



Ascension Sunday
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023 | 10:30 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.



Prayer Before Worship

O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1*

Gathering

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

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Prière du Christ montant vers son Père (*L'Ascension*)

Olivier Messiaen

WELCOME

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

God has gone up with a shout of joy.

The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign.

Jesus Christ is the name above every name.

Christ has ascended on high. Alleluia!

Christ reigns forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN LBW 142 Hail Thee Festival Day

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! Blest day to be hal - lowed for - ev - er;

day when our ris - en Lord rose in the heav - ens to reign.

1 He who was nailed to the cross is rul - er and Lord of all peo - ple.
3 God the Al - might - y, the Lord, the rul - er of earth and the heav - ens

All things cre - at - ed on earth sing to the glo - ry of God:
guard us from harm with - out; cleanse us from e - vil with - in:

Repeat refrain once after each stanza

2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our

glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en her gates un - bars,
minds, great re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -

fling - ing her in - crease of light:
preme, on - ly be - got - ten of God:

Repeat refrain once after each stanza

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

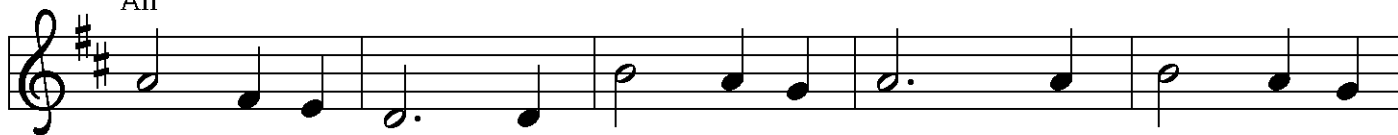
Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and 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, for the Lamb who was slain

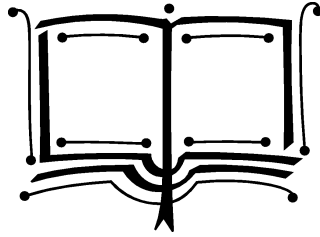


has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**





Word

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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Acts 1:1–11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

James Chepponis

Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by all. Verse sung by choir.



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

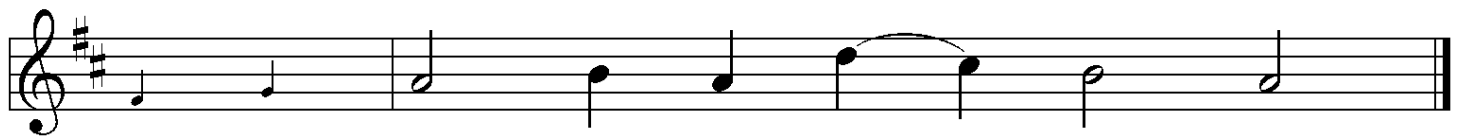


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

V. Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.

GOSPEL Luke 24:44–53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

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

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Non vos relinquam orphanos

William Byrd

*Non vos relinquam orphanos. Alleluia.
Vado, et venio ad vos. Alleluia.
Et gaudebit, cor vestrum. Alleluia.*

I will not leave you orphaned. Alleluia.
I go, and I will come to you. Alleluia.
And your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia.

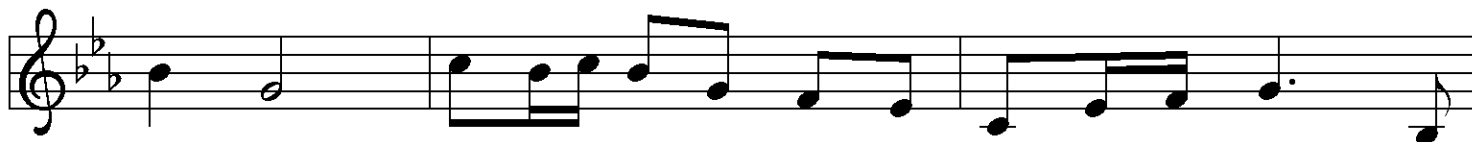
—Magnificat Antiphon for First Vespers at Pentecost (John 14:18 & 16:22b)

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



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.

