

ST. JOHANNES LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLESTON, SC



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 2, 2021

10:00 A.M.

THE SERVICE OF WORD AND HOLY COMMUNION

We strive to provide meaningful worship, sacred music, commitment to tolerance, open-mindedness, and inclusive love so that people who come through our doors may discover the spirit and compassion of God in the heart of the Holy City.

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP TODAY!

✚ WE ARE THRILLED THAT YOU ARE HERE TODAY.

All worshippers, please take a moment and fill out the information sheet located on the the pews. We also welcome any prayer requests, there is a place to put this on the attendance forms as well. If you are looking for a church home, please contact the church office at 843-722-8906.

✚ ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD’S TABLE

We welcome all people to our worship here at St. Johannes and all baptized are invited to join us for Holy Communion. It is not “our” table, it is the **Lord’s Table**, and you are invited to join us for this special meal. Children who commune should be assisted by an adult near them. Those who are unable to partake of wheaten bread or wine are assured that the Church affirms our Lord’s presence in, with, and under each element alone.

✚ THE WATER IN THE FONT

The water in the font reminds us of our baptism into Christ.

✚ RESTROOMS AND QUIET ROOM

These facilities are located in the Parish Building behind the sanctuary. For security reasons, the building may be locked, but a key is in the narthex to unlock the building. The key is hanging by the thermostat. **Directions to the restroom:** exit the church, turn to the right, and go down the handicap ramp toward the rear of the church. Go up the ramp, and enter the door to the left into the parish building. As you enter, the Quiet Room/Nursery is to the left, and restrooms are to the right. Directional signs are posted for the restrooms. A changing table is located in the women’s restroom.]

✚ ABOUT THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the US, with more than 3.5 million members in 65 synods and nearly 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s Work, Our Hands,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians, and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.

Church Council, Chair Committee, and Staff Roster

Kay Winnett	misskayhw@aol.com	843-830-0124	President/Stewardship Chair
Robbin Mosier	rmosier22@icloud.com	843-813-8355	Vice President/Worship Chair
Lloyd Waitschies	lloyd@waitschies.net	843-224-5885	Secretary/Liaison Property
TBA			Treasurer
Kirsten Hughes	lucie658@aol.com	843-224-6429	Parish Life Chair
Lynn Jenkinson	lynnjenkinson@hotmail.com	843-795-2523	Liaison Outreach Committee
Cynthia Mays	cynlmays@gmail.com	843-478-2281	Liaison Parsonage Committee
Pedro Rivas	rivascontracts99@gmail.com	404-786-9399	Rules & Procedures Chair
Mary Lou Waitschies	waycheese@att.net	843-224-3854	Outreach Chair
TBA			Parsonage Chair
Chuck Long	clongteach@comcast.net	843-693-6664	Property Chair
Pastor Rich Donoughue	pastor@stjohanneschurch.org	843-224-9860	Interim Pastor
Sean Holleran	swoll01@gmail.com	843-576-9238	Organist/Choir Director
Amy Bifano	office@stjohanneschurch.org	843-722-8906	Parish Administrator

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 4

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The congregation's responses are printed in boldface.

**Indicates to please stand.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*The congregation is asked to maintain a reverent quiet during the prelude as a time of prayer and meditation.
Kindly silence cell phones and electronic devices.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS [*Please stand, as you are able.*]

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[Please remain standing, or kneel, as you are able.]

Silence is kept for self-reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***ABSOLUTION**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

[Please stand, as you are able.]

