

May 18, 2023

*Ascension of Our
Lord*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Divine Service:
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am
+

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist:
Patty Barnes

Ascension of Our Lord



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May 18, 2023

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph
"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

arr. F. Ritter
arr. H. DeCou

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB 593



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up



hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
 al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
 al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
 al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall



trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
 see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
 say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
 see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



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

5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
 And be our future great reward.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Then, throned with You forever, we
 Shall praise Your name eternally.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to You let earth accord:
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us come before our Lord and King in a time of confession so that we may receive assurance of His mercy and forgiveness.

We take a moment of silence for personal prayers and reflection.

- P** Lord Jesus, You are the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

C All things have been created by You: things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible.

- P** All things are Yours, including us. We have been created by You and for Your glory.

C Yet our sinfulness separates us from You and Your will for our lives. By what we do and what we fail to do, we fall apart without You holding us together.

- P** Lord Jesus, in all things You reign supreme. You are the King of all, the Sovereign of our souls. God the Father dwells fully in You.

C By Your blood, You have reconciled us to the Father. By Your cross, grant us Your forgiveness and peace. Amen.

- P** Our merciful God is pleased to have all His fullness dwell in His crucified, risen, and ascended Son, Jesus Christ. He alone is the image of God, and in Him all things hold together. Through faith in Christ, you and I have been reconciled to God and stand renewed in His presence. As a called and ordained servant of Christ the King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

INTROIT

Psalm 110:1, 4–5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5

- P** God has gone up with a shout,

C the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

- P** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand,

C until I make Your enemies Your footstool."

- P** The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

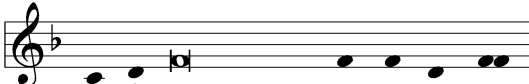
C The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings on the day of His wrath.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** God has gone up with a shout,
- C** **the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

KYRIE

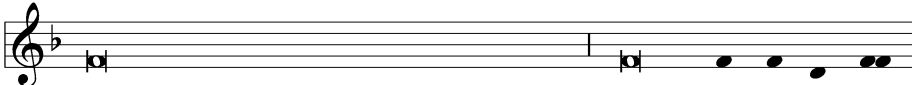
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



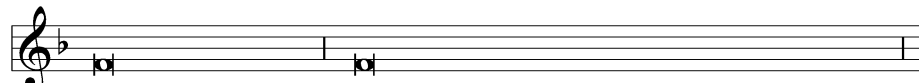
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain

C 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
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

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.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, gloriously took His throne, ascending to Your right hand,

C **grant that we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him,**

P who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you 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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 47

A Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

C **For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.**

A He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

C **He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom He loves.**

A God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

C **Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

A For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

C **God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.**

A The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

C **For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

P Alleluia.

We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia.

C **Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and

forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are 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 blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN

"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

LSB 491



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
 △ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
 With Your pow'r and love a - bid; Wel - come us, as
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
 You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** The King invites His people to boldly pray and seek His will for our lives.

Loving Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to bear our sins and to be our Savior. By His death, He has destroyed death. By His rising to new life, He has given to us the guarantee of life forever with You. By His ascension to heaven's glorious throne, He has proven that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **reign in our hearts.**

- A** Sovereign of all, we thank You that nothing is hidden from Your sight. In mercy, You have redeemed Your fallen creation by reconciling sinners to their Creator through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Look with favor upon us and our families, our congregation and our community, guiding our steps in the way of peace. Grant boldness to all who bear Your name, raising up faithful men and women who serve in positions of leadership among us, that we each may live out our callings under Your authority and care. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **reign in our hearts.**

- P** Restoring Redeemer, the brokenness of our lives bears witness to the fact that, without You holding us together, we are lost and hopeless. Rescue those who despair, and grant patience to those suffering in times of trial, anguish, and loss. Comfort those who are saddened by the death of those they love. Fill with perfect peace those who belong to You, [*including . . .*]. Let all who hunger and thirst for what You alone can give find their solace and rest in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **reign in our hearts.**

- A** Crucified, risen, and exalted King, our Lord Jesus, with the ancient worshipers who clapped their hands and shouted their praises at the coronation of their sovereign, we rejoice in Your exaltation to the Father's glory and in Your promise to come again. Preserve us in faith until that coming, glorious, and awesome Day! Instill in us an ever-deepening reliance upon Your Word and Spirit. Create in us hearts that are ready to receive Your presence as You draw near to us again this day in Your body and blood. Make us one, Lord, even as You are one. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **reign in our hearts.**

