Let us pray to our God who does not remove His steadfast love from us or reject our prayers for His whole Church and for all people according to their needs.

℗ For all who come and hear God's Word, that they would rightly fear God and learn what He has done for their souls, let us pray to the Lord:

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For the work of our missionaries, that in every nation there would be people who fear God, do what is right and, believing in Jesus, receive forgiveness of sins through His name, let us pray to the Lord:

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For our mothers, that with thanksgiving we may honor them aright as Christ honored and obeyed His mother while here on earth; for all women with child, that God would give them safe delivery; and for all women who long to have children but cannot, that they may find their consolation in Christ and His unfailing love, let us pray to the Lord:

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For our nation's leaders, that God would cause them to serve wisely for our good in accord with His revealed order; though we do not always know what the Master is doing by the authorities He gives, that we would make ample use of the freedom Jesus has given in His name to ask the Father for everything as friends and fellow sons, let us pray to the Lord:

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially _____,]* that they would receive from God all His good gifts of healing for the body, grace to bear the cross, and finally a blessed end and the gift of eternal life in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

ℂ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ For all who come to the Holy Supper, that having received the testimony of God in the water of Baptism, they may also receive it in the body and blood of Jesus and so overcome the world by faith in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

℃ **Lord, have mercy.**

℗ Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

℃ **Amen.**

(Congregation sits)

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY ***"FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS"*** *by Henri Hemy*

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

(Congregation stands)

PREFACE

℗ The Lord be with you.

℃ **And also with you.**

℗ Lift up your hearts.

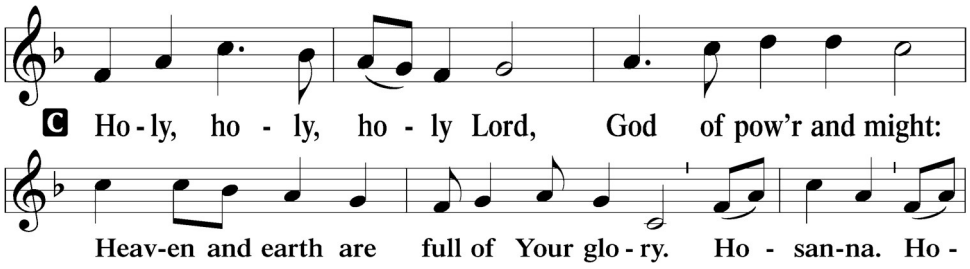
℃ **We lift them to the Lord.**

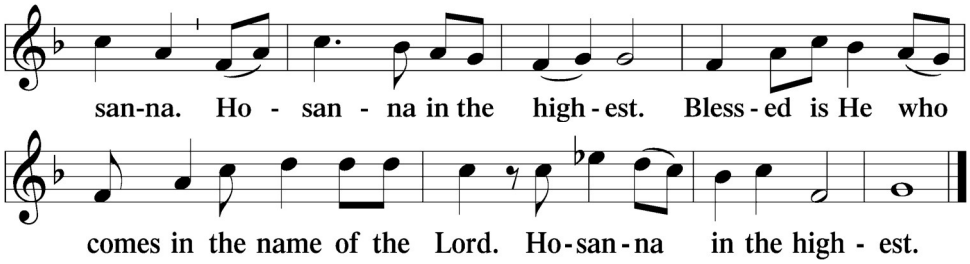
℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℃ **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*





THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

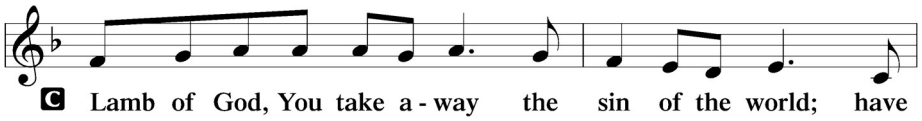
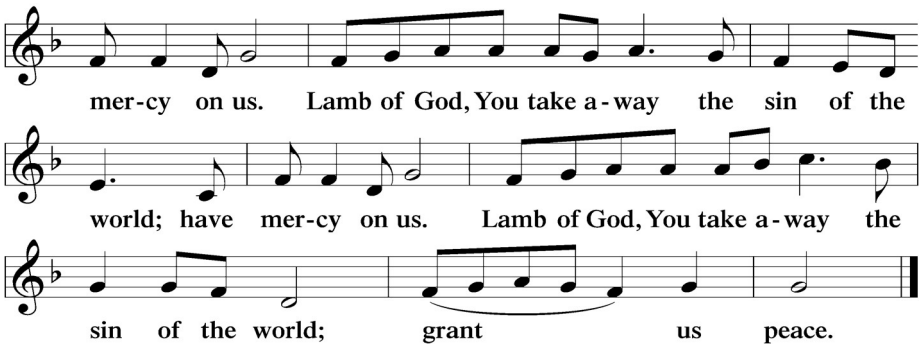
LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.**

