



St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Highspire  
Easter 4  
May 11, 2025

## **Introduction**

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **Overview**

### **The Searching Sheep**

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to “tell us plainly” (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today’s texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus’ works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can’t be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Psalm 23*

Praise Team

### **The Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

p. 97

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*The Trumpet Sound the Angels Sing*

W&P #139

\*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.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

p.140

*Refrain*

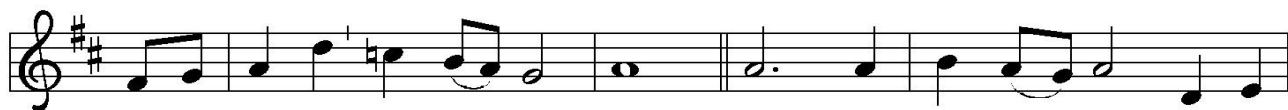
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



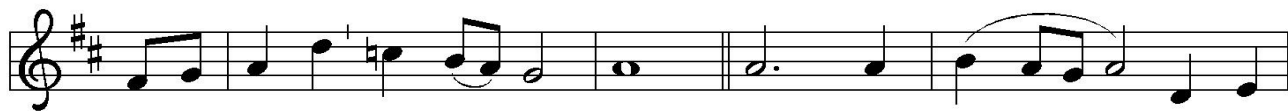
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



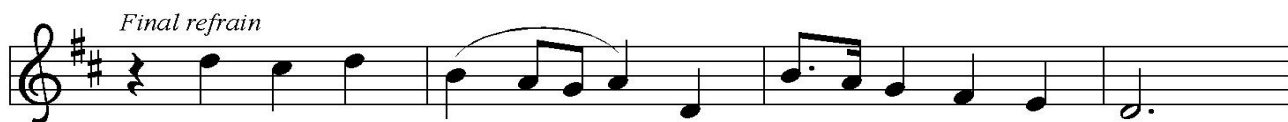
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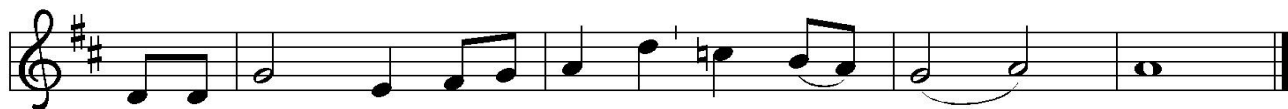
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**The Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: Acts 9:36-43**

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 23** (sung in unison)

1 The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

2 The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.

3 You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no  
evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

**Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17**

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within

his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

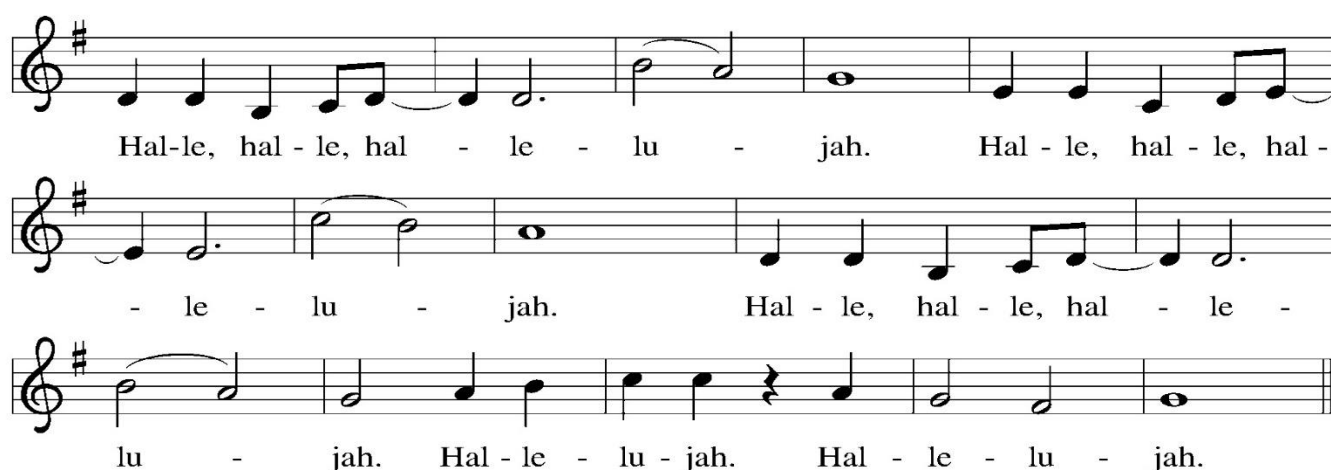
**L** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

