



See, here is water!

What prevents me from being baptized?

If you believe with all your heart, you may.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

WELCOME TO

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Rako Zech pastorzech@outlook.com 716-529-9201

Pastor (Emeritus) Ben Eder 716-316-8776

Kurt Wozniak, Council President 716-957-8092

Dave Chalmers, Chairman of Elders 716-908-4537

Linda McCarthy, volunteer secretary 716-633-1148

7720 Goodrich Road, Clarence Center, NY 14032 (716)-741-2500

Jesusintheclarencelcenter.org

Called by Christ to Gather, Group, Grow, Give & Go

Centered in Christ | Loving our neighbors

Gather for Grace

April 28, 2024

- Join us for Divine service each Sunday at 9:30
- Private confession and absolution; discipleship, available – see Pastor Zech

Group with Christian Friends

- Church directory info, see Kurt Wozniak or Linda McCarthy
- Men's breakfast, May 11 at 9am at church (Second Saturday)

Grow in God's Word & Prayer

- Join the One Year Bible Reading group! Bible class will resume next Sunday. Grab a Bible!! Follow Pastor Zech's podcasts. Reading the Bible will transform your life, showing you God's plan for the world and his love and purpose for you.

Give Generously to the Place You Gather

- We give thanks for your worship of God through the giving of your tithes and offerings. It makes a huge difference for our mission here. To give online go to jesusintheclarencelcenter.org/giving or scan the code.



- Consider "Joyful Giving" automatic giving from your bank account.

Go and serve the Risen Jesus

- Sat. May 4: Compass Care Walk for Life – see flyers and table in the undercroft
- May 5: Spring breakfast and youth carwash after the Divine Service.
- VBS plans are underway – perhaps July 1-3. Planning meeting soon.



(Cover: The Ethiopian and Philip, Angel's Chapel, Seckau Abbey, Styria, Austria)

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

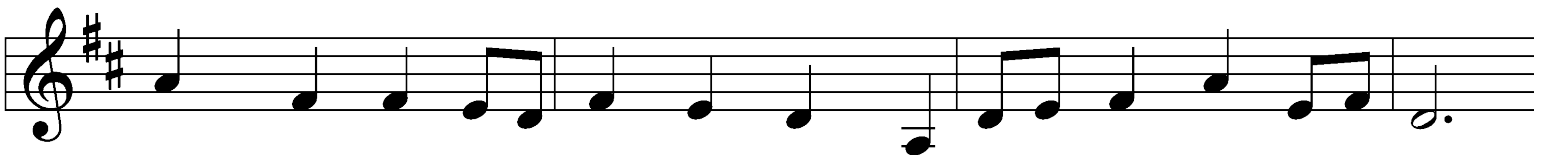
Please face the processional cross in the back of the nave and consider respectfully bowing your head as it passes by, symbolizing the presence of the Risen Christ here to serve us.

O Christ, who called the Twelve

LSB 856 sts. 1–2, 5



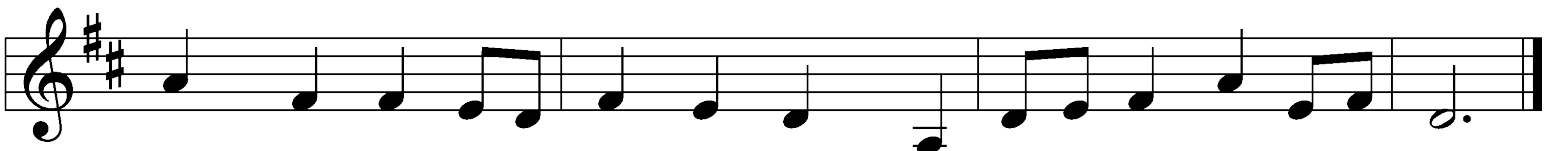
1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
5 O Christ, th'a - pos - tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'ring Word. True
Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!!

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your saints shall bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**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.**

A little while, and you will see me no longer;
and again a little while, and you will see me.

Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

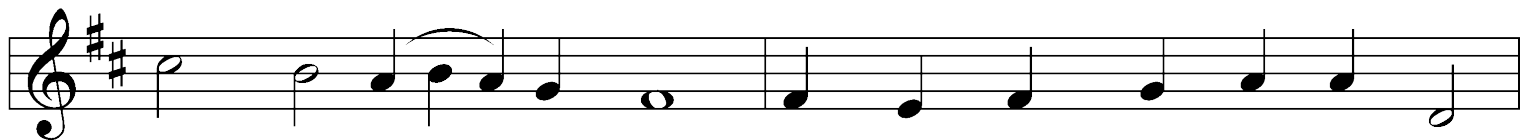
Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and to rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

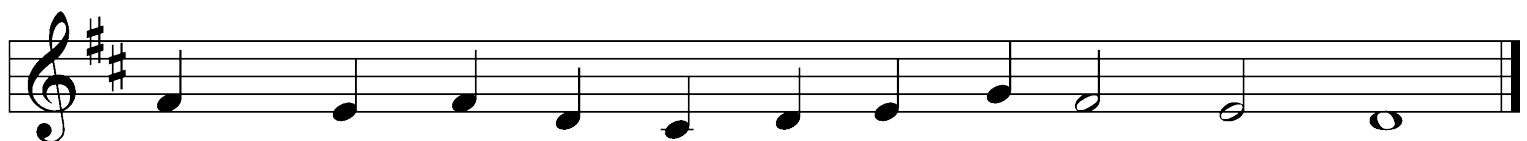
LSB 633 1, 5-7



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
 6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
 7 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 pow'rs be - neath You lie; You have con - quered in the fight,
 more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,
 lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 New - born souls in You to be. Al - le - lu - ia!



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord Be With You.

And With Your Spirit.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

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

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” {³⁷And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”} ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Proper

Romans 6:9; John 14:23

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Alleluia!

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

This is the Word of the Lord.

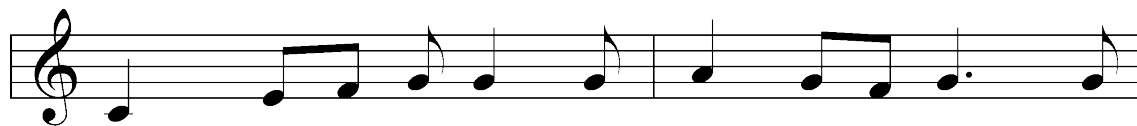
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205



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



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

Holy Gospel

John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

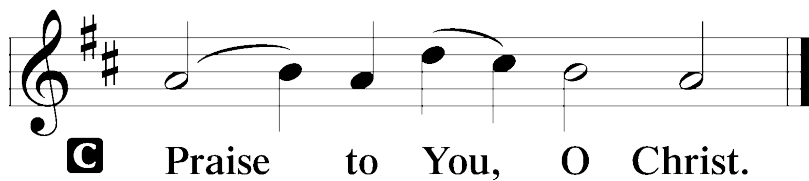


C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the

fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

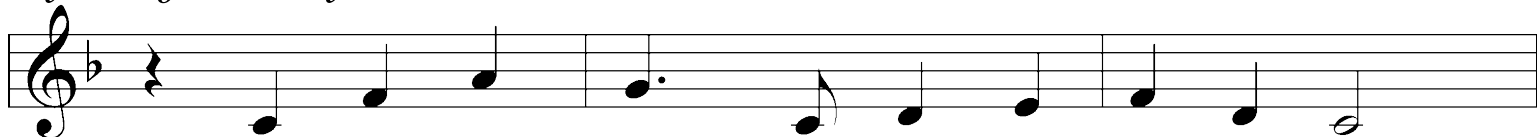
This is the Gospel of the Lord.



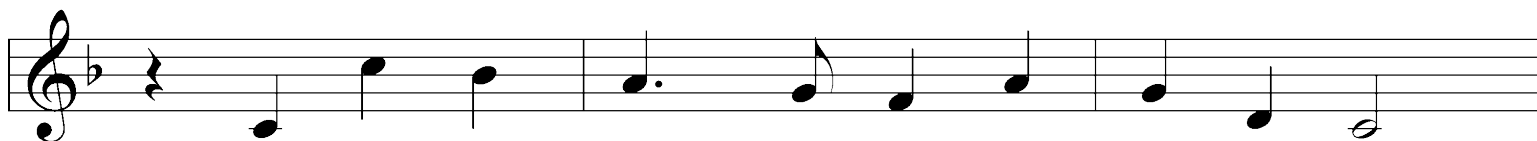
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: We Know That Christ Is Raised

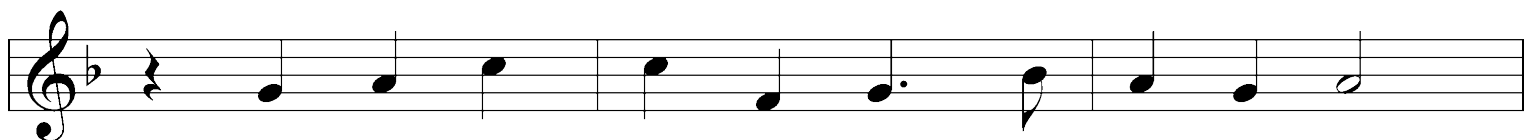
LSB 603



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.



