# The Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 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**

#### \*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

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW # 379

#### \*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 ...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.

# FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

<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.

# PSALM 22:25-31 (read responsively)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

# SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

<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>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

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.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

# \*Gospel: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

# 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 the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Pastor Traci

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

O Blessed Spring

ELW # 447

# \*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.

# \*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: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed 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 the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. 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. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. 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.
- 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.

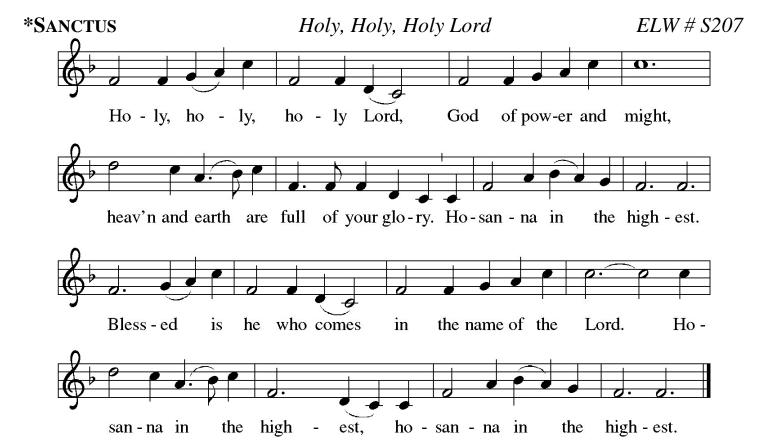
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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



# \*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** 

Come, Let Us Eat

ELW # 491

#### \*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.

#### \*DISMISSAL

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

#### \*Postlude

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**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in appreciation of St. Matthew's Congregation from Peggy Steinfurth.

# 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 – Jean Sinal

Our Lector - Camden Kuster

Our Acolyte – Ben Decker

Our Usher – Mike Lamborn

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** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday – Knotty Ladies, Quilting Room 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Sunday – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., In Person and ZOOM

Worship Service 10:30 a.m. (Of the Land and Seasons)

**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, Virginia Barnes, 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), Peggy Steinfurth, 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**

The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursdays, May 2 and May 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. It will be open other times by appointment.

Those helping on these Thursdays will be those 3 or 4 helpers from the Martinsburg Church of God in addition to the regular helpers.

# Following are items most needed for May:

Beverages, Canned Fruit, Ravioli, Hamburger Helper, 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

Many thanks for donations of food, paper items, and recent donations of \$785.00 from members!

#### Linda Smith

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).



The property committee will be performing a demonstration on how to operate the new wheelchair lift after worship today.



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: 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.

The adult Sunday School class will be holding class both in person and on Zoom for the next few weeks.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8147932413?pwd=Zm5SYTNnU0cxYm9wS1ZyZUJuQ XhJdz09&omn=84087814741

> Meeting ID: 814 793 2413 Passcode: 16662

# St. Matthew Mending Meal

Favorite clothing in need of repair?
Give it another chance!

Bring laundered clothes
that need mending to work on
yourself or get help from our
experienced sewers. Lunch,
materials, & expertise provided.
Everyone Welcome!

LUNCH & SIMPLE MENDING
JOIN US FOR BOTH OR EITHER

St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall
115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)
Wednesday, May 22 from 11AM--1PM

# St. Matthew Seniors Are Invited To A Young at Heart Luncheon



Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall 115 East Penn Street Martinsburg, PA

Please RSVP to the Church Office (814-793-2413) by July 8



# 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.

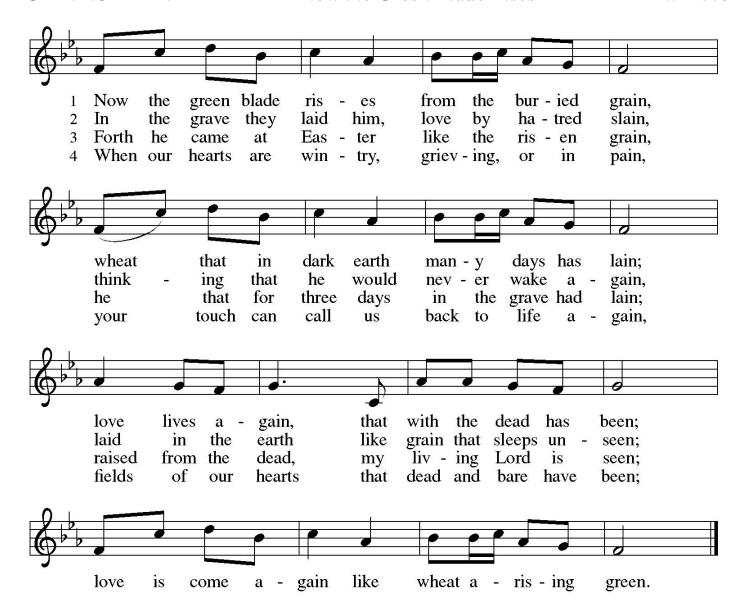
The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

