The Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and



congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Alleluia, Alleluia Rowland W. Prichard, Composer

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. *C:* Amen.
- *P:* Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.
- At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

ELW # 377

*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.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4 (read responsively)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;

how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

- ³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; the Lord will hear me when I call.
- ⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin;
 - speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

- ⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
- ⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
 - more than when grain and wine abound.
- ⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

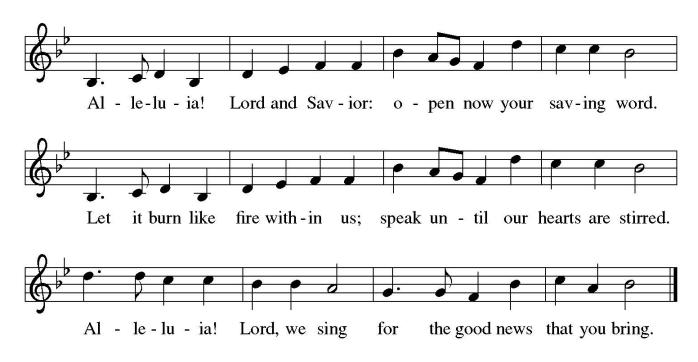
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW # S 205a



*Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Not Afraid

HOMILY

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

*NICENE CREED

- *P*: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.
- *C:* We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
- For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastor Traci

ELW # 388

***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:* O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- *A:* O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- A: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, *C*: hear our prayer.
- A: O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty. God of grace, *C*: hear our prayer.
- A: O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, *C:* hear our prayer.
- A: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, *C*: hear our prayer.
- *P:* 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.**

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

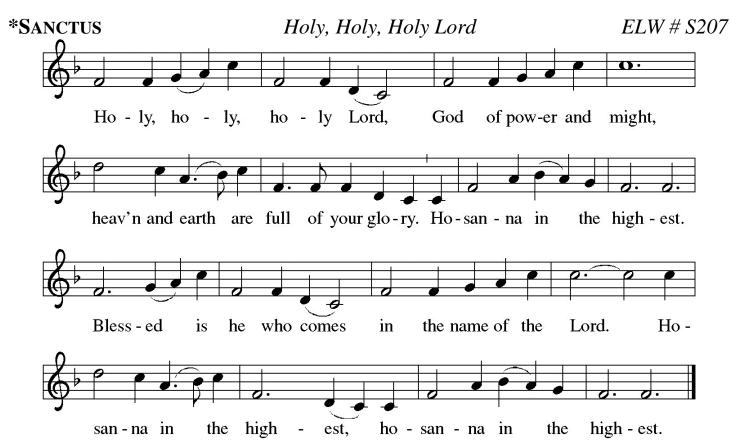
C: And also with you.

- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

***PROPER 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:



***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- *P:* Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his con
- And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- *P:* Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
- *C:* Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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

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*THE AGNUS DEI
                                      Lamb of God
                                                                  ELW # S208
                                                       all the world a - way;
       1 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
                                                          the world a - way;
       2 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
                                                       all
                                                       all the world a - way;
       3 O
              Lamb of God, you
                                   bear the sin
                                                 of
         you suf-fered death our
                                   lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
                                   guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
                       free
                             from
         you set us
                      peace with
                                   God you made: give us your peace, we pray.
         e - ter-nal
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*INVITATION

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

| COMMUNION HYMN | Let Us Break Bread Together | <i>ELW</i> # 471 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: 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.

***BENEDICTION**

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 | The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done | ELW # 366 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|

*DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***POSTLUDE**

The Heavens are Telling

Beethoven, Composer

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media. **Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in honor of our Veterans from Tina Harclerode.

| Serving God and Us |
|--|
| Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew |
| Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott |
| Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree |
| Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings |
| Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka |
| Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck |
| Our Sexton – Phil Claar |
| Our Assisting Minister – Tina Harclerode |
| Our Lector – Janet Stewart |
| Our Acolyte – Lily Lightner |
| Our Usher – Jeff Garner |
| Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder |
| Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster |
| Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner |
| Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping" |

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

| Today – | 3 rd Sunday of Easter |
|-------------|--|
| · | Sunday School 9:30 a.m. |
| | Worship Service 10:30 a.m. |
| Wednesday – | Spring Conference Caucus Meeting, |
| | Lutheran Home Hollidaysburg 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday – | Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00–11:00 a.m. |
| Saturday – | 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser for Camp Sequanota, |
| · | at Camp Sequanota or at home. |
| Sunday – | 4 th Sunday of Easter |
| - | Sunday School 9:30 a.m. |
| | Worship Service 10:30 a.m. |

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Ginny Sell.

Prayer Concerns: Dawn Alexy, Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Tana Byler, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Emily Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting, along with the regular helpers, to distribute items on Thursday, April 18. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.



Following are the most needed items for April: Ravioli, Jello, Instant Oatmeal, Crackers and Cleaning Products



These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

Monetary gifts may be sent to our new mailing address: P.O. Box 310, Martinsburg, PA 16662

> Thank you! *Linda Smith*



Mary Jane Allison will be celebrating her 96th birthday on Monday, April 15th. Please help her celebrate by sending prayers, cards, and well-wishes.



