The 4th Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024



Messiah Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 2727 Five Mile Rd. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525 616-363-2553

www.messiahgr.org

We welcome all our worshipers today.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion!

Should I come forward to the altar during Communion? Absolutely! All Christians are invited to come forward during Communion distribution.

Should I eat and drink the Lord's body and blood? All confirmed members of this congregation and confirmed members of our sister congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. If you are a member of a church in another Lutheran church body, or are from another church body or tradition, please speak to the pastor or an elder before you take the Lord's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. For more of an explanation of our communion practice, please see the card "About Holy Communion" in the pew. Gluten-free wafers are available – please let the pastor or elder know you need one BEFORE the service begins.

Are you saying that only LCMS Lutherans are "good enough" to receive the Lord's Supper? Absolutely not! We all come to the Lord's table recognizing that we are sinners continually in need of Christ's forgiveness, including the forgiveness delivered in the Lord's Supper. But we also recognize that the Scriptures say you can be HARMED by partaking of the Lord's Supper without discerning the Lord's body and blood (1 Corinthians 11:27-32). We at Messiah don't want to be an instrument of harm to your soul.

What will I receive if I don't partake of the Lord's Supper? Come forward and place your arms across your chest at the communion rail. The pastor will give you a blessing. You have received the forgiveness of sins which we ALL need in the absolution at the beginning of the service, and through the proclamation of that forgiveness in Jesus Christ in the reading of His Word and in the sermon. Rejoice!

Divine Service, Setting Three

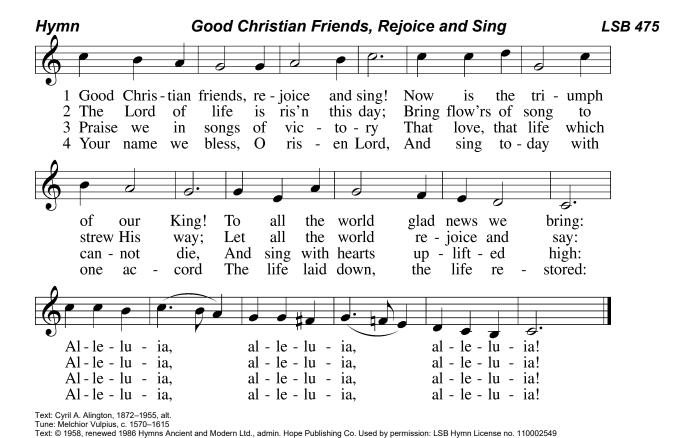
Lutheran Service Book (LSB), page 184

Preservice Music

Paul Manz, Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Welcome

Confession and Absolution



Please stand as able

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

Invocation - Matthew 28:19b

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the

→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Tune: Public domain

The following symbols are used in this order of service:

P Pastor C Congregation

The sign of the cross may be made by the pastor and/or the congregation.

Exhortation - Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:3

LSB 184

- P 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,
- who made heaven and earth.
- I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

Confession of Sins LSB 184

- **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.

Absolution - John 20:19-23

LSB 185

- 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.
- G Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit - Entrance Psalm

Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

The congregation will speak the portions in **bold type**.



I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

The LORD is my | shepherd;*

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.

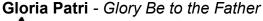
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,* and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.