#### **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.



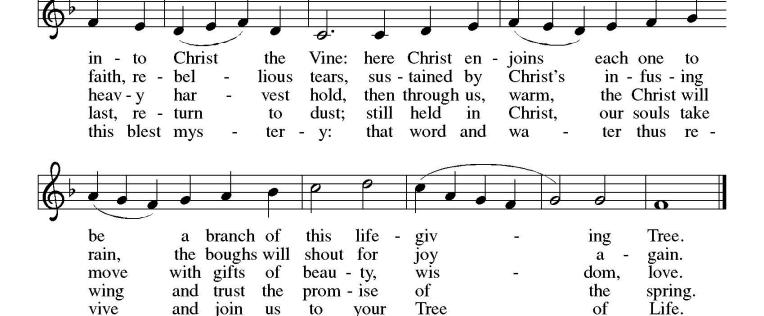
Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, @ Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

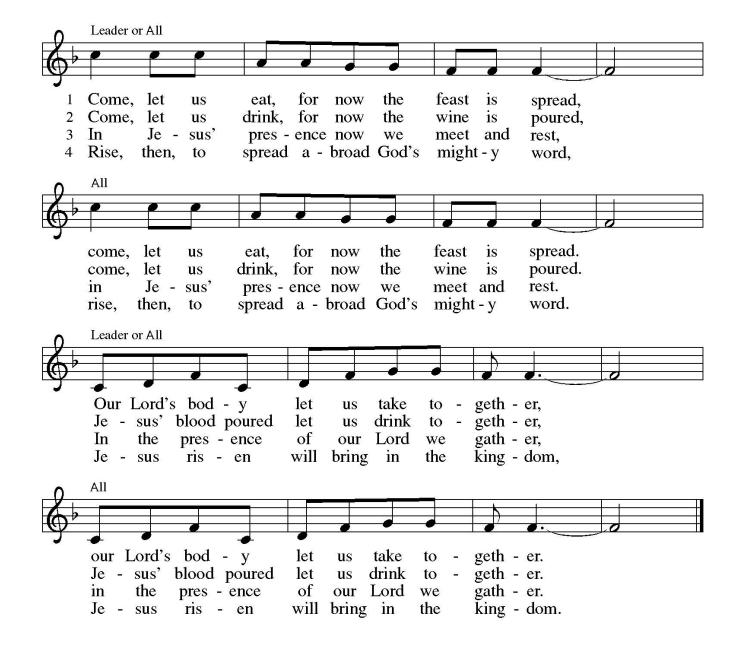


win breathe our win - ter comes, must, we 4 As as ters 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv ing Tree, be praised for



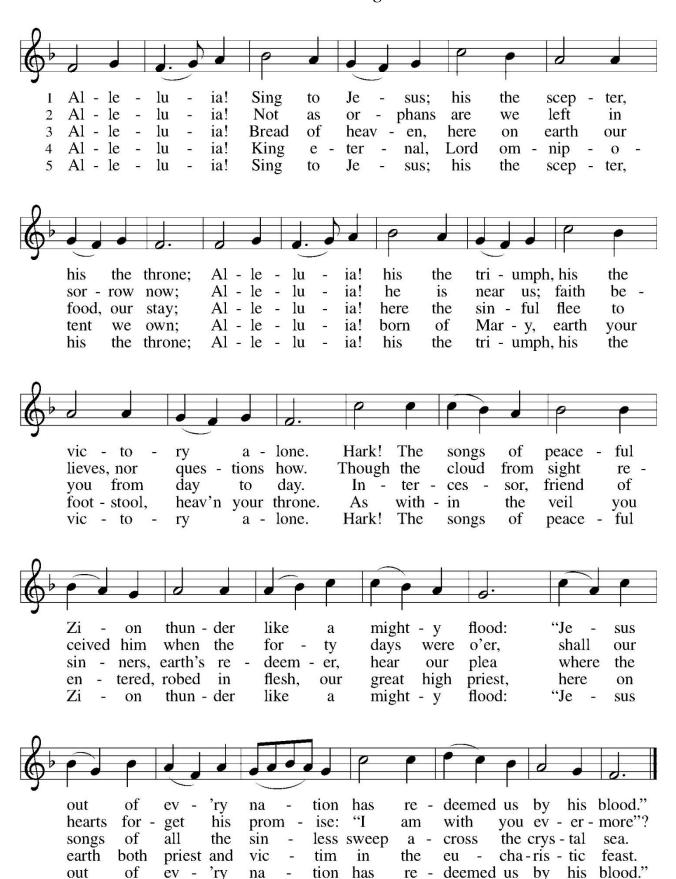
Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt. Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887