PAX DOMINI *THE PEACE OF THE LORD* *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And with your spirit.**

AGNUS DEI *LAMB OF GOD* *John 1:29*



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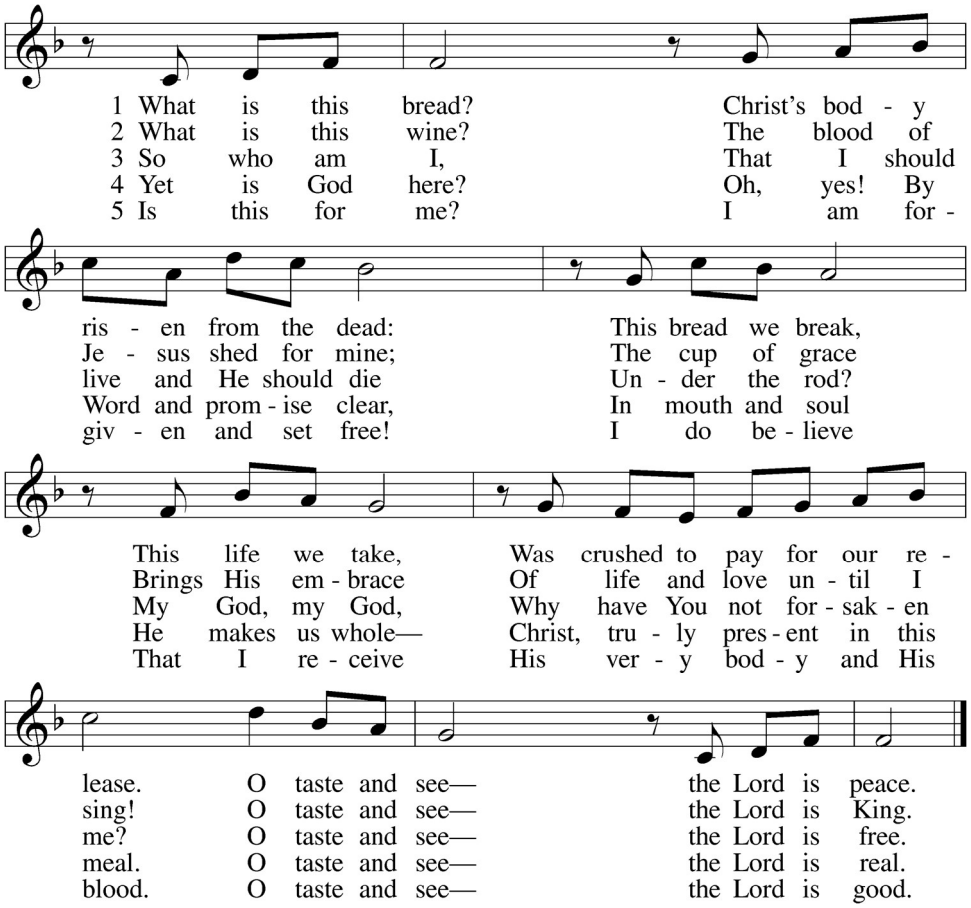
DISTRIBUTION

(Please see our Communion policy on the last page)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "WHAT IS THIS BREAD" *LSB 629*