***ENTRANCE HYMN #366:** *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (continued on next page)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia! | 2 | The pow'rs of death have done their worst;
Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia! |
| 3 | The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia! | | |

***ENTRANCE HYMN #366:** *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done, continued*

4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell;
the bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you,
from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***GREETING**

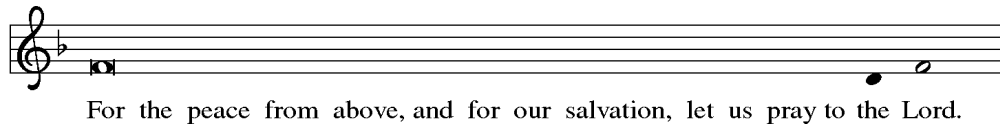
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

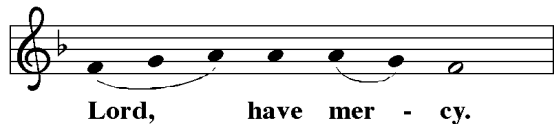
***KYRIE**



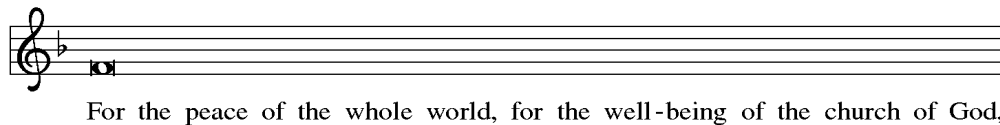
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



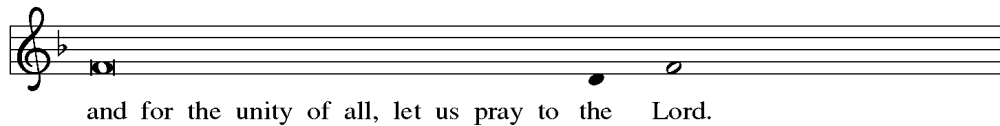
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



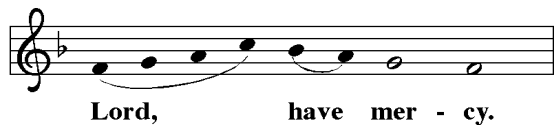
Lord, have mer - cy.



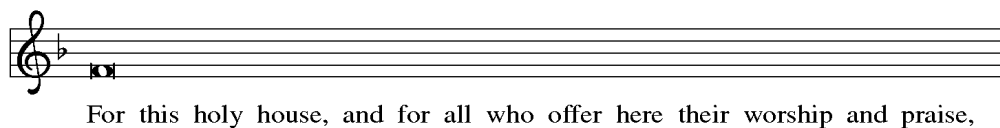
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



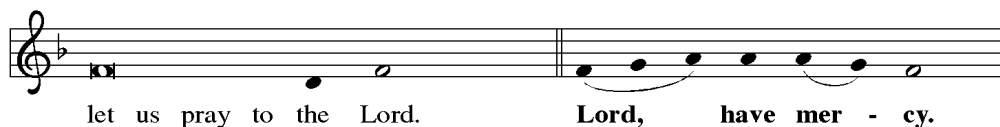
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



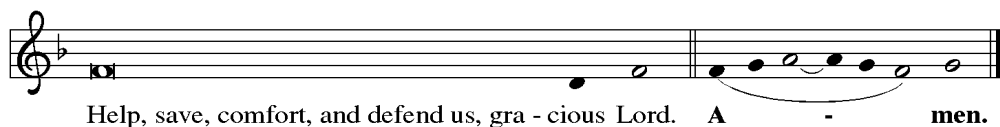
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Cantor only)

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.

Refrain
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.

Refrain
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.

Final refrain
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: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: 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.**

[Please be seated.]

✠ WORD ✠

Old and New Testament scriptures are proclaimed.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Lector: A reading from Acts

²⁶An 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.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

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

²⁶The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,

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

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD, who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

Lector says: A reading from First John

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The 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.**

[Please stand, as you are able.]

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter: **C: Glory to you , O Lord.**

Jesus said: ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[Please be seated.]

SERMON

Pastor Rich Donoughue

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #447: O Blessed Spring**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this life-giving Tree.</p> | <p>2 Through summer heat of youthful years, uncertain faith, rebellious tears, sustained by Christ's infusing rain, the boughs will shout for joy again.</p> |
|---|--|

HYMN OF THE DAY #447: *Continued

- 3 When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
- 4 As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.
- 5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blest mystery:
that word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.

