

HOLY EUCHARIST

in celebration of Тне Ascension of Jesus

Joint Worship of the Erie Conference 9 May 2024

Welcome!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us together rejoice and be glad in it!

- ~ Luther Memorial Church and Academy and the congregations of the Erie Conference are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.
- \sim Everything you need is in this bulletin, including hymns. You are invited to participate with the words in **bold type** marked with a \square .
 - Presiding Minister/Preacher
 - **D** Dean
 - **A** Assisting Minister
 - **C** Congregation
- ~ You don't need to disconnect here! You don't need to turn off your phone, but please place it in silent mode. Feel free to take pictures—of our building, of worship, but ask permission for any people-pictures. We ask that you not use flash during this worship service. Post your favorite quote from the sermon or verse from a hymn...just be sure to *check in* and let your friends know where you are!
- \sim We welcome all of God's children **no matter your age**. Wriggles, dancing, and singing welcome! Together we raise a joyful noise.
- ~ **All-Gender and Accessible Restroom** may be found in the parlor on the other side of the altar wall. To get there, exit by door next to the pulpit, head up the ramp, and turn right into the parlor following signs to the "Handicap Restroom".
- ~ Parking is not permitted in any of the lots directly across from the school on 11th Street. Overflow parking is permitted in the Select Specialty lot on the west side of Myrtle Street.

Prelude & Fugue in E Minor"

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665 - 1697)

Welcome

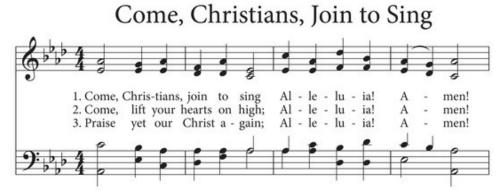
Please rise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font at the crossing.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- D Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For the One who turned water into wine and met a woman at the well with living water.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- **D** For Living Water poured out on all people, washing the eunuch and Philip and us alike.
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
- D For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus. For Christ is risen!
- Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
- D Let us pray:
 God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation...the risen Jesus, the Beloved of God.
- Amen.

During the Gathering Hymn, the assembly is invited to stand and face the cross as it leads us into worship.

Gathering Hymn





GREETING

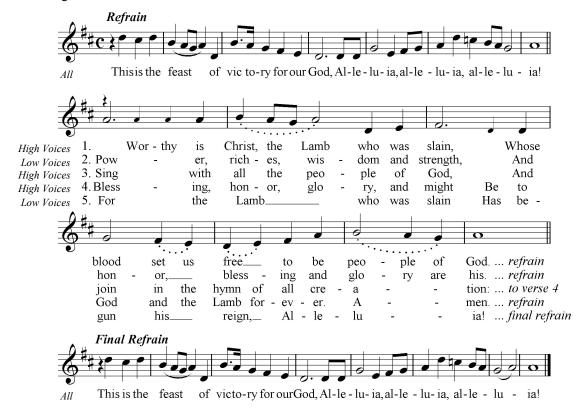
P Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

☑ The Lord with the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia!

- P The grace of our risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, the love of our ever-living God, and fellowship of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.
- **And also with you.**



Canticle of Praise



Text: Dignus est Agnus, tr. John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray: Almighty God,...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated.

WORD

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

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In the first writing, I worked on, Theophilus, everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day he instructed the apostles whom he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. Jesus presented himself to them, living, after his suffering through many convincing proofs, by appearing to them forty days and speaking about the reign of God. And staying with them, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, rather to wait there for the promise of the Faithful God, "what you heard from me. For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from this one." When the disciples came together, they asked Jesus, "Rabbi, is this the time when you will restore sovereignty to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the time or the seasons that the Sovereign God has set through divine authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And saying this as they were watching, Jesus was taken up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While they were gazing up toward heaven as Jesus was going, suddenly, two in white robes stood by them. They said, "Galileans, why are you standing looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the way as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalm 25

The psalm will be sung antiphonally. The pulpit side of the assembly will sing the regular text. The lectern side of the assembly will sing the **bold** text.