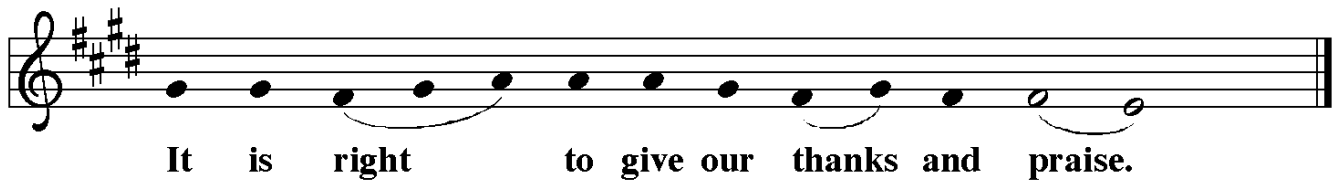
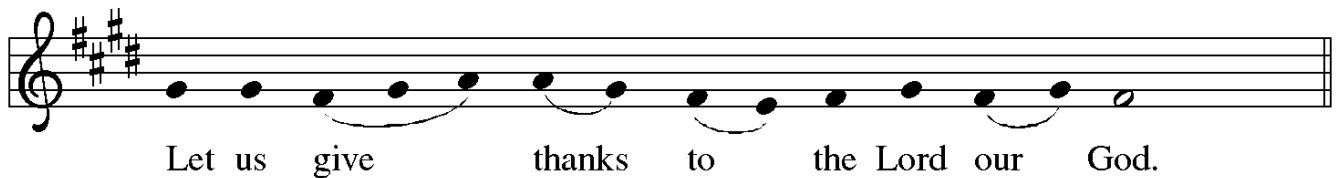
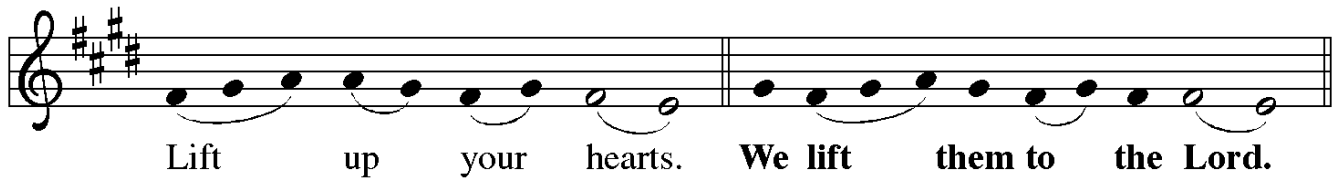
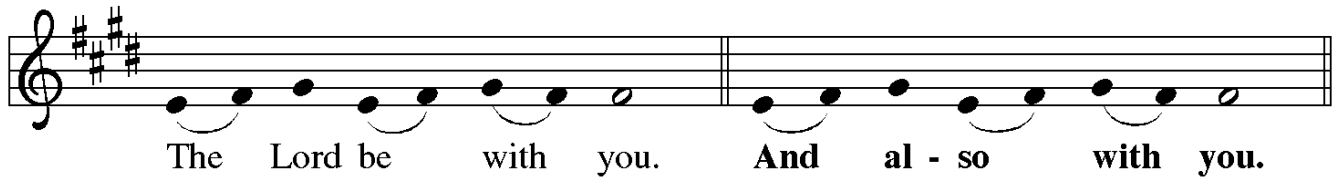
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Be present Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