LSB 186



© Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



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

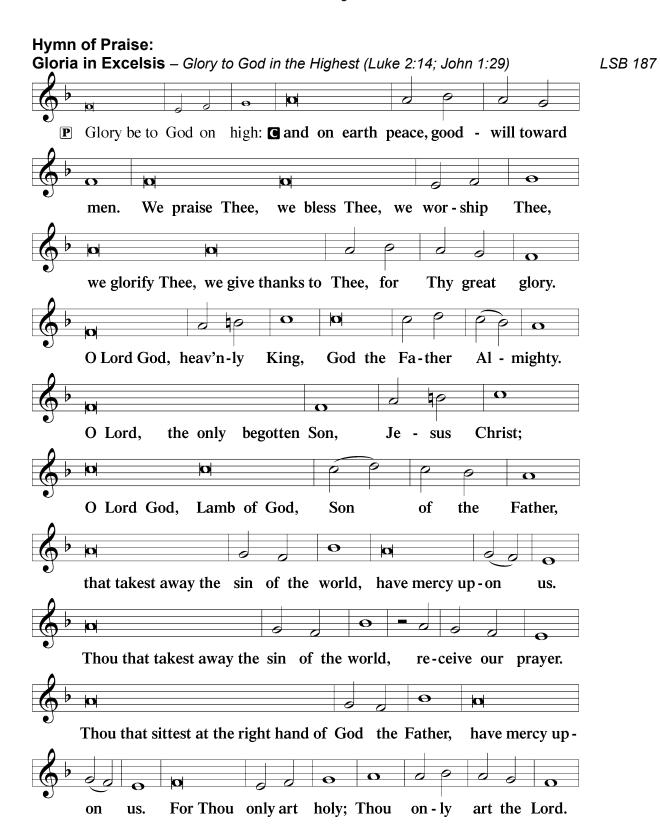


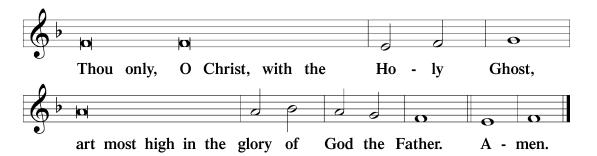
LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

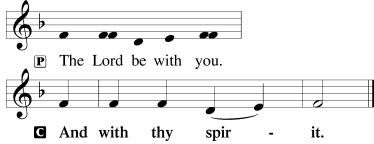






Salutation and Collect of the Day - 2 Timothy 4:22

LSB 189



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

First Reading Acts 4:1–12

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else,

for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

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

Gradual (sung by cantor)

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

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

1 John 3:16–24

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able



(A) We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never | die again;* death no longer has dominion | over him.



A I am the good | shepherd.*
I know my own and my | own know me.



Holy Gospel John 10:11–18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed LSB 191

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,

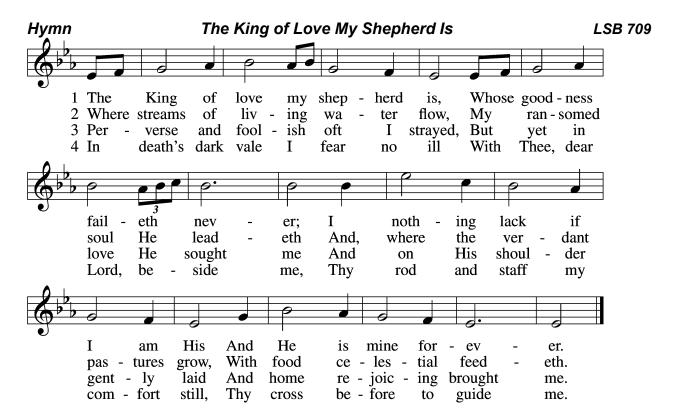
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

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.

Sit

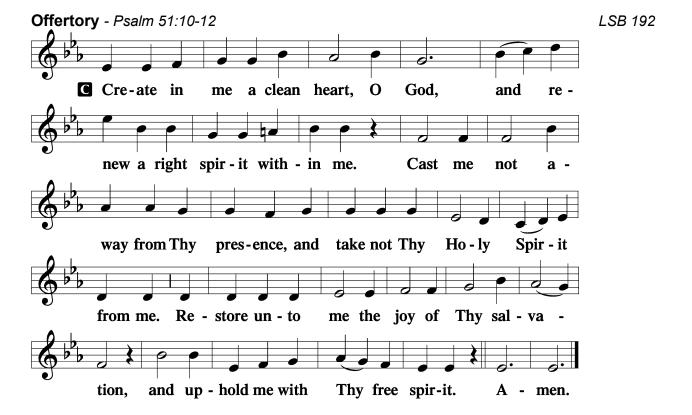


- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Please stand as able



Sit

Offering

Donald Rotermund, Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

During the offering, please fill out the fellowship form found in each pew. Thank you!