To the CREATOR OF ALL belongs the earth and | all that fills her, the world, and those who | dwell in her.

For God upon the seas has | founded her, and on the rivers has est-| ablished her.

Who shall ascend the hill of the | HOLY ONE? And who shall stand in God's | holy place?

The one who has clean hands and pure hearts, who does not lift up their hands to | what is false, and does not swear deceitfully | on their souls.

Instead they will lift up a blessing from the | FAITHFUL GOD, and what is right from the God of | their salvation.

Such is the generation of those | who seek God, who seek the face of the God | of Rebekah.

Lift up your heads, you gates! and be lifted up, you ever- | lasting doors! that the One of glory | may come in.

Who is the One of glory?
The FIRE OF SINAI, | strong and mighty,
the GOD WHO IS MAJESTY, might-| y in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates! and be lifted up, you ever- | lasting doors! that the One of glory | may come in.

Who is this One of glory?
The COMMANDER of | heaven's legions,
God is the | One of glory.

SECOND READING: Revelation 3:20-22

The Human One to the Church in Laodicea: "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and dine with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers, I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Abba on God's throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

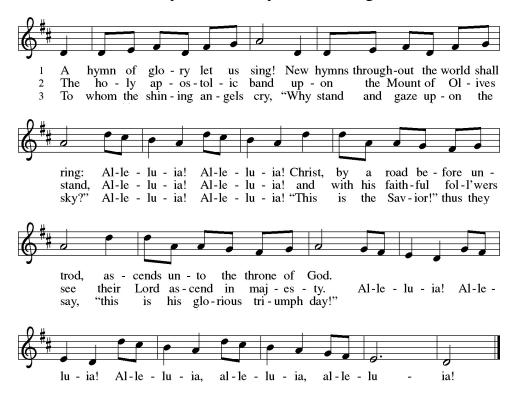
L Word of God, Word of Life.

© Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation ELW 393

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



GOSPEL: Luke 24:46-53

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to them, "So it is written, the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be preached in his name to all nations, beginning form Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Now look! I am sending you the promise of my Abba. You all stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, Jesus retreated from them and was carried up into heaven. And they bowed down and worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were in the temple every day blessing God.

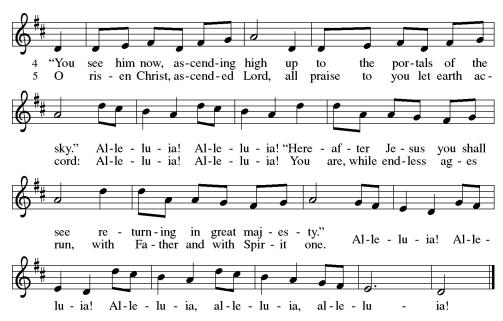
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Gospel Response ELW 393

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

You may be seated.

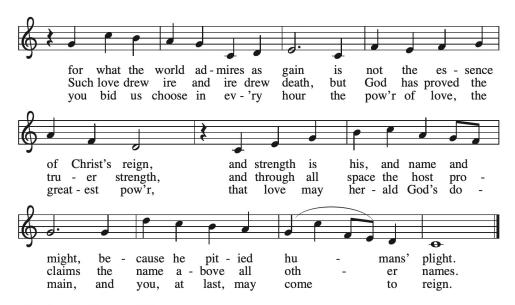
SERMON

Pastor Erik Young St. Paul's

A time of silent reflection follows the sermon. As the music sounds, please rise in body or spirit to proclaim the Word of God in song.

Hymп of the Day ACS 953





Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: CHRIST CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2008 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Пісепе Скеед

- P Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:
- **W**e 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.

Prayer of İntercession

- ⚠ Looking to the Risen and Ascended One as our mediator, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all of God's good creation.
 - ... God in heaven,
- **G** hear our prayer.

When invited with "For what else shall we pray?" you may offer prayers for names and needs dear to you.

- ⚠ Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace shown through the Crucified, Risen, and Ascended One, Jesus.
- Amen.