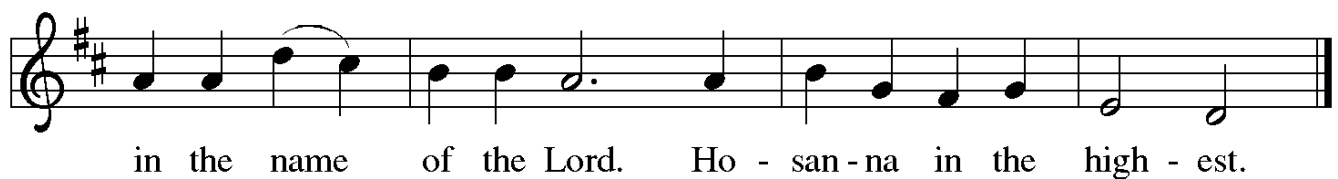
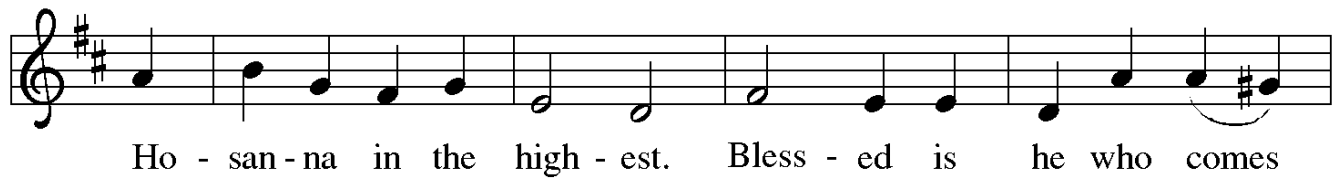
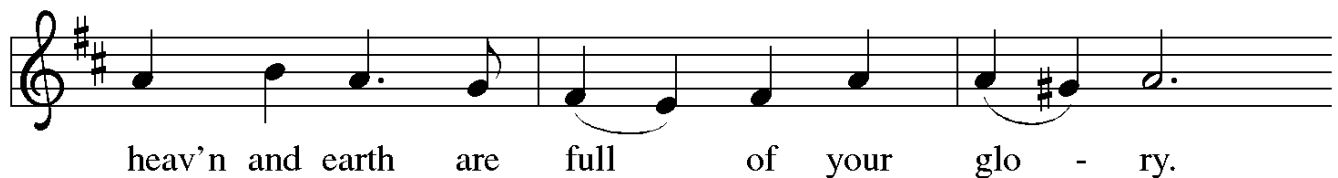
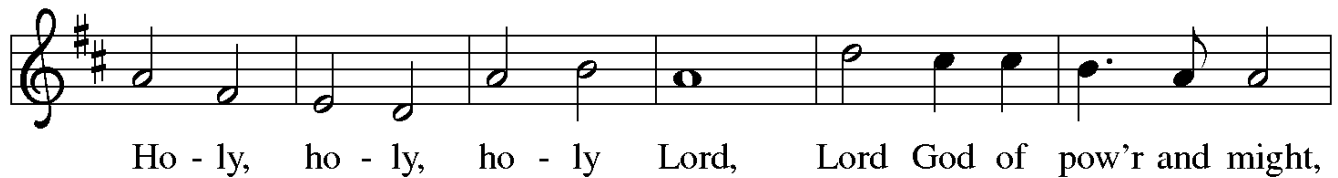
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



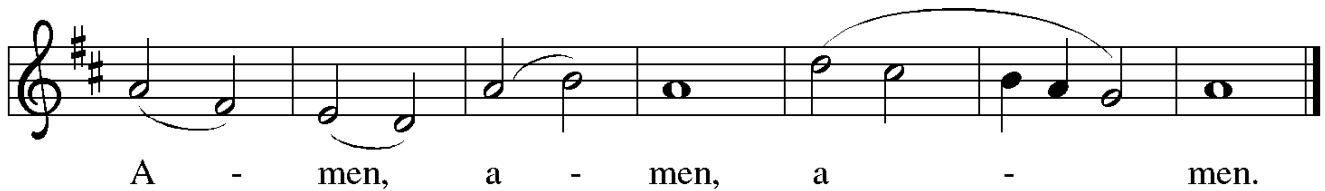
PROPER PREFACE



Blessed are you, O God of the universe . . . With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine . . . With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