ELW #172



Music: Caribbean traditional

\*GOSPEL **John 10:22-30**

**P** The holy gospel according to John.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

22 At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, 26 but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will



never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one."

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Pam Carnes

SERMON

Pastor Pam Carnes

\*HYMN OF THE DAY *The Lord's My Shepherd*

ELW #778

\*NICENE CREED

p.105

**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 INTERCESSION

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for  
the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing  
place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters  
of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile  
ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new  
ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion  
to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of  
mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and  
encourage all who strive for healing in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care *especially Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Duck Harris, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, Jeff Myers, and Jacqueline Acri.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C Amen.**

\*PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

### **The Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Lead on Good Shepherd*

Praise Team

\*OFFERTORY HYMN

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW #184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano or alto clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

**C** **Amen.**

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung)

p.144

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly on a single line (F4), with some half notes and a final whole note. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

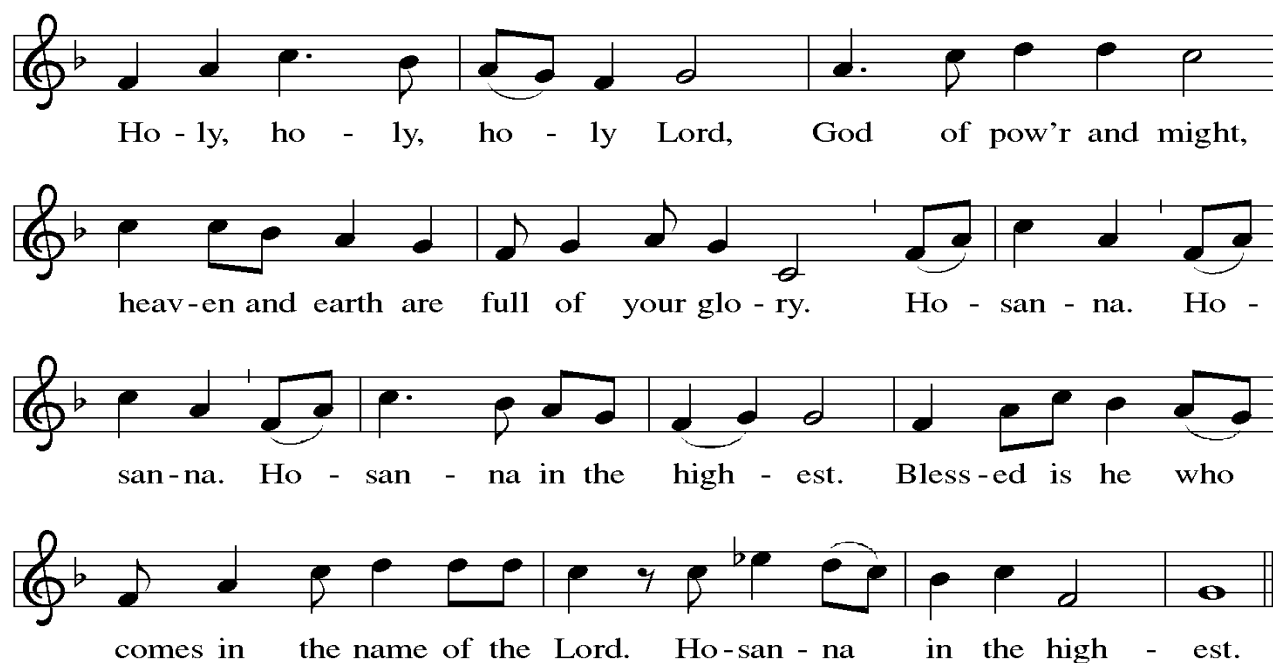
**It is right** to give our thanks and praise.