PEACE

The Peace of the risen and ascended Christ be with you all.

We share a brief sign and greeting of peace in ways that are comfortable.

Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with Jesus Christ.

Offering



This evening's offering is designated for Bethany Outreach Center. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church and write "Ascension" in the Memo Line. Additionally, you may visit https://bit.ly/LMCDonate or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically. If you would like to ensure you are credited with giving by your home congregation, please use an envelope and identify your home congregation.

Аптнет – "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Rachel Aarons

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee; Joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see; Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief; Fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief; More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Offertory Hymn ELW 394

Please rise in body or spirit as the gifts of bread and wine, as well as the offering received, are brought forward.

Hail Thee, Festival Day!



Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: SALVE FESTA DIES, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872−1958 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Outside USA: Music from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906.

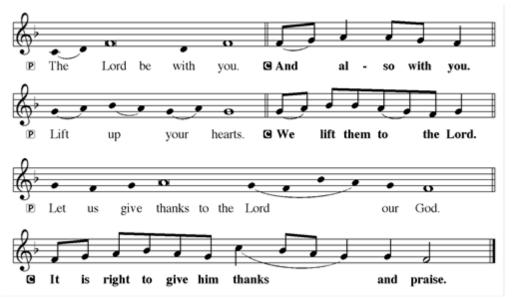
Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray:

Holy God, you abide with your creation and in Jesus Christ you gather us at your table. As you stayed with your disciples for an evening meal, so now stay with us. As we receive these gifts of bread and wine, open our hearts to share what we have received, the abiding love of Jesus, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

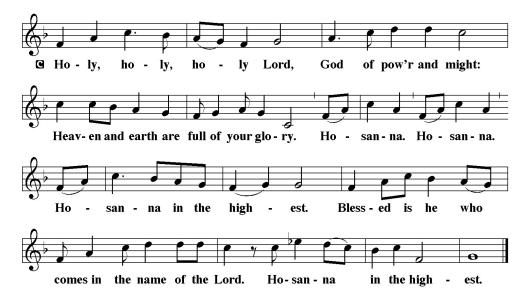
The Great Thanksgiving Dialog



PROPER PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Eucharistic Prayer

The Presiding Minister, on behalf of all, gives thanks for God's providence throughout time and especially for Bread and Wine. The assembly joins in the prayer as indicated:

- P As the shadows lengthen, we bless you, sheltering God...
- P We glorify you...stay with us for it is evening.
- **Stay with us for it is evening.**
- **P** Through the night...stay with us for it is evening.
- **Q** Stay with us for it is evening.

- **P** In the night...Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
- **©** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Like a mother hen...come, Lord Jesus.
- **©** Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Come, Holy Spirit...come, Holy Spirit.
- **©** Come, Holy Spirit.
- P To you, O God, painter of both night and day, guiding star and healing sun, breath of peace and wind of change, be all glory, all honor, all praise this night into the coming dawn, now and forever.
- Amen.

Pater Noster

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

İnvitation to the Table

- P This is the table not of the righteous,...it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.
- Amen. We come.
- P Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

You may be seated.

THE COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast! We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.

Joyful Is the Dark



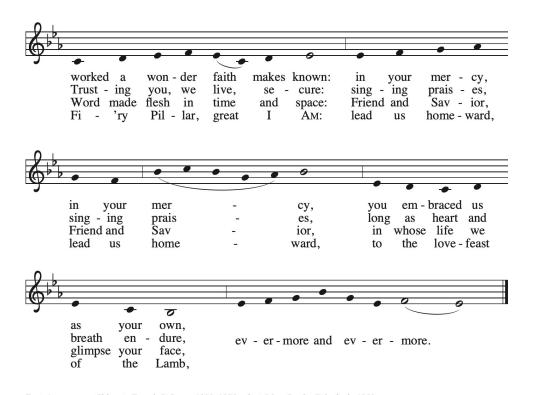
Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: LINDNER, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
Music © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

ACS 1093

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness





Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, 1890–1975; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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ELW 470





Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
Text from Songs of Praise Enlarged Edition. © Oxford University Press 1931.
Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

Table Blessing

- May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.
- G Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

- P Let us pray:
 - Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished here with Jesus Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission.