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2023 and as a result has \$6,072.30 for distribution in 2024. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 26, 2024. Funds will be distributed in June 2024.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.

2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.

- 3. Worship and Music support for the worship of St. Matthew.
- 4. Capital Projects major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Church Messenger

The April 2024 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.



If you have eclipse glasses that you are willing to recycle, please bring them to St. Matthew by the end of the month. We will ship the glasses to be distributed to school children in the path of the next eclipse (this fall in South America).

Altar Flowers



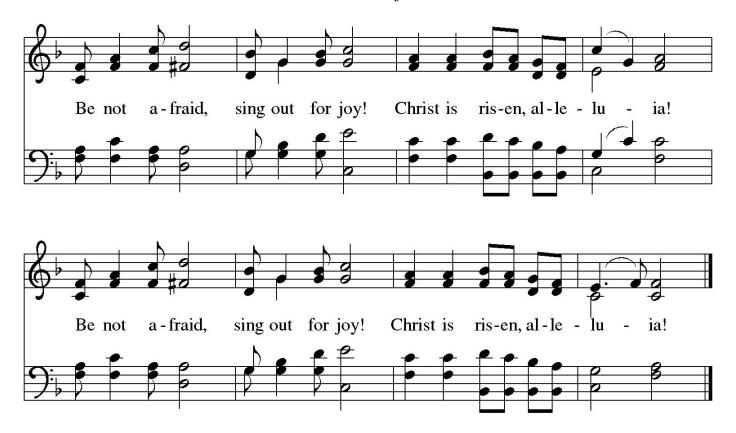
The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. The following dates are available: 4/28, 5/26, 7/21, 7/28, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00. If you would like a Sunday(s)

you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



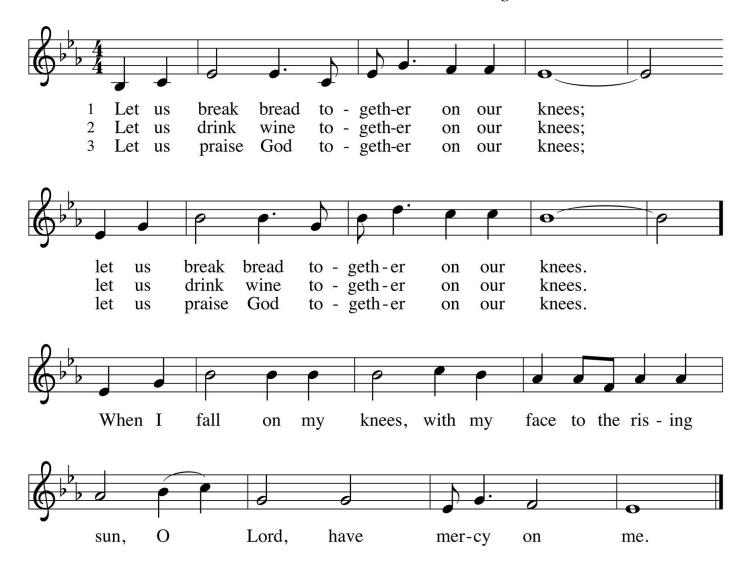
***HYMN OF THE DAY**



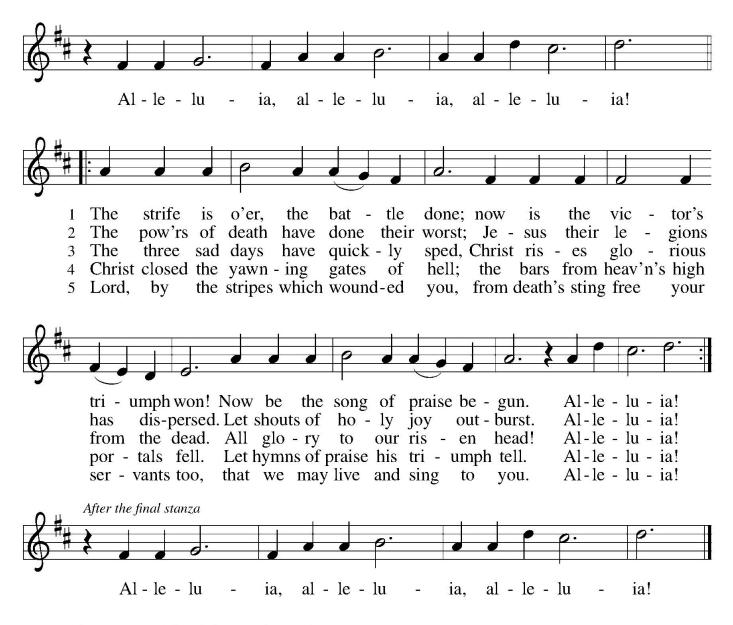
Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994 Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together



Text: African American spiritual Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual



Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889