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

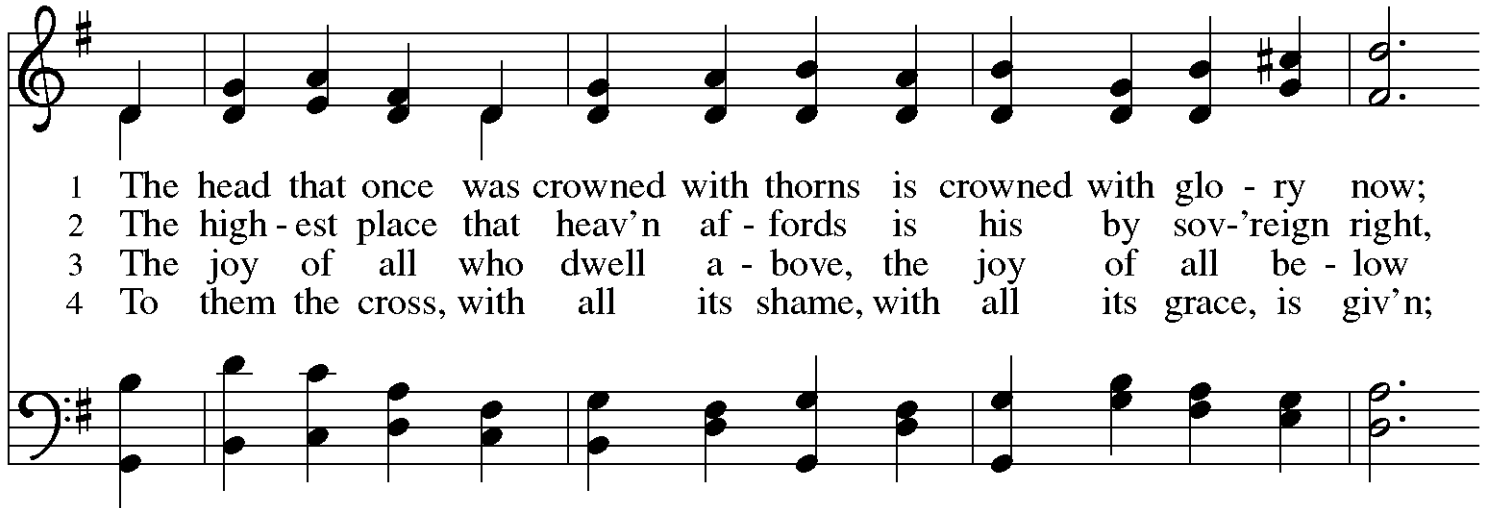


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

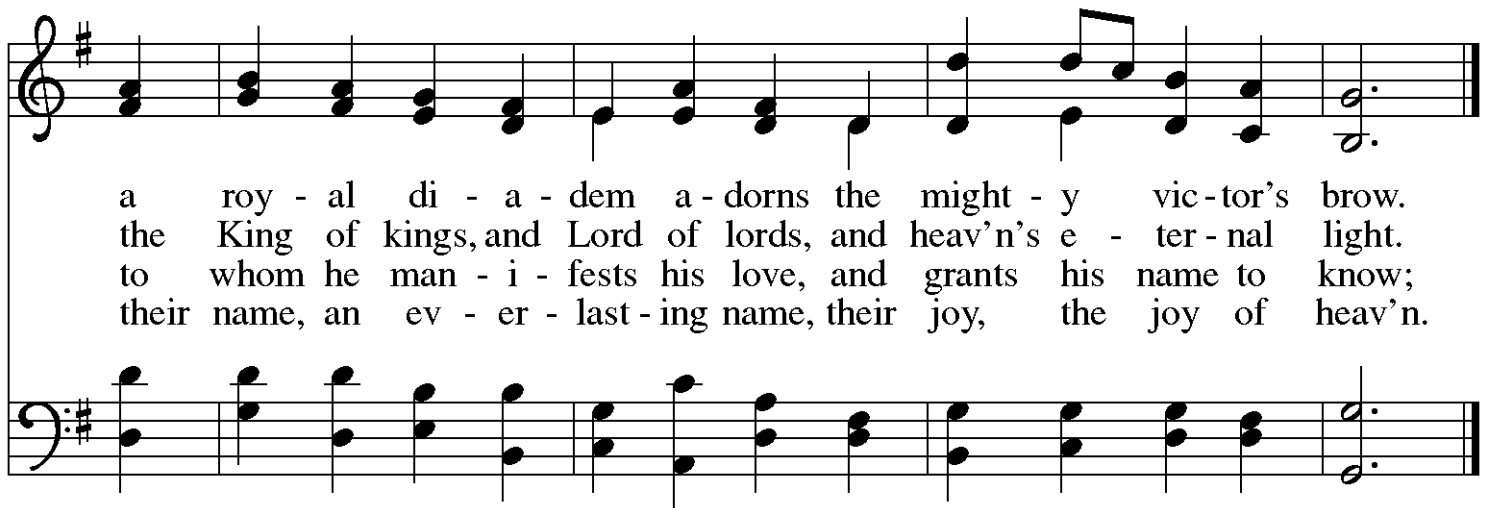


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 432 The Head That Once Was Crowned



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov'-reign right,
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;

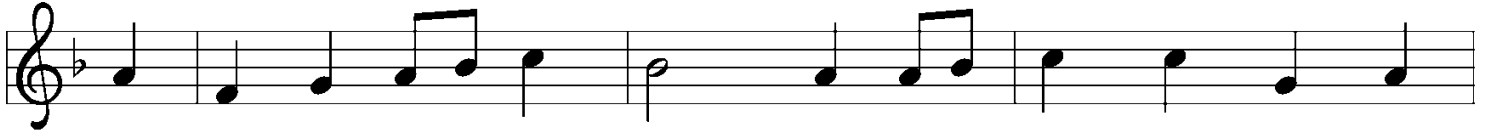


