



St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Highspire  
Easter 3  
May 4, 2025

## **Introduction**

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

## **Overview**

### **Do You Love Me? Follow Me**

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in a blinding light on the road, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things—bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness—to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process—a change that comes again and again, like Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. For Saul, the journey doesn't end with the blinding light on the road. For Peter, the journey doesn't end with breakfast on the beach. Conversion sets each of them, and each of us, on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth—and leads into life eternal.

P Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Arthur Berg

### **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

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!*

ELW #392

\*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,



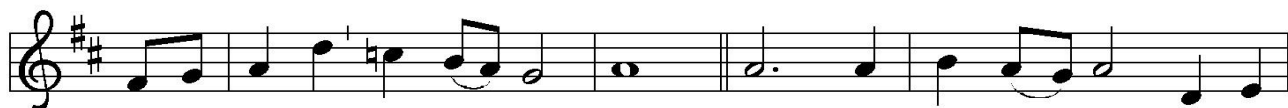
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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



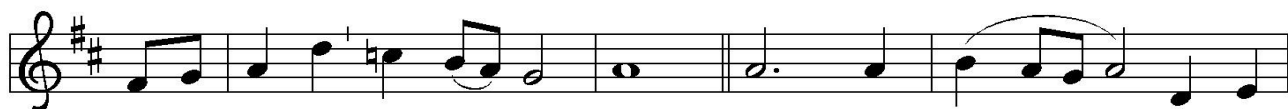
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



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



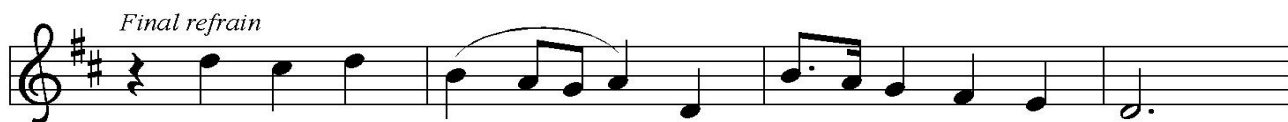
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



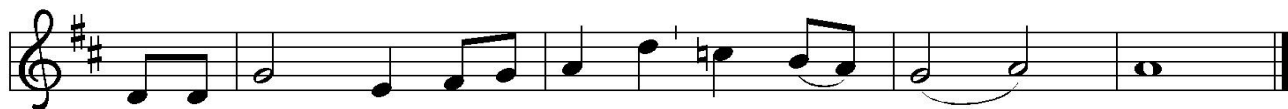
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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** Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6 [7-20]**

1 Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, 14 and

here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm: Psalm 30** (sung in unison)

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lift- | ed me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried | out to you,  
and you restored | me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, | from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

4 Sing praise to the Lord, | all you faithful;  
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance.

5 God’s wrath is short; God’s favor | lasts a lifetime.  
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

6 While I felt se- | cure, I said,  
“I shall never | be disturbed.

7 You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains.”  
Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

8 I cried to | you, O Lord;  
I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,  
9 “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?  
10 Hear, O Lord, and have mer- | cy upon me;  
O Lord, | be my helper.”  
11 You have turned my wailing | into dancing;  
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.  
12 Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;  
O Lord my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

**Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-14**

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Celtic Alleluia*

ELW #174

**\*GOSPEL John 21:1-19**

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

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

1 After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. 9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter,

went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

**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 Church of Christ in Every Age*

ELW #729

**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.*

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people.

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

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries (*local bodies of water may be named*) so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward.

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

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender 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.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places especially *Monica, mother of Augustine*. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day.

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 *I Have Decided*

St. Peter's Choir

\*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.