Please stand as able

Prayer of the Church

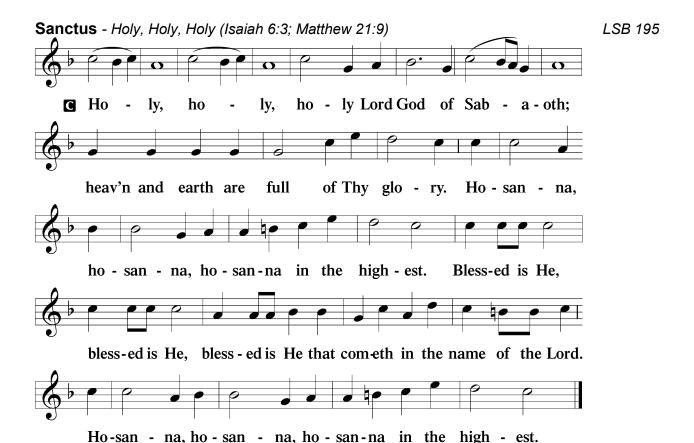
Service of the Sacrament

Not sure whether you should come forward for communion?

Please see the inside front cover of this folder.



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:



Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

LSB 196

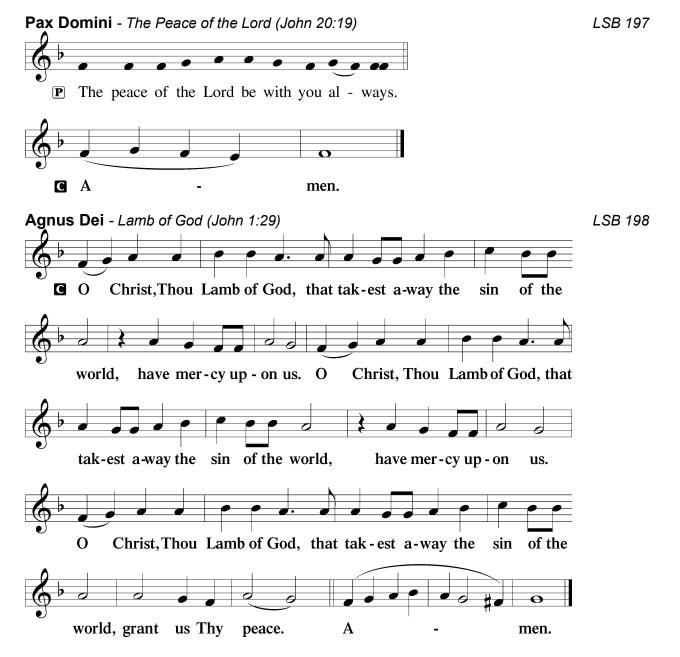
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord -

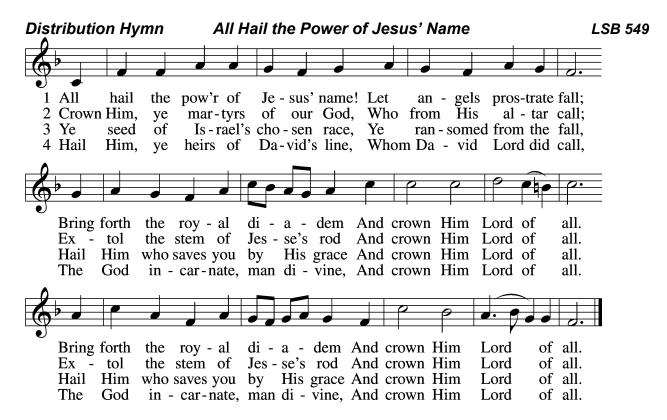
Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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
→ 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."