a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

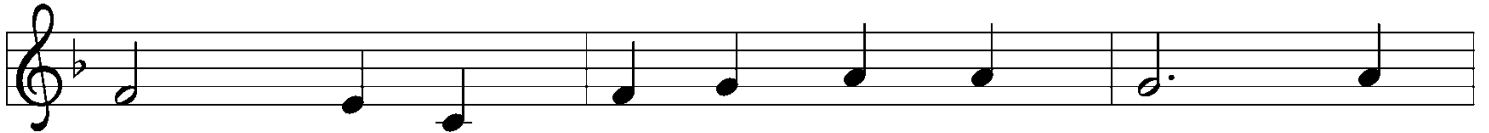
5 They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme!

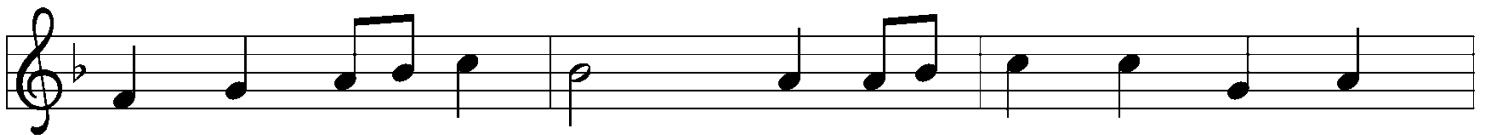
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 480 O Bread of Life from Heaven



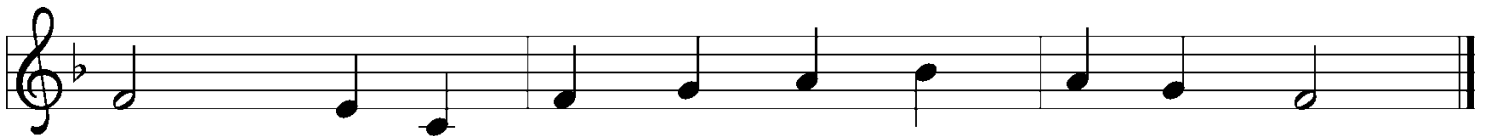
1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2
Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



