

May 18, 2025

*Fifth Sunday
Of Easter*



**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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 18, 2025

✠ 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; I 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

"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart!"

Douglas E. Wagner

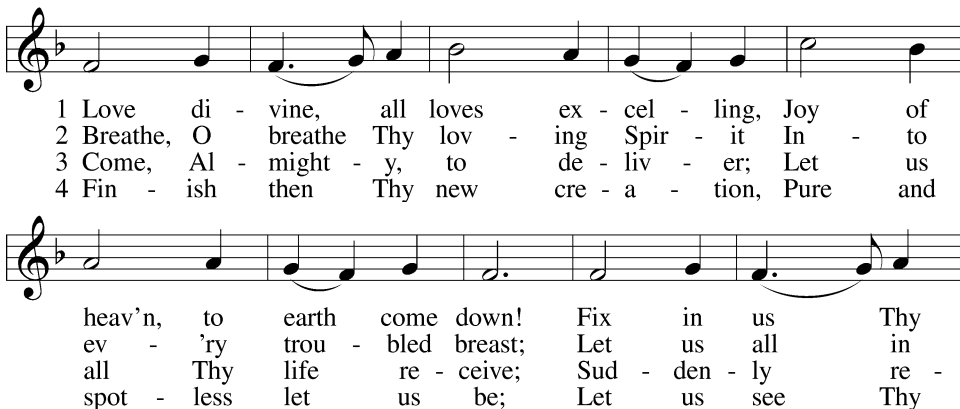
WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and

heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy

hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in

bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87, Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 98:1–2, 4

- P** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
G His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- P** The LORD has made known His salvation;
G He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
G break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P We have come together to praise and thank God for His overwhelming grace and mercy. Singing and rejoicing are natural for us, but we cannot come to God with our sins and failures. Let us therefore confess our sins and ask for mercy for the sake of Christ.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P God has called you to life, He has given His Son to pay for your sins, and He has given you and all believers in Christ the faith to trust all His promises. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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 ✠

KYRIE

LSB 152

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

P Christ, have mercy on us.

C **Christ, have mercy on us.**

P Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Lord, have mercy on us.**

HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

LSB 465



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------|-----|---------|------|---------|------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Now | all | the | vault | of | heav'n | re - | sounds | In |
| 2 | E - | ter - | nal | is | the | gift | He | brings, | There - |
| 3 | O | fill | us, | Lord, | with | daunt - | less | love; | Set |
| △ 4 | A - | dor - | ing | prais - | es | now | we | bring | And |



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
life And by His pres - ence stills all
day That by our lives we tru - ly
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt., Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

C Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You

promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *Mark, Katie, Anthony, Lauren and Dominic DeMercurio*

** 11:00 AM only; 8:00 & 9:30 AM proceed to First reading on p. 8*

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

A Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

A Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

A Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

A Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them with the hearts to believe and with the mouths to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

G **Amen.**

New Members return to their seats

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 148; antiphon: v. 13



1 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the | heavens;*
praise him | in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his | angels;*
praise him, | all his hosts!

3 Praise him, | sun and moon,*
praise him, all you | shining stars!

4 Praise him, you highest | heavens,*
and you waters above the | heavens!

5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD!*
For he commanded and they were cre- | ated.

6 And he established them forever and | ever;*
he gave a decree, and it shall not | pass away.

7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you great sea creatures and | all deeps,

8 fire and hail, | snow and mist,*
stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!

9 Mountains and | all hills,*
fruit trees and all | cedars!

10 Beasts and all | livestock,*
creeping things and | flying birds!

11 **Kings of the earth and all | peoples,*
princes and all rulers | of the earth!**

12 **Young men and maidens to- | gether,*
old men and | children!**

13 **Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is ex- | alted;***
his majesty is above earth and | heaven.

14 **He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for | all his saints,*
for the people of Israel who are near to him. | Praise the LORD!**

EPISTLE READING

Revelation 21:1-7

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HYMN

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB 821 st. 1

1 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 vic - to - ry a - lone.
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der

like a mighty flood: “Je - sus out of
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood.”

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt., Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87, Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

John 16:12-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

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

The Word is read...

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN

“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

LSB 706

1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when
hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,
May His will in us be done.
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934, Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, 1932–2024
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SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED, 8:00 & 9:30 AM Services Only

**☩ 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** Let us pray for ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various conditions.

For ourselves, that the faith within us be evident to the people around us, that they will want to find out more about our risen Savior.

- C** **In thanksgiving may they sing a new song with us!**

- A** For those who call out to God for relief from poverty, discrimination, and injustice, that God provide relief so that they live peaceful and fruitful lives.

- C** **In unbounded joy may they sing a new song with us!**

- P** For those who are ill and those who care for them, [including . . .], that God would restore them to health and provide the strength they need.

