



*To him
all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins
through his name.*

May 5, 2024

WELCOME TO

A Congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



ST. PAUL

Jesus in the Clarence Center.org

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

Centered in Christ | Loving our neighbors

Gather for Grace

May 5, 2024

- Join us for Divine service each Sunday at 9:30
- Private confession and absolution; discipleship, available – see Pastor Zech
- Would you like a house blessing? – see Pastor Zech or any elder

Group with Christian Friends

- Church directory info, see Kurt Wozniak or Linda McCarthy
- Men's breakfast, May 11 at 9am at church (Second Saturday)
- The Vine Group for Women & Hebrew's Men's Group: May 16 at 7pm

Grow in God's Word & Prayer

- Join the One Year Bible Reading group! Bible class every 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 jesusintheclarencecenter.org/giving or scan the code.
 - Consider "Joyful Giving" automatic giving from your bank account.



Go and serve the Risen Jesus

- May 19: Work day after church and possible youth car wash!
- VBS plans are underway – perhaps July 1-3. Planning meeting soon.



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

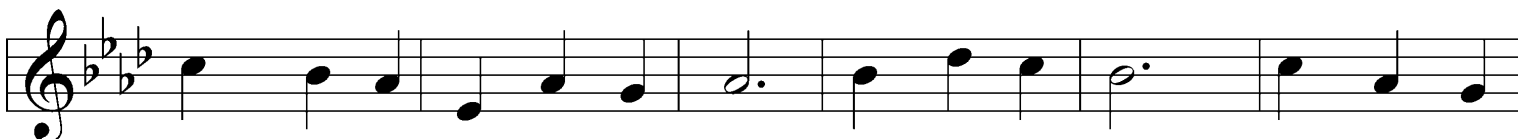
Please face the processional cross in the back of the nave and consider respectfully bowing your head as it passes by, symbolizing the presence of the Risen Christ here to serve us.

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

LSB 474 sts. 1, ref, 2-3, 5



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -

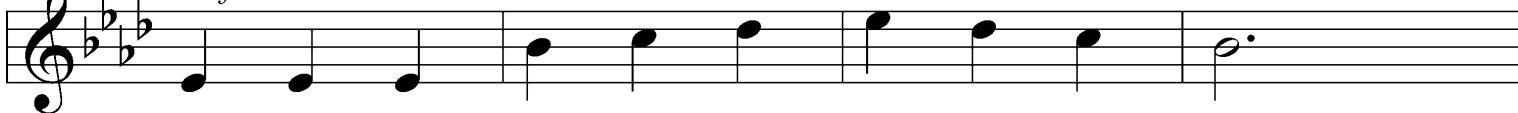


sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009 Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922-87

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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!!

Proper

Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast
love from me!

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.

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

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.**

Kyrie

LSB 152

In peace let us
pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Help, save,
comfort, and
defend us,
gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Hymn of Praise: This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain



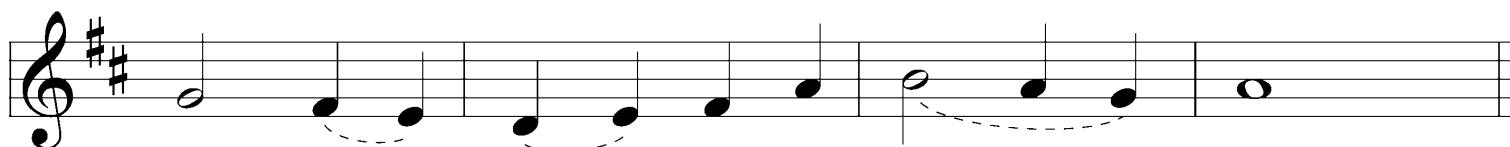
C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