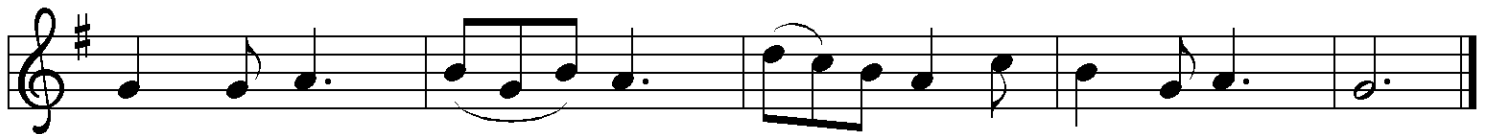
Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

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

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ, who in rising from the dead has defeated death, bringing us new life and a new future, fill you with all joy and hope in believing; and the blessing of God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 634 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Allegro maestoso e vivace (*Sonata in c, op. 65, no. 2*) Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

May 21, 2023

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

TODAY at the 10:30 AM service, 6 young people who have completed communion instruction will be receiving their first communion or participating in celebration of their continued communion: Matilda Moss, Mabel Moss, David New, Paul Fullner-Auld, Lena Rindler, and Faith Harlow-Jennings. Welcome to the Lord's table!

Organ Concert, TODAY at 4:00 PM: St. John's Director of Music, Christopher Harlow-Jennings, will play a solo organ concert on the Holtkamp pipe organ entitled "Toccatas and Flourishes." A reception will follow. The concert is free and open to the public.

May 28 is Pentecost WEAR RED!

If you have a graduate in the family, please send us a recent photo and a brief sentence or two about their upcoming plans for the future to share the news with our community! Materials can be emailed to jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org by **June 2**. We will be recognizing and praying for our graduates in church on **June 11**.

In Search of Paul Forum: Pastor Blake will share what he learned on his continuing education trip on **June 4 at 9:00 AM**.

Outreach in Summit: We will be a sponsor for events at this year's Summit's community programs. See the weekly email to sign up for any of the upcoming events: **Friday, June 2**–Summit Has Pride; **Saturday June 17**–Juneteenth Celebration; **Tuesday, July 18**–Community Night; **Friday, September 15**–Fiesta Latina

Psomi's Ordination Celebration: We will be hosting a luncheon celebration in honor of our own beloved, the Reverend Psomi Psomas-Jackloski on **Sunday, June 4 at Noon**. Psomi was ordained and installed as the pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Parsippany.

Music Sunday, June 11. All our ensembles will lead in worship. Join us as we will give thanks for the gift of music, all our musicians, and our Director of Music, Christopher Harlow-Jennings.

Church Picnic, Sunday, June 11 after the 10:30 AM service. Sign-up in the rear entryway or online to help set up, bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

The Cross Roads Bishops' Cup will be held on **June 12** at the Copper Hill Country Club in Ringoes, NJ. You can sign up as an individual golfer (\$250) or as a foursome (\$1,000). There are also many opportunities to become a sponsor. See the weekly email to sign up.

CPR AED Training June 17: Sign up with Jane Bowman by **June 4**.

Bethlehem Build Collection. Our partner congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans, is building the 2nd affordable house on their property. Give online or by check, **payable to St. John's**, "Bethlehem Build" in the memo line. We have collected \$22,708 to date.

ASP Stock Sale: Sundays in June, our ASP volunteers will be on hand to purchase stock to support our teams and our neighbors in Blountville, Sullivan County, TN. Help us equip our teams to rent vans, pay for gas, purchase food and supplies, etc. Stock is available for purchase starting at \$10, but any donation, cash or check, is welcome. Shares available in increments of \$1.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Reconciling in Christ

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