Em - braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
 Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.



And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
 As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.



Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia!

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Sermon & Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

(Printed in the back inside cover of the LSB)

Prayer of the Church

...Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Offering & Choir Offering Song

Encouragement from the elders:

John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord’s work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That’s growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.

✠ *The Lord’s Supper* ✠

The Lord’s Supper, also called Communion, The Eucharist, the Lord’s Table, the Sacrament of the Altar, is a miraculous event, given by Jesus to us for the strengthening of our faith and the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26).

The Eucharist is the holiest thing on Earth. It is like fire: without repentance and faith, you receive it to your harm; with repentance and faith, it is the medicine of immortality (I Corinthians 10 & 11).

We invite all baptized and repentant Christians, who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior, desire forgiveness of their sins, and believe that the very body and blood of Christ are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine to receive the Lord’s Supper with us. **However, please speak with Pastor Zech or Pastor Ben before communing here at St. Paul’s,** because in accordance with the apostolic command and in unity with the unbroken practice of the Church, we practice Closed Communion. We kindly ask you to refrain from communing until we understand that you seek to be unified with us in our teaching.

We do so not to offend you, but because the Scriptures clearly teach that those communing together be unified in their confession of the Faith. In this Sacrament we are not only joined to Christ our Head who is present in His body and blood, but are also knit together with one another as His Body, in which there should be no division of belief.

If you are a fellow Christian, but do not share our confession of faith (as stated above), please pray for the unity of the church, and please feel free to come to the altar of the Lord for a blessing (please communicate this by folding your arms).

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 Him thanks and praise.

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 178

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth...To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...

(Printed on the back inside cover of the Lutheran Service Book.)

Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ...

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

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Amen. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;

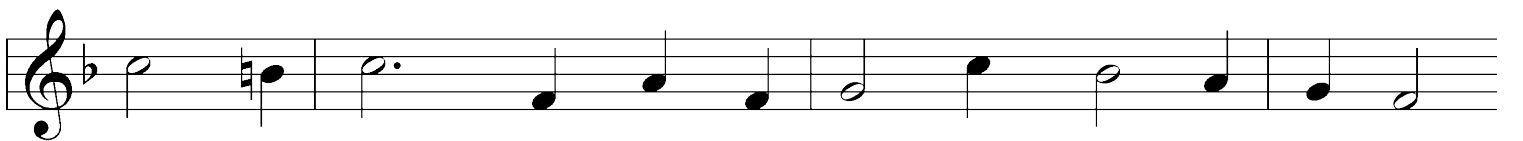
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

LSB 590



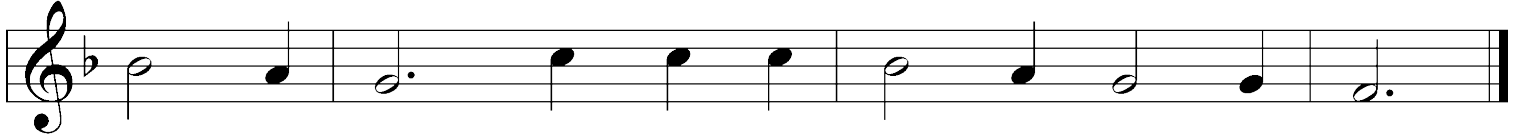
1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your
3 My faith - ful God, You fail me nev - er; Your prom - ise sure - ly
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, here You make me
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
 The fruit of all Your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
 If words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
 Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I

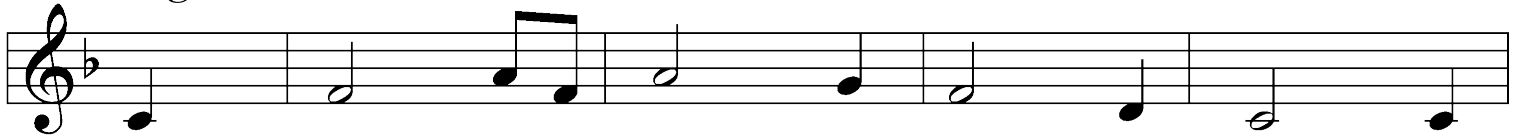


dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
 com - fort me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.
 come de - filed; For - give, lift up, re - store Your child.
 am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