\*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:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

p.144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people of Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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 in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and his glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit now and forever

**C    Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

p.145

**P    Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**

**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.**

**\*SHARING THE MEAL**

**P    Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

*Lamb of God*

p.146

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ELW #631

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW #502

## **The Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **\*COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C Amen.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

*Sing a New Song*

W&P 125

### **\*DISMISSAL**

**A** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**A** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*The Blessing*

Praise Team



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**Prelude** - "Psalm 23" recorded by Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7144224 @ 2020 Phil Wickham Music. *Praise Team*

**Gathering Hymn** - "The Trumpet Sound the Angels Sing" W&P #139 words & music - Graham Kendrick @ 1989 Make Way Music THE FEAST IS READY

**Hymn of Praise** - "This is the Feast" p. 140-141

**Psalm 23 (sung)** - "Shepherd Me, O God" ELW #780 Marty Haugen @1986 GIA Pub.

**Gospel Acclamation** - "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 arr. @1995 Augsburg Fortress PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Hymn of the Day** - "The Lord's My Shepherd" ELW #778 BROTHER JAMES' AIR @ Oxford University Press PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Offertory Anthem** - "Lead on Good Shepherd" recorded by Patrick Mayberry CCLI Song # 7209206 @ 2023 Centricity Music Pub. *Praise Team*

**Offertory Hymn** - "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" ELW #184 Ronald Nelson @ 1978, 1993 Augsburg Fortress

**The Great Thanksgiving** p.144, setting 3 ELW

"Holy, Holy, Holy" p.144, setting 3 ELW

**Distribution of Communion** - Lamb of God, p. 146

"Love Divine, all loves excelling" ELW #631 HYFRYDOL PUBLIC DOMAIN

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" ELW #502 ST. COLUMBIA PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Sending hymn** - "Sing a New Song" W&P 125 words & music - Daniel Schutte @1972, 1979 Oregon Catholic Press

**Postlude** - "The Blessing" recorded by Elevation Worship CCLI Song #7147007 words and music - Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe and Steven Furtick @ 2020 Capitol CMG Paragon *Praise Team*

### **St. Peter's Lutheran Church Highspire Contact Information:**

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**Pastor Carnes** can be reached at the following:

Home phone: 717-584-6627

Cell phone: 717-592-8690

email: [pstpammy@verion.net](mailto:pstpammy@verion.net).

### **Altar Flower sponsors needed!**

The following dates are open for flower sponsors. If anyone is interested, please let Helene Hoch know she can be reached at 717-343-8397.

**Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Sunday June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God to honor Judy Kunzman, by her daughters and their families.

Centerpiece is presented to the glory of God in loving memory of their mother and father, Edward and Dorothy Dengler Bartholomew by their children, Sharyl, Barbara, and Eddie.

### **Attention Graduates and family members!**

Please call or email the church office with the names of anyone in your family who is graduating high school, college, technical school, or vocational school. For the high school graduates, please also feel free to share any future plans the students may have. We want to acknowledge their achievements and give thanks to God for the Gifts God has given to all of them and with your help we will be able to do this. Thank you so much.

### **Worship Participants for May 11, 2025**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Pam Carnes
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Arthur Berg
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Acolyte	Landon Keyser
Lector	Mary Hunt

**Worship Participants for May 18, 2025**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Pam Carnes
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Arthur Berg
Worship Assistant	Sally Schonewolf
Acolyte	Brady Keyser
Lector	Doris Reynolds

*Come to church and stay for Fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in “Hosting a Sunday” please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.*