



**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

*"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"*

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 14, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Down Ampney* arr. David Blackwell

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please stand.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

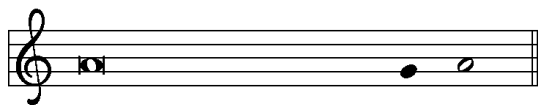
**Gathering Hymn**

**Come Down, O Love Divine (ELW 804)**

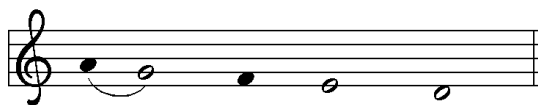
**Greeting**

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

**C: And also with you.**



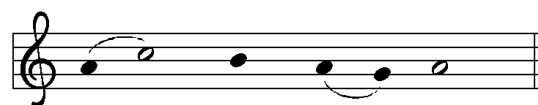
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



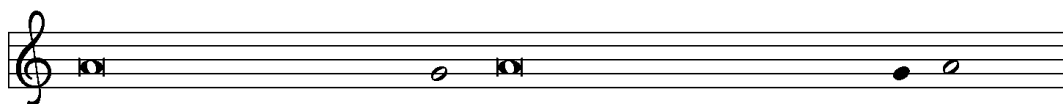
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



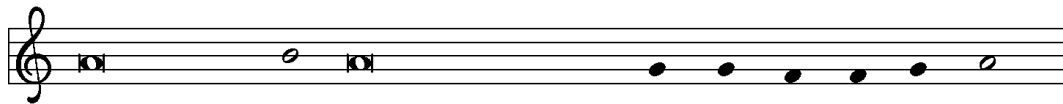
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*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.

*Final refrain*



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

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20**

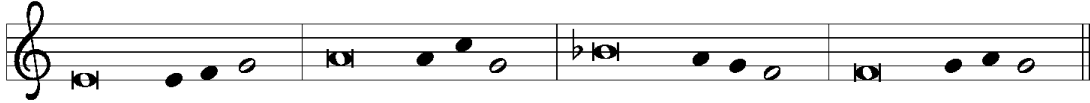


Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Psalm 66:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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<sup>8</sup>Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup>**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip. R**

<sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have | tested us;

you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

<sup>11</sup>**You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

<sup>12</sup>You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup>**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup>those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup>**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats. R**

<sup>16</sup>Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

<sup>17</sup>**I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup>If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup>**but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me. **R**

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (*Cantor sings refrain, then all repeat*)

**Refrain:**



Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (*John 14:23*).

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Craig Sagebiel**

*Please stand.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace, with special care in our hearts for Pastor Kris Crawford, Pastor Stanley Larson, Amy Crawford, John, Caroline, and Kimberly Crawford, Viola Caraway, Rosemary Petry, Dottie Bowles, Dawn Sulaica, Karen Iredale, Chris Gates, Gaelyn Burk and Gary Reiminschneider. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand.*



## Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.** (*Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you."*)

*Please be seated.*

## Offering

### Offertory

*If Ye Love Me* by Thomas Tallis  
St. John's Choir

*Please stand.*

### Offertory Response

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The score concludes with a double bar line.

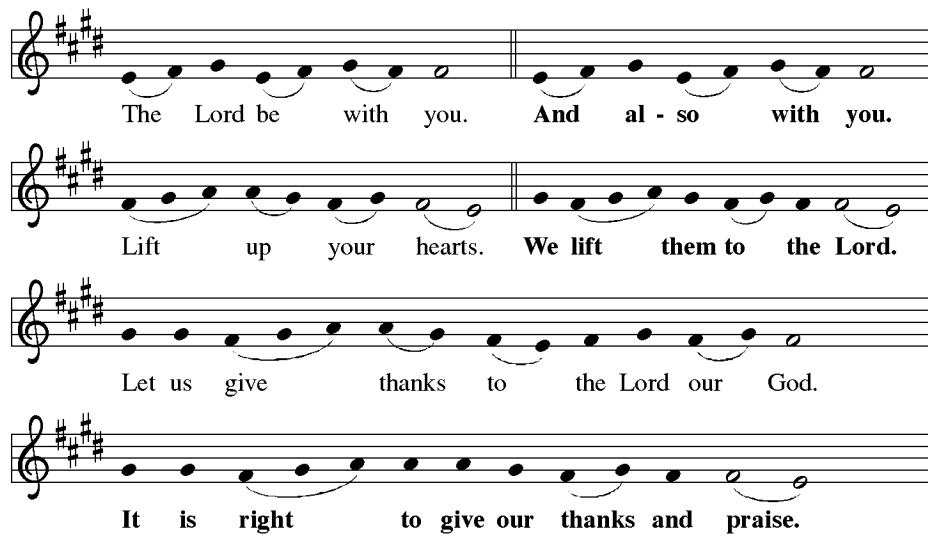
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

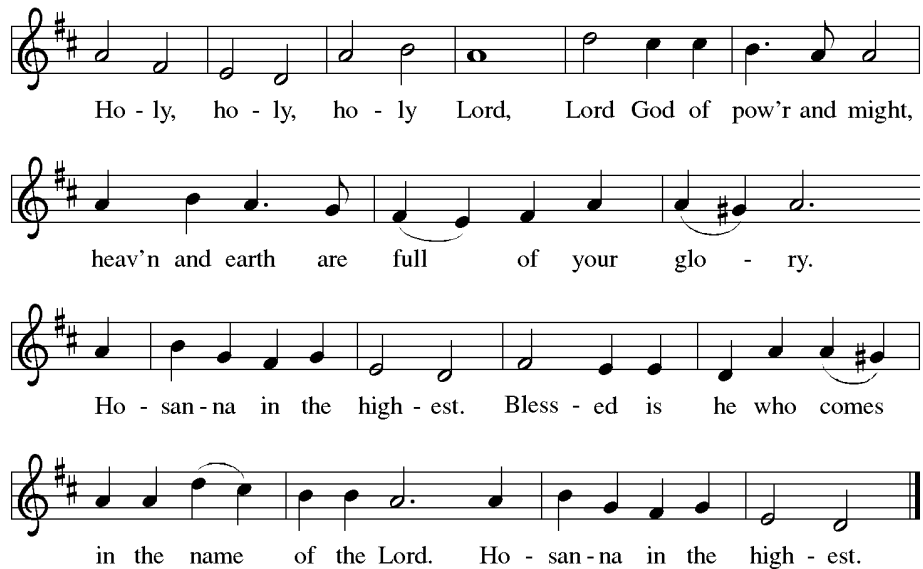
C: **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is . . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

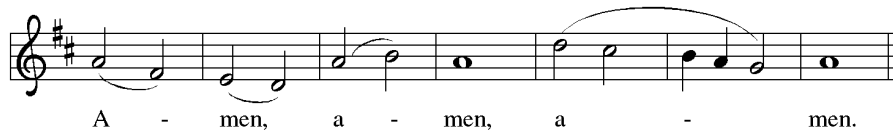
P: You are indeed holy . . .  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: Remembering . . .

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

P: When we eat this bread we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

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.

*Please be seated.*

## Music During Holy Communion

*Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)*

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (ELW 403)*

## Holy Communion

*Please stand.*

## Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

**That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright (ELW 384)**

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

**C: Amen.**

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Puer nobis nascitur* arr. David Schelat

You are all invited to join us, in the Memorial Hall, for fellowship and refreshments, after service.

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God's work. Our hands.

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