

May 04, 2025

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

10868 Old Highway 51 North Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin 54568 (715) 358-8338 www.peacearborvitae.org

Rev. Jonathan C. Rathjen, Pastor



Welcome to Peace Lutheran! We're glad that you are here today!

+ Attendance cards are found in the chair pocket in front of you. Please complete the appropriate side of the Attendance Card as a member or guest. Check the box next to the names of those who will receive Holy Communion today. Place the completed card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

+ Before coming to receive Holy Communion, please read and prayerfully consider the following:

Communion Statement:

We take seriously what the Bible says about the spiritual care and unity of those who commune at our altar. The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession of faith and confidence that our Lord gives us 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 are baptized, have been instructed in and share this Lutheran understanding of the Lord's Supper, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

We do not wish to turn any away, but because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet confirmed or admitted to Communion in their home congregation, who are in doubt, who hold to a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or hold membership in a different church body or denomination and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor.10:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Spiritual Care Statements for Self-Examination:

Do you agree with these statements?

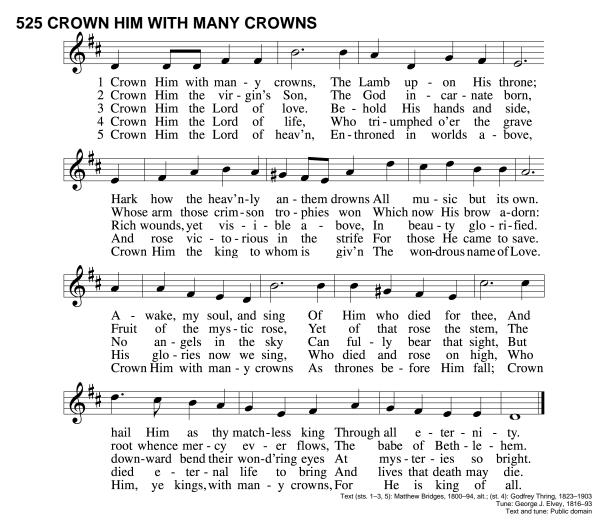
- I am a sinner by nature and by what I think, say, and do.
- I am sincerely sorry for my sins—the ways that I've disobeyed God and hurt others.
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior—that He died on the cross for me and rose again from the dead for me to rescue me from hell and give me eternal life in heaven with Him.
- I believe Jesus' words "this is My body, which is given for you....this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins..." I believe that He is bodily present in, with, and under the bread and wine in the Sacrament for me to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of my sins.
- I am not refusing to forgive anyone or holding any grudges.
- I want the Holy Spirit to enable me to turn from my sinful ways, to follow Jesus in faith more consistently according to His word, and to grow in loving and forgiving others as the Lord has first loved and forgiven me.

If you have a medical condition that precludes wine, there are several individual cups of grape juice near the center of each tray.

Baptismal Blessing: Those who have been baptized but are not receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament today (see the Communion Statement above) are still invited and encouraged to come to the Communion rail for a blessing. Please indicate your desire for such a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as you kneel or stand at the Communion rail. Thank you.

+ Third Sunday of Easter +

May 04, 2025



(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

■ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **G** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- 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.

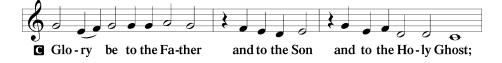
C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