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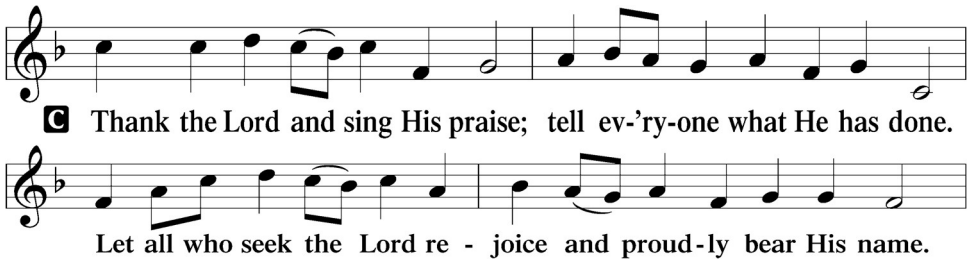
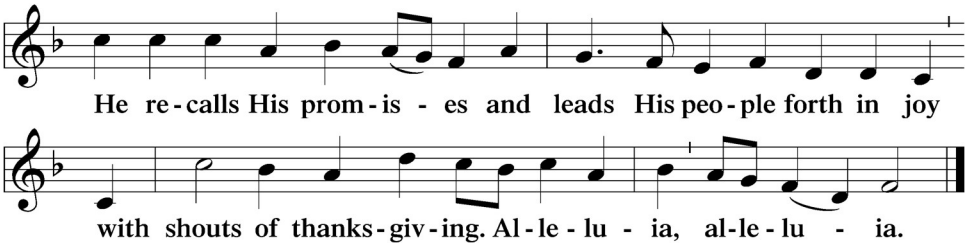
(Congregation stands)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *"THANK THE LORD"*

THANKSGIVING

℗ O give thank unto the Lord for He is good.

℃ **and His mercy endures forever.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

℗ *Let us pray*. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

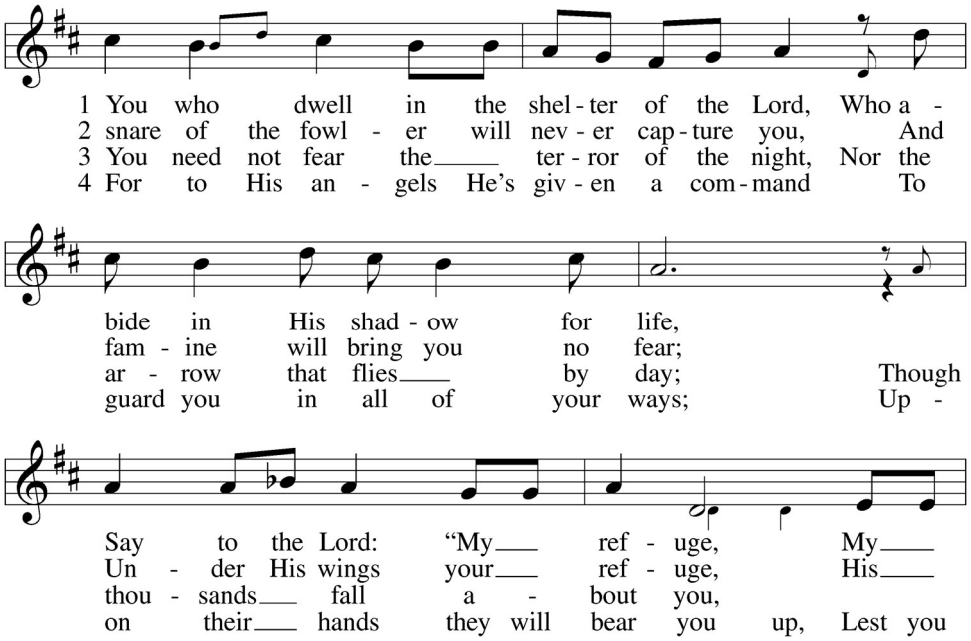
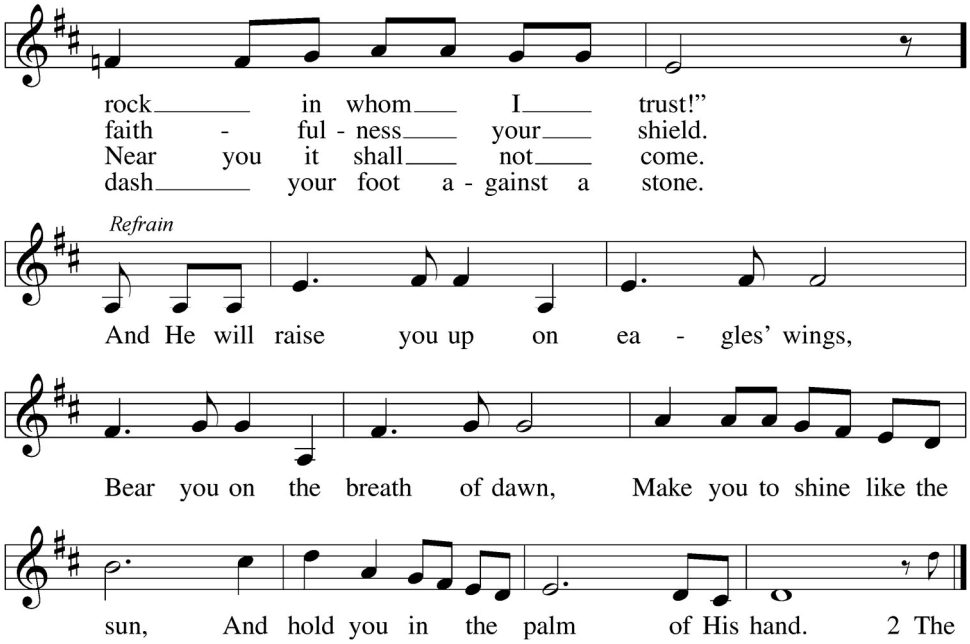
℃ **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