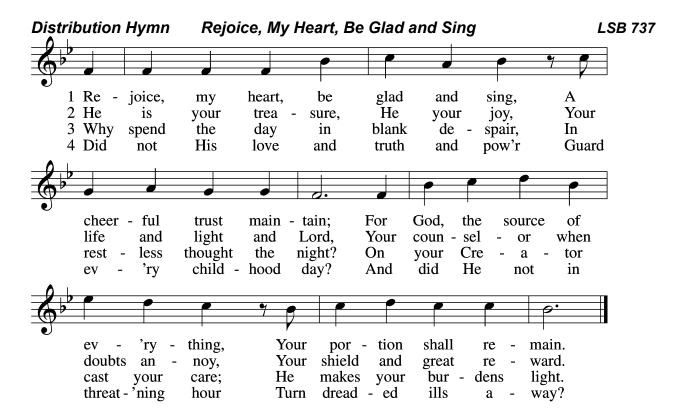
Sit



- Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
 The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.

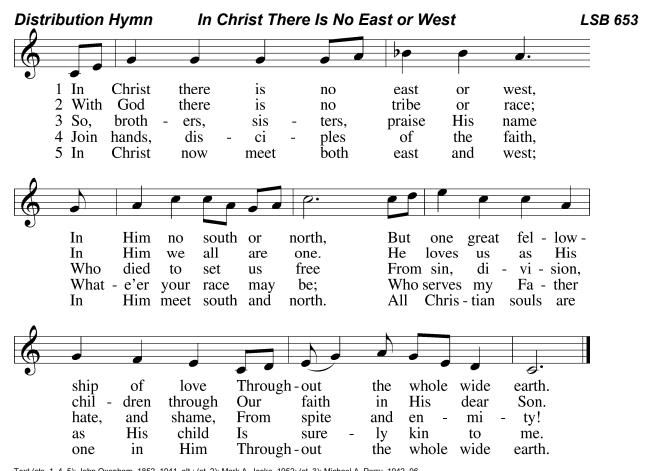
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet
 And crown Him Lord of all.
- 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
 On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe
 And crown Him Lord of all.
- Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 We at His feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 And crown Him Lord of all.

Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844
Text and tune: Public domain



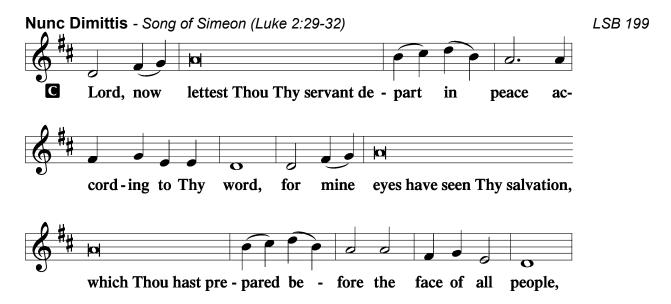
- He only will with patience chide,
 His rod falls gently down;
 And all your sins He casts aside
 In ocean depths to drown.
- His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
 All that His counsels may ordain A blessèd ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
 And trust His guiding love;
 Then like a rock your peace shall stand
 Here and in heav'n above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt Text and tune: Public domain



Text (sts. 1, 4–5): John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.; (st. 2): Mark A. Jeske, 1952; (st. 3): Michael A. Perry, 1942–96
Tune: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949
Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske; (st. 3): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002549
Text (sts. 1, 4–5) and tune: Public domain