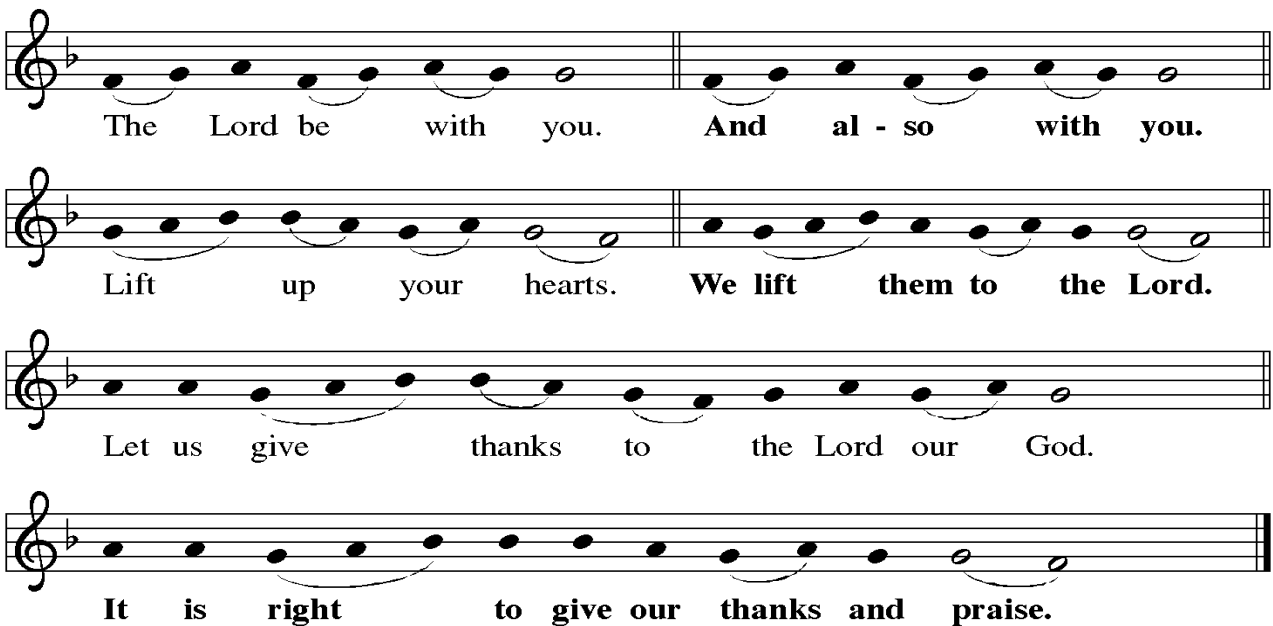
### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line after the first measure.

### \*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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

## \*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*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

p.146

ELW #666

ELW #379



## **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**

*You Servants of God*

ELW #825

### **\*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**

Arthur Berg

**Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387**

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

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**Gathering Hymn** - “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!” ELW #392 HYFRYDOL

text: William Dix music: Rowland Prichard PUBLIC DOMAIN

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

**Psalm 30(sung)** - tone 1, p.337

**Gospel Acclamation** - “Celtic Alleluia” ELW #174 PUBLIC DOMAIN @1985 OCP

**Hymn of the Day** - “The Church of Christ in Every Age” ELW #729 WAREHAM text:  
Fred Pratt Green music: William Knapp @ 1971 Hope  
Publishing

**Offertory Anthem** - “I Have Decided” Michael Card arr. John F. Wilson **CCLI Song #  
9945** @1982/arr.1993 Mole End Music, ad. Sparrow Music

**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

“What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW #666 @ arr. 1955 Augsburg Fortress

“Now the Green Blade Rises” ELW #379 NOEL NOUVELET @ 1928, Oxford University  
Press

**Sending hymn** - “You Servants of God” ELW #825 LYONS text: Charles Wesley  
Music: Johann Michael Haydn PUBLIC DOMAIN

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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 FLOWERS**

Altar vases are presented to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild as a gift to the church.

### **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 1st**

**Sunday June 22nd**

**Sunday July 6th**

### **Worship Participants for May 4, 2025**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Pam Carnes
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Arthur Berg
Worship Assistant	Patrick Hawkins
Acolyte	Jill Hawkins
Lector	Helene Hoch

### **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

*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.*