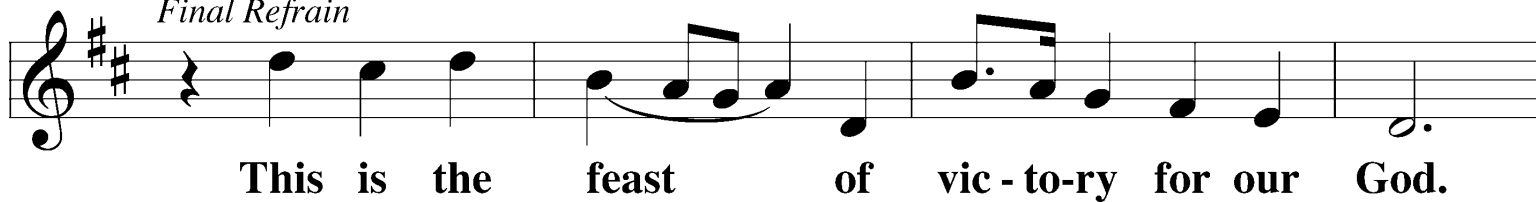


1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord Be With You.

And With Your Spirit.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 10:34–48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been

chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Proper

Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Alleluia!

Epistle

1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the

world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.
This is the Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

We Know That Christ Is Raised

LSB 603 st. 1

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Em-braced by death, He broke its fear-ful hold;
And our de-spair He turned to blaz-ing joy.
Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more." The second staff continues: "Em-braced by death, He broke its fear-ful hold;" The third staff: "And our de-spair He turned to blaz-ing joy." The fourth staff: "Al - le - lu - ia!" with a long note for "Al" and a slur over "le - lu - ia!".

Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17

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

Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

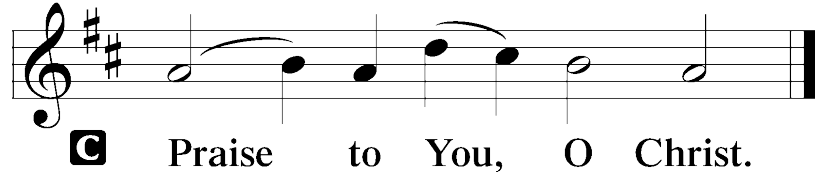
The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to You, O Lord." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes.

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in

his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to You, O Christ.

If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death

LSB 486

- 1 If Christ had not been raised from death
Our faith would be in vain,
Our preaching but a waste of breath,
Our sin and guilt remain.
But now the Lord is ris'n indeed;
He rules in earth and heav'n:
His Gospel meets a world of need—
In Christ we are forgiv'n.

- 2 If Christ still lay within the tomb
Then death would be the end,
And we should face our final doom
With neither guide nor friend.
But now the Savior is raised up,
So when a Christian dies
We mourn, yet look to God in hope—
In Christ the saints arise!

3 If Christ had not been truly raised
His Church would live a lie;
His name should nevermore be praised,
His words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
Through Him we are restored;
His Word endures, His Church revives
In Christ, our risen Lord.

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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:

1 John 5:3 – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

God's commandments are not burdensome, but that's only true for Christians precisely because we know that we are not saved by our keeping of the Law. We are saved by grace. Therefore, we are set free by grace to walk in newness of life, to grow in faithfulness, and rejoice in the Law of the Lord, loving God and our neighbor by keeping His commandments.

✠ *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 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross...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.**

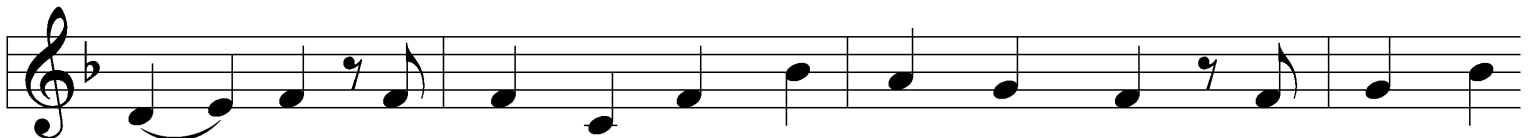
**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