- C** **In their relief may they sing a new song with us!**

- A** For all who carry the Gospel in far-flung lands, that God open doors of opportunity for the spread of the Gospel.

- C** **In all corners of the earth may they sing a new song with us!**

- P** These and any other things God would have us ask of Him, that He grant them for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"The Call to Commitment"

L. Smith

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ 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.**

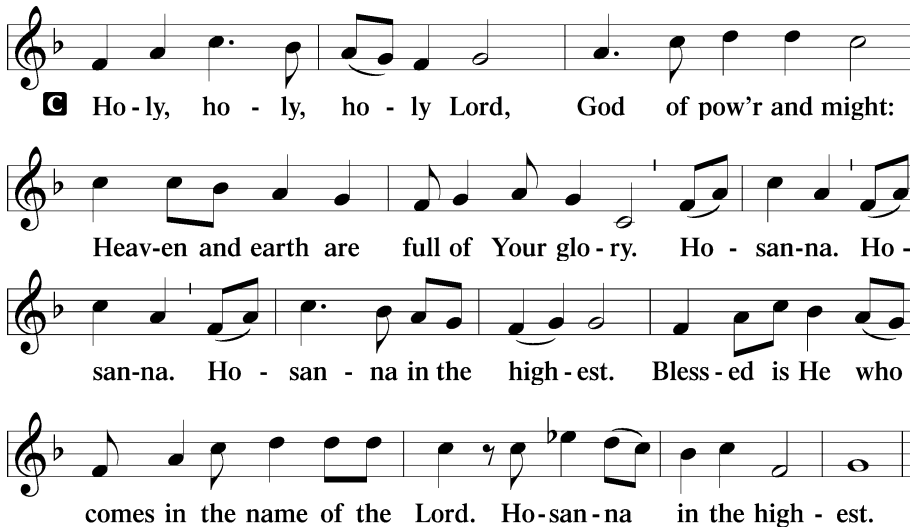
PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the

world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. 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 saying:

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 Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You stopped at nothing to forgive our sins to the point of giving Your own Son for our salvation. We gather with the faithful here on earth to sing Your praises until You bid us join all who sit at table with the Lamb in His kingdom. To You alone, heavenly Father, be all praise and glory, now and forever.

C 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

G **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

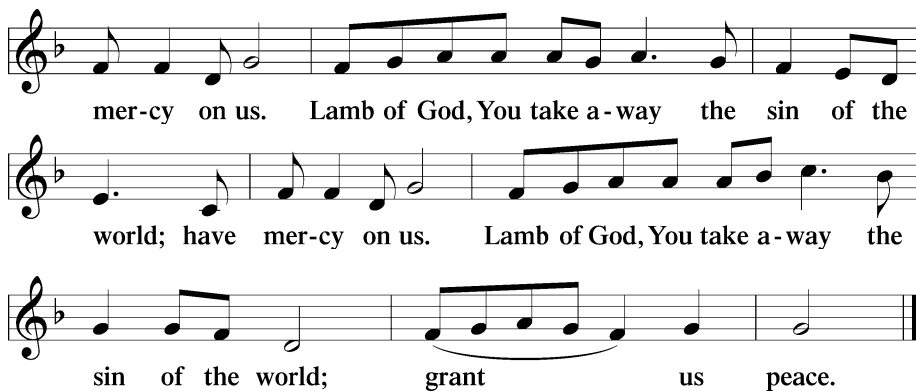
G **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

LSB 633

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di-vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas-chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas-chal

our vic-tor-ious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa-cred blood for wine, Gives His bod-y for the feast—
 an-gel sheathes the sword; Is-rael's hosts tri-um-phantly go
 vic-tim, pas-chal bread; With sin-cer-i-ty and love

Flow-ing from His pierc-ed side. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ the vic-tim, Christ the priest. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al-le-lu-ia!
 Eat we man-na from a-bove. Al-le-lu-ia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.

Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.; Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice, Text and tune: Public domain

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.

Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY

"Aria"

G.F. Handel

Stand

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



C 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. Heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

C **Keep us firm in the true faith that we may join the rest of Your good creation in singing Your praises at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Church of God, Elect and Glorious"

LSB 646



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
 2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
 3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, Strang - ers
 4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the

na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
 His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
 to God's heart of love; But He brought you
 peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and

spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
 life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
 home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a -
 swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter

grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
 sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
 ove. Let His love flow out to oth - ers,
 sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing

Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
 That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
 Let them feel a Fa - ther's care; That they too may
 Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
know His wel - come And His count - less bless - ings share.
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915–83, Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–92, Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare Postlude"

Douglas E. Wagner

Acknowledgements

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

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