Аппоипсементs

Please rise in body or spirit.

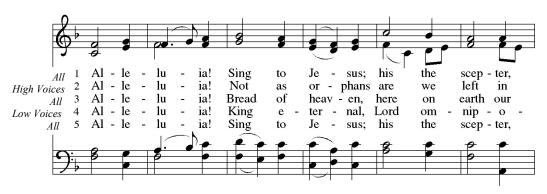
BLESSING

- P ... Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you this evening and always.
- C Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW 392

The assembly is invited to face the cross as it leads the assembly out of worship and into the world.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus





Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Dismissal

The Assisting Minister sends the assembly out in mission.

- Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!
- **The Lord with the sound of the trumpet!** Alleluia!
- A Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- **☑** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please join in a festive reception in the parlor. YOU MAY ACCESS THE PARLOR THROUGH EITHER DOOR AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH.

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— serving This evening —

PRESIDING MINISTER The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

Pastor Loci

PREACHING MINISTER The Rev. Erik K. Young

Pastor, St. Paul's, Erie

The Very Rev. Jean N. Kuebler ASSISTING MINISTER AT THE FONT

Dean, Erie Conference Pastor, Faith

The Rev. Karen Thompson ASSISTING MINISTER AT THE PRAYERS

Pastor, St John's (Girard) and St James (Fairview)

ASSISTING MINISTER AT THE TABLE David Olson

St James

Sherri Repoff **LECTOR**

Faith, Erie

Cathy Beck, Mary Daniels, Jeanne Gaber, Betty Pletz **USHERS**

PRINCIPAL MUSICIAN Mr. Walt Gaber Cantor Loci

Jeanne Gaber

BREAD BAKER Luther Memorial

VIDEO STREAMING Christy Adams

Luther Memorial

Pastors of the Erie Conference under call:

The Rev. William Cox, Prince of Peace; The Rev. Matthew Dennison, St Peter's (North East); The Rev. Ron Freeborn, St Peter's (Erie) & Trinity (McKean); Deacon Nancy Guthrie, St John's (Girard) and St James (Fairview); Mr. Ron King, Pastoral Asst. Holy Trinity; The Rev. Karen Kostur, Immanuel; The Rev. Jean Kuebler, Faith; The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell, Luther Memorial; The Rev. Kristen Papson, Mt Calvary and Lamb of God; The Rev. Karen Parsh, Abiding Hope; The Rev. Karen Thompson, St John's (Girard) and St James (Fairview); The Rev. Erik Young, St Paul's Lutheran Church.

Retired Pastors of the Erie Conference:

The Rev. Mark Fischer; The Rev. Kimberly Hirsch; The Rev. Allison Leitzel; The Rev. Dr. Karen Lundwall; The Rev. David McIlvreid; The Rev. Ralph Mineo; The Rev. Brian Moran; The Rev. Kenneth Thompson; The Rev. Gail Zackrison

HISTORY OF LUTHER MEMORIAL'S ASCENSION TAPESTRY

In 1928 the Cenchrean Circle of Luther Memorial asked the privilege of presenting a tapestry to hang on the wall above the altar. Judge William E. Hirt was planning a trip to New York and was requested to investigate the matter. At the Museum of Fine Arts he was directed to the Edgewater Beach Looms and there met the owner, Mr. Lauritz Kleiser, a Norwegian Lutheran. Mr. Kleiser came to Erie and, setting up his easel in the church, painted a small representation of the Ascension, the subject selected for the tapestry. This he took to his studios in New York where he reproduced it in a cartoon the size of the present tapestry. Over this, as a pattern, the weavers, all of them Belgians whose families had followed this vocation, wove the beautiful creation which hangs above the altar. The fabric is made of Australian wool and Japanese silk, the halos are 18k gold thread, and the colors are fadeless vegetable dyes. It was unveiled September 19, 1928 as a progressive memorial to the Cenchrean Circle.