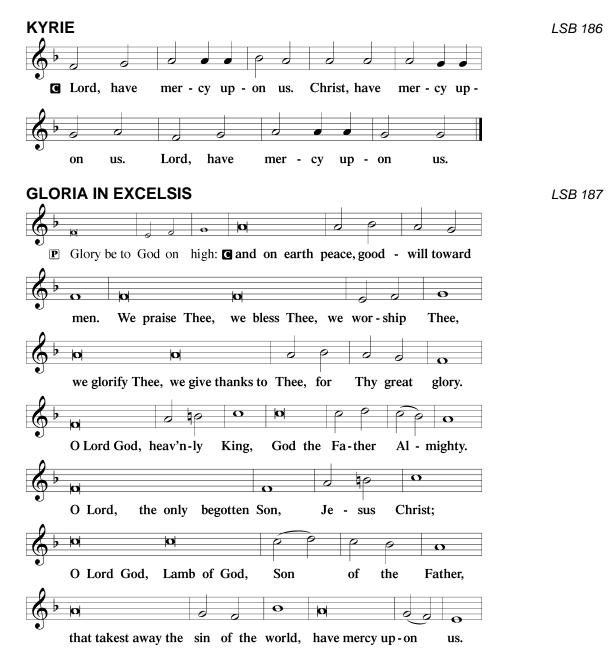
Psalm 145:4-7, 9; antiphon: v. 10

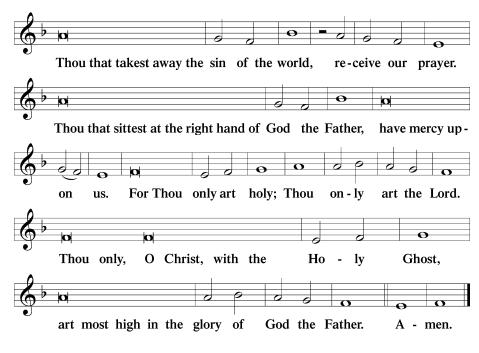
- P All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
- **C** and all your saints shall bless you!
- P One generation shall commend your works to another,
- **G** and shall declare your mighty acts.
- P On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
- **G** and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- P They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
- **G** and I will declare your greatness.
- P They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
- **C** and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- P The Lord is good to all,
- **()** and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- P All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
- **G** and all your saints shall bless you!



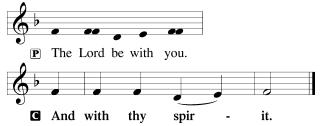


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.









P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



FIRST READING

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

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

- A Christ has risen from the dead.
- **G** [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.
- A He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
- **C** he has put all things under his feet.

EPISTLE

Revelation 5:1–14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth

was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

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"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."
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¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

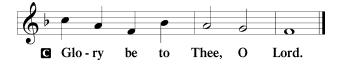
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C Thanks be to God.
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John 21:1-19

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.



¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going

fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

C 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.

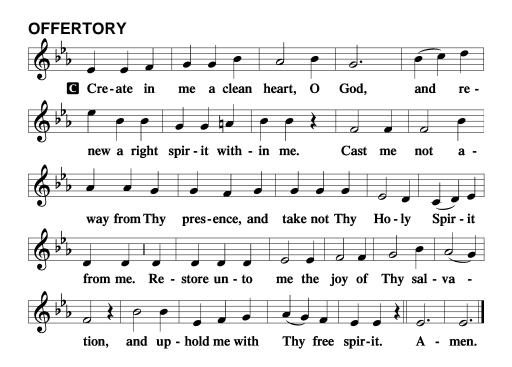


SERMON

"Surprising Turnaround"

Acts 9:1-22

- The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.



LSB 192

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- That the Lord would accomplish His holy purpose in calling many joyfully to know His redemption; and that we, as the people of God, would live lives of service as a kingdom of priests in accordance with God's holy will, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the Church of God, that many men would be called to the service of the Church and to suffer for the Gospel, confounding her enemies with Christ's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the Church of Jesus, that He who provided fish for His apostles and sent them out as fishers of men would bless the Word and gather in as many as would be saved, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all fathers and mothers, that God would strengthen their faith and increase their joy in the Gospel, and that they would declare the mighty acts of God to the generation to come, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.

- For our rulers and all the nations of the earth, that God who orders all nations would inspire His Church to shepherd them unto eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those who struggle among us, *especially*, that God would give them faith and grace and be glorified through their trials, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the faithful reception of Christ's very body and blood, that God would give us the Holy Spirit so that what we receive with our lips we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord:
- **Lord**, have mercy.
- Lord, You are holy, and You sanctify us in Christ. Give us strength during temptation, courage in times of fear, comfort in distress and resolve in the face of persecution. Help us to abound in hope in every circumstance; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

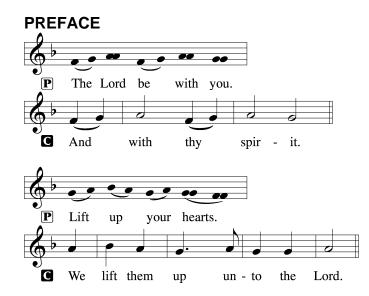
C Amen.

OFFERING

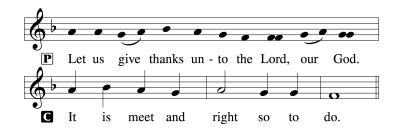
Thank you for your continuing support of the work of the Lord through Peace Lutheran Church in Arbor Vitae. If you would like to make a secure online offering, please visit our website at www.peacearborvitae.org or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



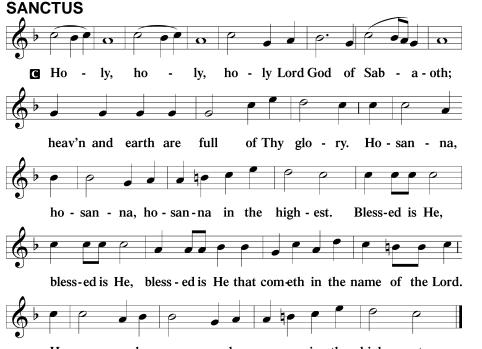
+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +



LSB 194



It is truly meet, 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:



LSB 195

Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; LSB 196

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.