℗ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

℃ **Amen.**

DEPARTING HYMN "ON EAGLES' WINGS" *LSB 727*



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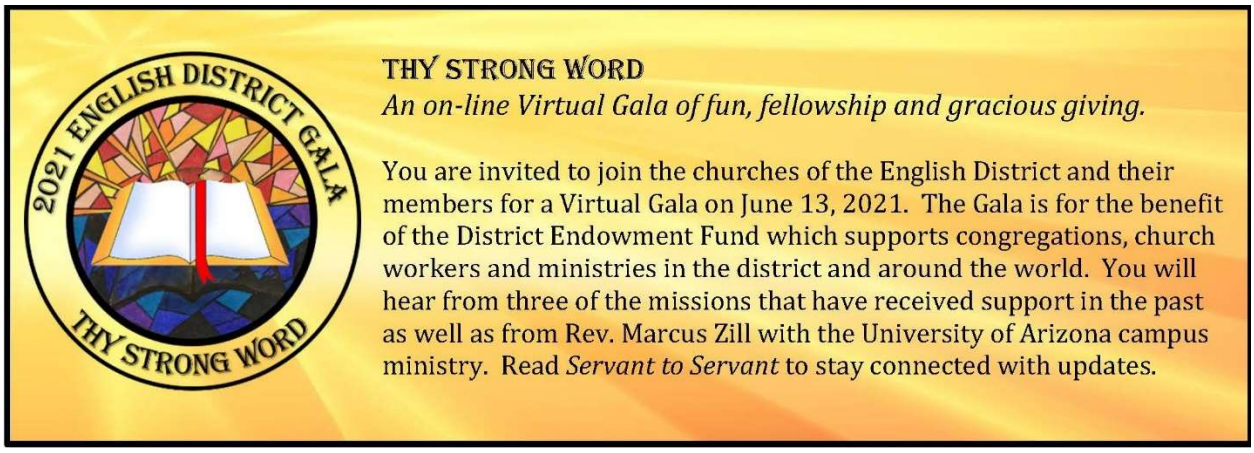
POSTLUDE ***"BLESSED BE YOUR NAME"***

✠ From the District and Synod ✠



Continue your worship during the week here!

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Program Information for the Week of May 2, 2021

KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get your podcasts!

Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This week on KFUO.org, begin studying 2 Peter on *Sharper Iron* (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear about 1 Kings 8-10 on *Thy Strong Word* (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in *Daily Chapel* at 10:00 a.m. CT. Find your favorite podcasts on demand at kfuo.org or on your podcast app!

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

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www.FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H. Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Church Office Administrator

(open)

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

5/9 – 5/16

Sunday

9:30AM Sunday Divine Worship

NO BIBLE STUDY

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Next Sunday

9:30AM Sunday Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Our Communion Policy

As a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Family of Christ celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words and approach the altar with repentant hearts. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar. For those who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we request that you refrain from receiving the sacrament. If you desire to receive the Sacrament, please speak first with the Pastor.

For further study, please see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.