Please stand as able





Post-Communion Collect

and His mercy endureth for

LSB 201

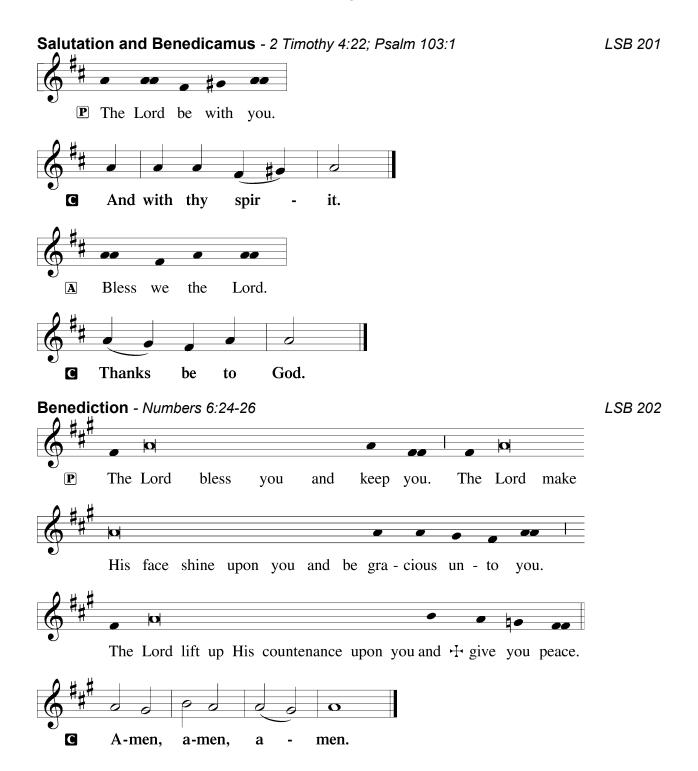
P Let us pray.

C

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

er.

C Amen.





Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Henry Purcell, Trumpet Tune

Acknowledgments

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What is an "acolyte"?

The acolyte is the person (or persons) who lights the candles before the service. The word acolyte comes from the Greek word akolouthos which means "follower." In English, the word acolyte sometimes means "attendant."

Why do we use acolytes in the Church?

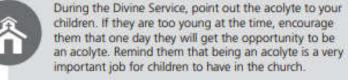
Acolytes have always been an important part of worship. For centuries, acolytes have attended to the service of God's people by helping the pastor in many different ways. In our

churches today, acolytes

primarily serve by lighting the candles. Acolytes wear robes and sit apart from the congregation because they are helping the pastor to serve God's people during the service. Wow! What an important job!



Parents:

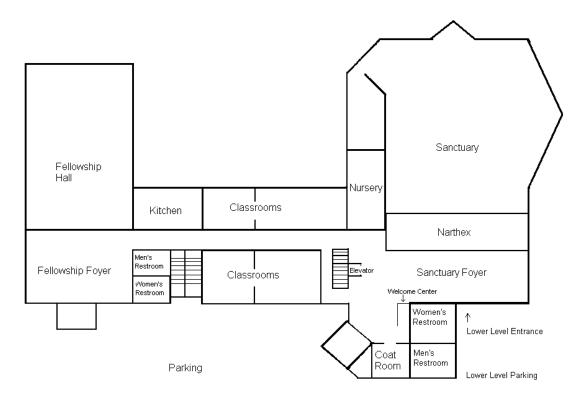




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For your convenience ...

- We love having children with us in worship! However, if you'd like assistance, nursery care is available during worship services. Speak to an elder or usher and they'll recruit help.
- Large print bulletins and a hearing loop (please switch your hearing aid to the "T", T-Coil or telephone position) are available for those who desire to use them. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- Elevator service will easily transport worshipers to the Sanctuary Foyer. It is accessible through the lower level parking entry (see the schematic below). Please feel free to use it!



Rev. Eric Black, Pastor Mr. Richard Krueger, Parish Assistant E-mail: pastor.black@messiahgr.org E-mail: rick.krueger@messiahgr.org

Our Mission Is To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all through a Word and Sacrament ministry of worship, Christian education, fellowship, evangelism, and service.