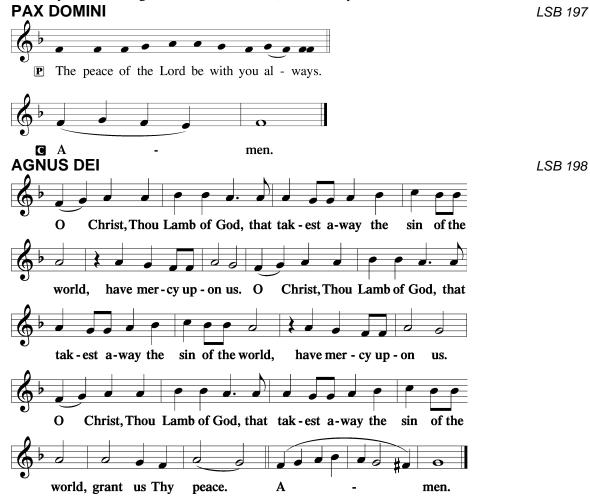
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

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 T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



DISTRIBUTION

Prayer before communing

Almighty and everlasting God, in this holy supper, You feed me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, trustfully receiving with my mouth the holy Sacrament, I may grow in repentant faith in Christ alone, and receive and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of my sins, unity with Him, and life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Thee is 1 In glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je sus. -2 Since He is ours,_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of giv - en The gifts of shine of my heart. By Thee are sun earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis heav-en, Thou the true Re-deem - er art. Our souls Thou tress - es: He can change them with breath. Where-fore the а wak-est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built sesto - ry Tell His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n reof cure-ly; He stands for - ev er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are -Him for - ev er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for joic - es In see Thy То ing, Dv - ing pin - ing shin or liv - ing glad - ness, Tri-umph o'er sad ness, Love Him and praise Him Naught can sev - er: Al-le-lu-ia! To Thee are cleav - ing; us And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al-le-lu-ia! Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622 Text and tune: Public domain

818 IN THEE IS GLADNESS

611 CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE



Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

C Amen.



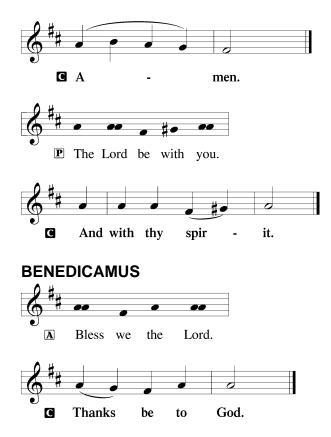
THANKSGIVING 10 -O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, A O and His mercy endureth for - ev

A Let us pray.

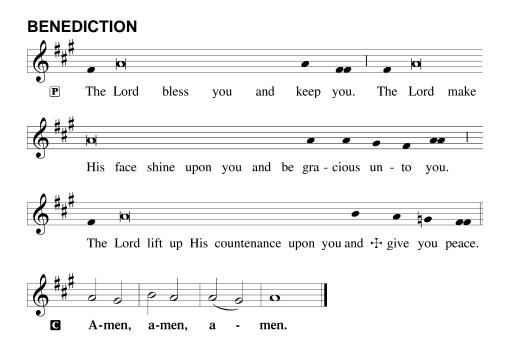
С

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.

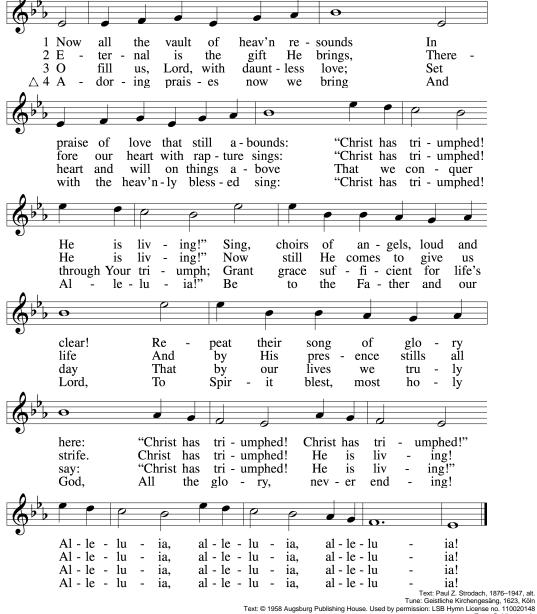
er.



LSB 202



465 NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS



Tune: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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