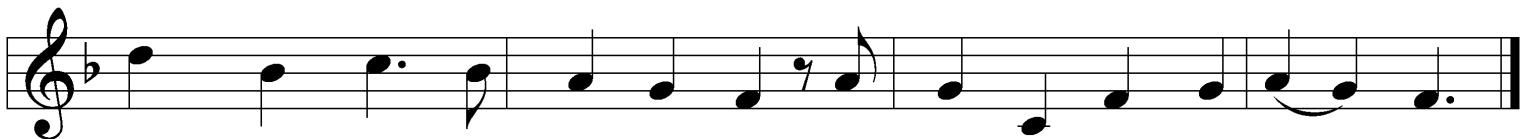
LSB 556 sts. 1-2, 5-7



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly
5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -
6 The Son o - beyed His Fa - ther's will, Was born of vir - gin
7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and



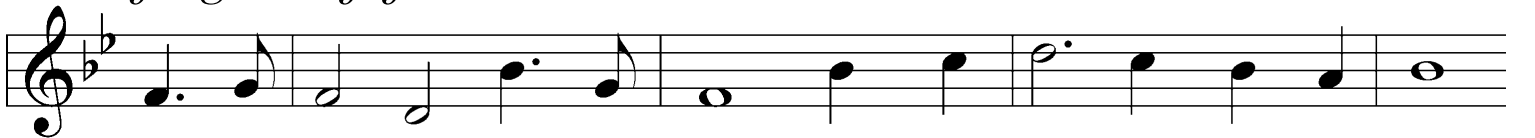
spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to
moth - er; And God's good plea - sure to ful - fill, He came to
cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I
strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And



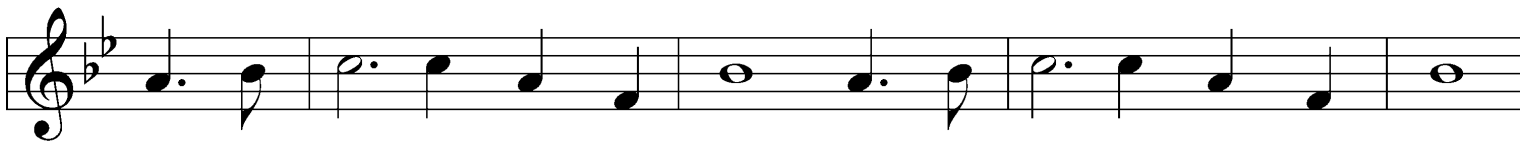
His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
life be - came a liv - ing hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.
bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for - ev - er."
ser - vant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the dev - il cap - tive.
where I am you may re - main; The foe shall not di - vide us.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

LSB 761



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

May God Bestow on Us His Grace *LSB 824*

- 1 May God bestow on us His grace,
 With blessings rich provide us;
 And may the brightness of His face
 To life eternal guide us,
 That we His saving health may know,
 His gracious will and pleasure,
 And also to the nations show
 Christ's riches without measure
 And unto God convert them.

- 2 Thine over all shall be the praise
 And thanks of ev'ry nation;
 And all the world with joy shall raise
 The voice of exultation.
 For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
 Nor suffer sin to flourish;
 Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
 Their souls to feed and nourish,
 In righteous paths to keep them.

- 3 O let the people praise Thy worth,
 In all good works increasing;
 The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,

Thy Word is rich in blessing.
 May God the Father, God the Son,
 And God the Spirit bless us!
 Let all the world praise Him alone,
 Let solemn awe possess us.
 Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"



**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.

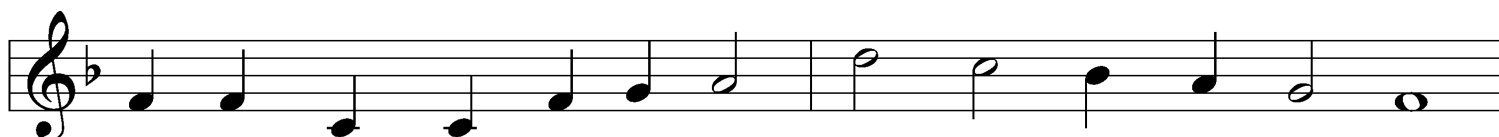
Thanks be to God!

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LSB 487



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
 4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
 His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!