

*“²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.
²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.”*

John 10: 27-28

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 17, 2016

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 17, 2016

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRELUDE: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* – Healey Willan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**



GATHERING SONG: *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the re - sur - rec - tion song!
2. Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing all that eye has yet per - ceived!
3. Life e - ter - nal! heaven re - joic - es; Je - sus lives, who once was dead.

Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for - mer days be - long.
Ho - liest hearts, for a - ges plead - ing, nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!

All a - round the clouds are break - ing, soon the storms of time shall cease;
God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it, there on high our wel - come waits.
Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders crowd on faith; what joy un - known,

in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Ev - ery hum - ble spir - it shares it; Christ has passed th'e - ter - nal gates.
when, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

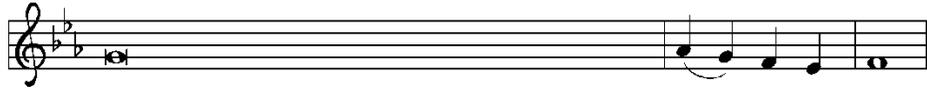
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



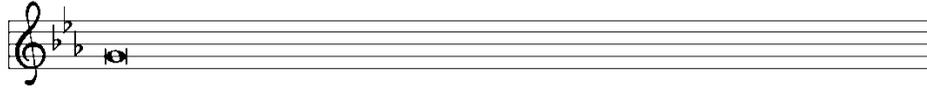
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



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



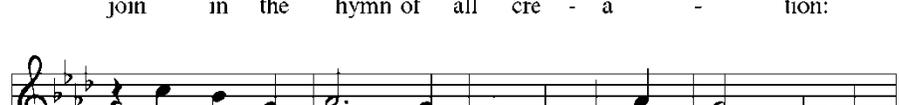
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



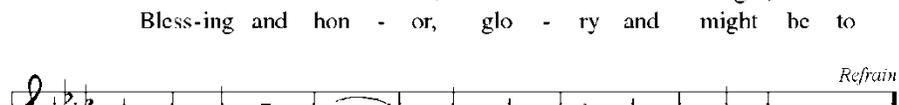
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



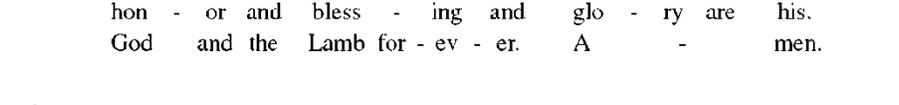
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



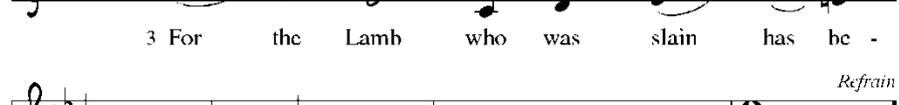
Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



Refrain
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of peace,

**you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
the great shepherd of the sheep.**

By the blood of your eternal covenant,

make us complete in everything good that we may do your will,

and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing was well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM23

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it. The congregation sings the verses in **bold**.*



The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want.

¹The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.** R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.** R

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.

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

Verse (cantor): Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

*GOSPEL READING: John 10:22–30

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY#502: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is

*NICENE CREED

**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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

Holy and mighty God, fulfill your saving work on behalf of all who give thanks for your great love for this creation. Make our song strong enough to invite all hurting people into your family. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Make us ever conscious of how we use and consume the gifts you have given us on the earth and in the oceans. Open our eyes to see creation as good, useful, and worthy of care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give your wisdom to people who make decisions that affect others. Fill human institutions with your reconciling justice. When we oppress people, disrupt us and heal our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Respond to the call of people who cry out in grief, in loneliness or despair, or in chronic pain or illness, especially Winnie, Frieda, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With your very presence sustain communities that are formed out of common struggle: among those who are widowed, among children without parents, and among people who have no permanent shelter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give strength to the saints by fulfilling your promise of eternal life. Shepherd us in paths of righteousness, that we may know life now and in the age to come. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #764: *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

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 our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

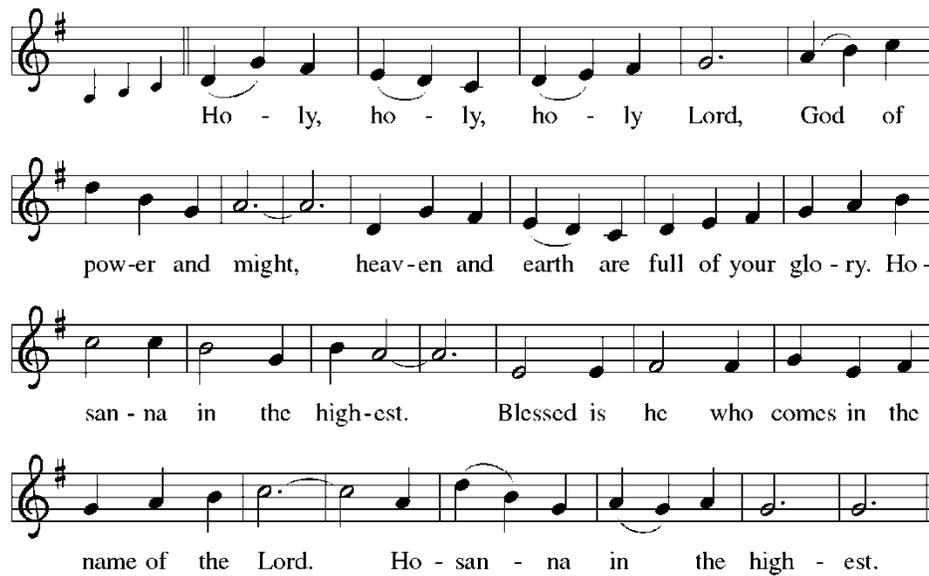
with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