P With confidence in the King who reigns supreme and governs all things in heaven and on earth for the benefit of His people, we entrust our prayers into Your care, O gracious Father, for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels"

setting: W. Braun

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 955

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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 the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at every time in every place thank You, our God, who has created this world and everything in it, and, in Your mercy, has given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not be destroyed but have eternal life. We praise and thank You for saving us through the waters of Baptism and giving us a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through this Meal, empower us to love You and share the truth of hope we have in You, through the resurrection of Jesus, with those in our homes, workplaces, and throughout our community. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who rescued us from sin and death, providing for us the way to life forever with You. We praise You for His resurrection victory and draw strength from His ascension to His glorious throne, where He now sits in authority at Your right hand. Gather Your people from every corner of the earth that we may sing Your praises and receive the mercy of our King. For to You alone, O God, we give our heartfelt thanks and endless praise.
- Hear us now as we pray in the name of Jesus, our King, and in the words He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

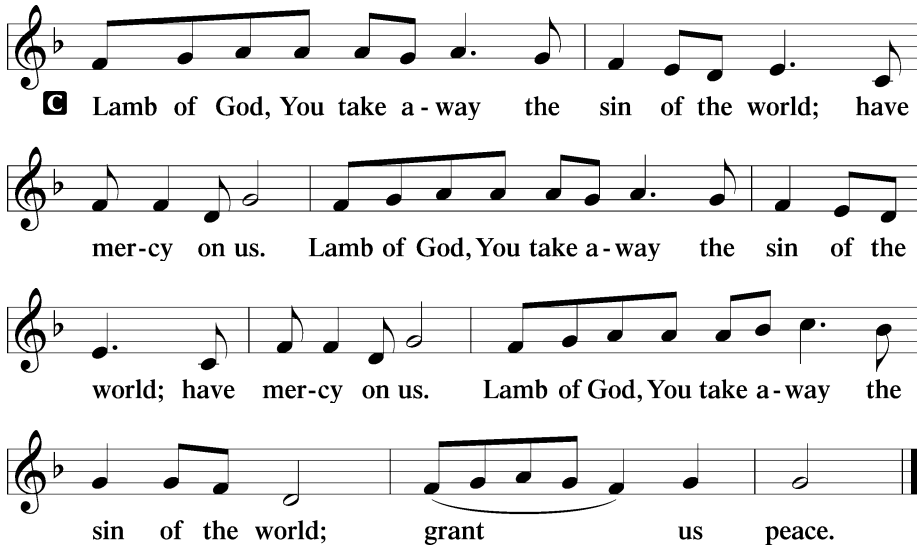
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C 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.

DISTRIBUTION

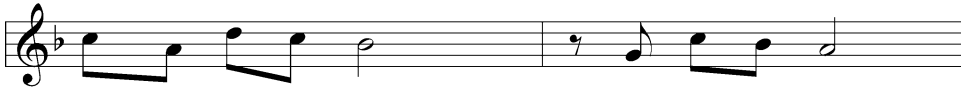
HYMN

"What Is This Bread"

LSB 629



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	He should	Un -	der	the	rod?
Word	and	prom - ise	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set free!	I	do	be -	lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

VOLUNTARY

"Glorified, Blessed and Worthy"

arr. L. Leatherman

Stand

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



G Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



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

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
 rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
 my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
 all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
 me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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See the Conqueror Mounts in Triumph- arr. F. Ritter; tune: Rex Gloriam, H. Smart (c. 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.) A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing- arr. H. DeCou; tune: Lasst uns Erfreuen, from Geisliche Kirchengesang(c. 1973 Singspiration Inc.) Up Through Endless Ranks of Angels- setting: W. Braun; tune: Ascended Triumph, H. Gerike (c.1973 Henry Gerike) What Is this Bread- setting: H. Gerike; tune: Preparation, J.Baue (c.1991 Jean Baue) Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious"- arr. J. Mansfield; tune: Bryn Calferia, W. Owen (c. 2001 Lorenz Publishing Co.)