***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

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** *[Please stand or kneel, as you are able.]*

A: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all *especially* Betty Ann Heinsohn, Julie Riel, Bob Oswald, Betty Addison, Victor Thompson, Sharon Masso, Monte Mims, Tammy Tanner, Marcy Floyd, Connie Morgan, Charles Long III, Anne Foster, Marie Mood, Barbara Lyerly, Mary Sweat, Elmore Marlow, Bill Cornwell, Marilyn Stehmeier, Bryan Steele, and those we name aloud and in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

[Please be seated after the peace.]

✠ MEAL ✠

The elements of bread and wine are blessed and prepared for the people of God.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. C: **Amen**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** *The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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.**

*PREFACE

The minister continues with the preface appointed for the day.

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.

Cantor Only

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.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

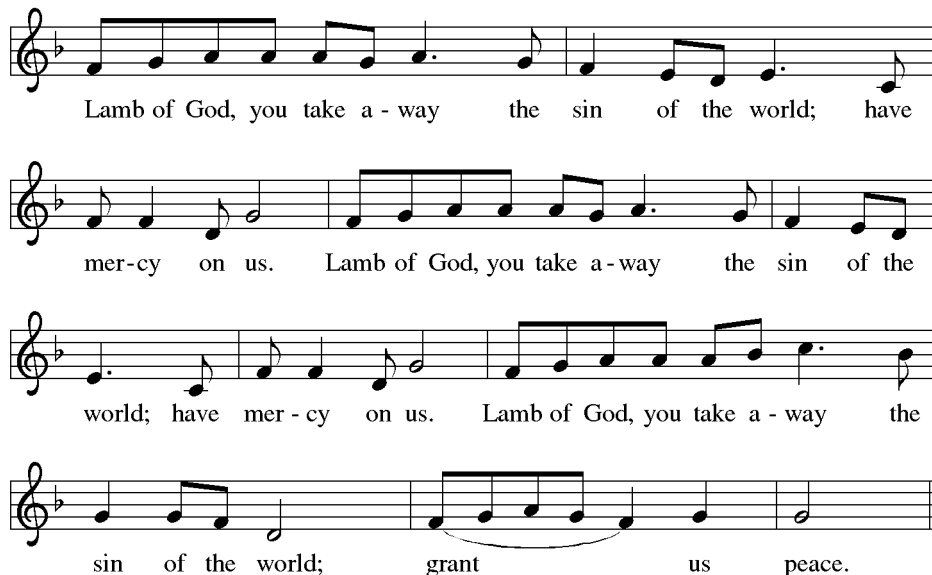
C: Thanks be to God.

[Please be seated]

HOLY COMMUNION

Please bring your cup with you. If you desire only a blessing, please cross your arms. After communing, place the cup in the receptacle by the side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD (*Cantor only*)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Please come by center aisle and leave by side aisle. People with mobility problems will commune after your side has communed, or pastor will come to your pew.

[When all persons have communed, we stand.]

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: 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. Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE.

***BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN #449: We Know That Christ is Raised**

Continued on next page.

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!

2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!

SENDING HYMN #449: *Continued

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!

***DISMISSAL**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Ushers will dismiss by rows beginning with the back rows.

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Worship Assistant: Robbin Mosier

Usher: Barbara Williams

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Albie Duc by his children: Chaz, Robbin and Diane

NEXT WEEK

10:00 a.m. - The Service with Holy Communion

IN OUR PRAYERS Bereaved: Howard and Joan Walker on the death of Howard's brother

Sick and/or Recovering: Dwight Jenkinson, Betty Ann Heinsohn, Julie Riel, Bob Oswald, Betty Addison, Victor Thompson, Sharon Masso, Monte Mims, Tammy Tanner, Marcy Floyd, Connie Morgan, Charles Long III, Anne Foster, Marie Mood, Barbara Lyerly, Mary Sweat, Elmore Marlow, Bill Cornwell, Marilyn Stehmeier, and Bryan Steele

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact Diane McDanel at ddmcdanel@aol.com or 843-532-3161 if you would like to purchase the altar flowers during the year. The cost is \$54.50 payable to the church. We currently don't have a flower chart in the narthex, but will have one soon and you will be able to sign up on the calendar.

ST. JOHANNES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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