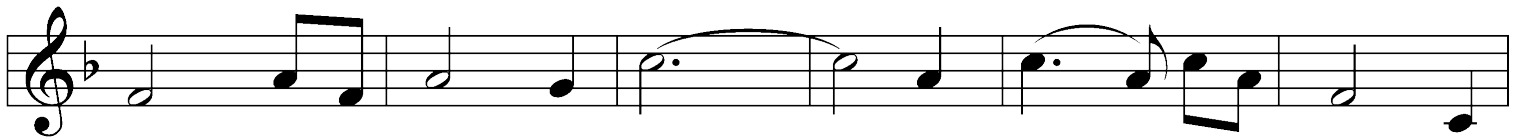
Text: Johann Jacob Rambach, 1693-1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775 Text and tune: Public domain

Amazing Grace

LSB 744



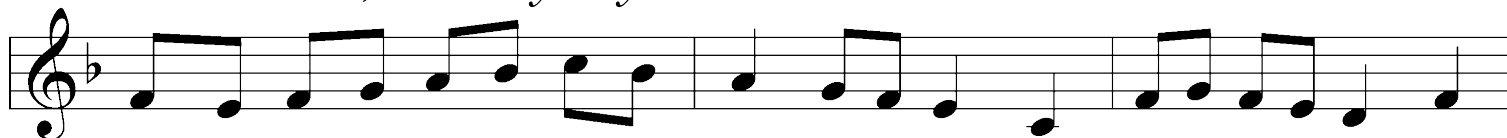
1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



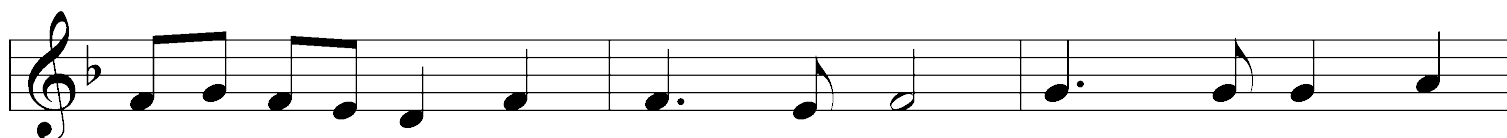
now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap - tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap - tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap - tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness: I am bap - tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life - long



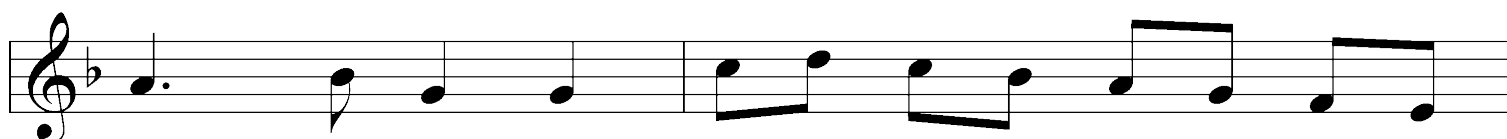
in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



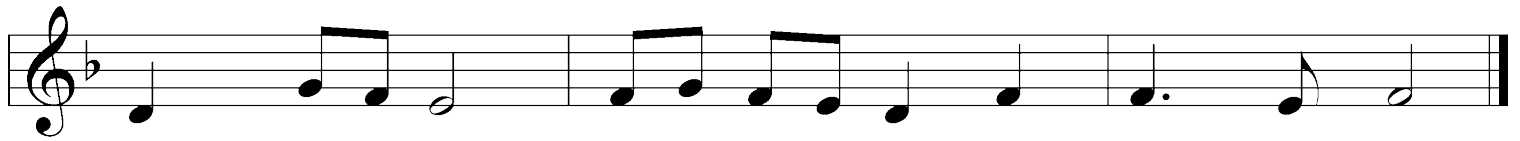
Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt. Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004062 Tune: Public domain

**God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**



Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living LSB 479

Christ is risen, Christ is living,
Dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not
hold Him,
Nor the tomb in which He lay.
Do not look among the dead for
One who lives forevermore;
Tell the world that Christ is
risen,
Make it known He goes
before.

If the Lord had never risen,
We'd have nothing to believe.
But His promise can be trusted:
“You will live, because I live.”
As we share the death of Adam,
So in Christ we live again;
Death has lost its sting and
terror,
Christ the Lord has come to
reign.