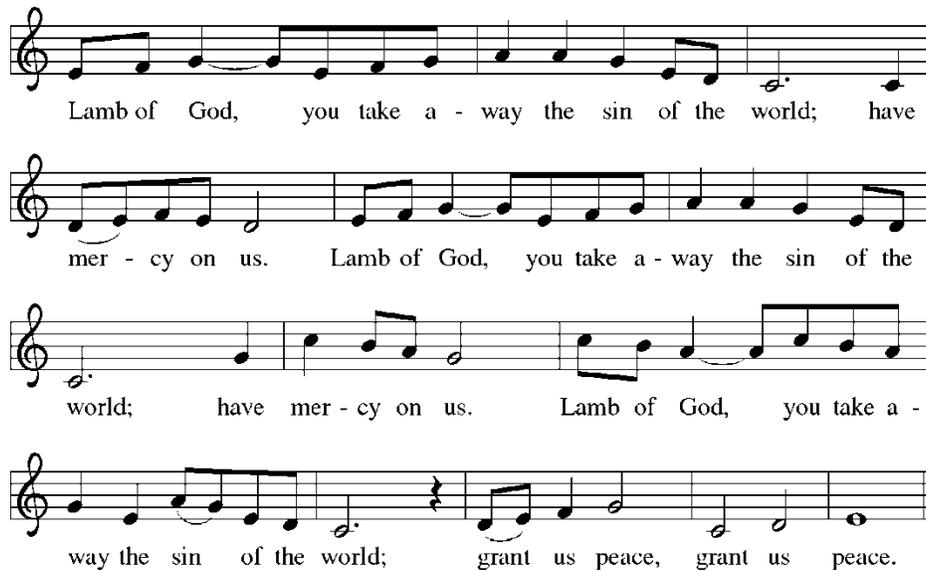
The table of life is spread before you.
Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



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.

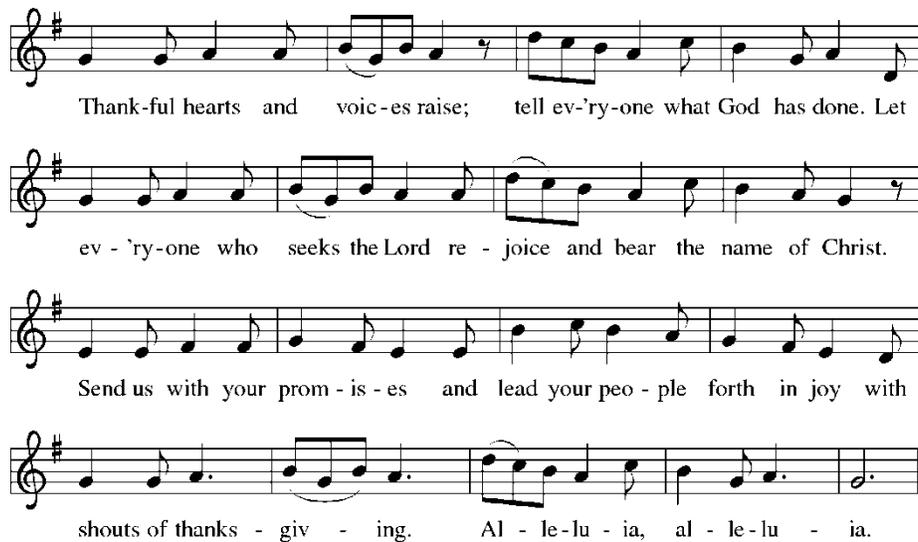
COMMUNION HYMN #425: *Behold the Host Arrayed in White*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #544: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE: *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* – Wayne L. Wold

The flowers this week are given by Clarence & Marlene Strabel in celebration of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Clarence Strabel
Communion Assistant: Marlene Strabel
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Chuck Olescyski
Attendance Last Week: 59
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$53,986.18
YTD Actual Expense: \$42,608.56

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Jim Ward
Acolyte: Serafina Julio
Lector:
Usher: Leikauf's
Attendance Last Year: 61
Last Week's Giving: \$ 2,845.35
YTD Receipts: \$43,292.35

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