# Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



# St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

stjohnsparkville.org
(410) 665-1234
office@stjohnsparkville.org
Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here! Whether you have worshiped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

# **Introduction to the Day**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!) (Hymns are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red book in the pew rack.)

#### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** Earth and All Stars arr. Wayne L. Wold

(© 2003 Augsburg Fortress)

(Please stand as you are able.)

# **GATHERING**

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

# Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water!

# Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

#### **STAFF**

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 913-634-7131

Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 443-286-5511

Martha Requard, Director of Music

Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator

Scott Becker, Sexton

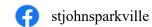
For emergencies call 443-844-9314

\*\*\*The Pastors are off on Fridays\*\*\*



# **Notice of live streaming:**

Todav's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.





St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville

19



stiohnsparkvil1

This week's schedule				
Today	9 am	Handbell Choir (Music Room) Sunday School and Faith & Fellowship		
	10 am	Live & Online Worship Congregational Meeting following worship		
	11:45 am	Prayer Partner Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)		
Mon.				
Tues.				
Wed.	5:30 pm	Busy Bees (Smith Building) Community Meal (Fellowship Hall) Wednesday Night Worship (Smith Building)		
Thurs.				
Fri.	11 am Bible Study (Smith Building) 6 pm Smores' & More (St. John's Park)			
Sat.	7 pm	Bingo (St. Ursula Auditorium) (Doors open at 6 pm)		

Counting our Blessings					
Sun. 4/21	Attendance: Offering: \$ Homebound: 16	February Offering Income February Other Income February Total Income February Expenses	\$25,380 \$ 6,936 \$32,316 \$41,541		
		YTD Offering Income YTD Other Income YTD Total Income YTD Expenses	\$55,715 \$16,407 \$72,122 \$74,289		

18

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

# GATHERING HYMN Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! ELW 377 (vv. 1-3)

(Text: Herbert F. Broking, 1926-2009; Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987; Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress; Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship I, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

#### **GREETING**

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.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

# **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

# **WORD**

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard

him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM** (Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses.) Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD.

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

# **Prayer List**

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Diane Carroll, Eleanor McLaughlin, Mary Jo Rother, Ginny Wehr, Mary Gude, Dennis Buckless, Doris Rye, Richard Souders, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Lisa Duerling, Joan Kraft, Joan Swank, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Tim Hartman, Bill Beck, Chris Newman, Pierce Newman, Coralee Myrtle, William Bold, Sr., Fran Eliopoulos, Eleni Bowden, Laney Stowell, Mary Margaret Wroten, Butch Kahl, Pearl Johnson, Nancy, Donna Joseph, Harriet Miller, Maeve Webster, John Bryan, Joe Federline, Pastor John Burk, Tiffany Webb, Mary & Barry McCain, Bonnie Franklin, Jamie Kirschner, Rob Graff, Alice Evans, Trish Pizza, Betsy Shock, Julie Bramble, Donna Boblooch and Yung-Mee Rhee

For the military and their families: Kalib McCann, Mason Ledbetter, Leroy Keller, Seaman E-3 Carson Anthony Bowser, Corporal Justin Ferro, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Mike McDonough

For St. John's Caring Friends: Patricia Becker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Barbara Conrad, Betty Creutzer, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Richard Hoerner, Patricia Hurley, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Paul Nolder, Patrick O'Connell, Janet Roth, Kim Townsley, and Emma Volz

17

Music Camp....We are now accepting registration for Music Camp. Registration forms are located on the third floor bulletin board, in the weekly email and in the newsletter. We are looking for experienced volunteers. Contact Martha at mrequard1@gmail.com if you can help.



MAR-LU Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp in Jefferson, MD invites you to join us this summer! Family Campers and youth ages 6-17 are welcome. We never turn anyone away for financial reasons, so please ask about our Campership fund if needed. Come experience small-group camping, swimming, hiking, sleep-outs, new friends, and exciting activities that challenge you to grow in confidence and in faith - all in a

safe and inclusive community. Our 2024 Theme is "Created To Be!" Registration is open. For more information visit mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/ or call 800.238.9974.

# "The Chosen" Discipleship Series



Join us on Tuesday's through June 4 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm as we explore the first season of this acclaimed TV series focusing on the life of Jesus and the people whom he encountered! This event, sponsored by **CLAIM** (Coalition of Lutherans Advancing In Mission) and partner Lutheran churches, is not just about watching a series together. It's a chance to strengthen our bonds, discuss our faith and mission and invite friends and family to join this inspiring experience. Come early for a light meal at 5:30 pm.

April 30 & May 7@ St. John's: That's us! 8808 Harford Rd May 14 & May 21 @ People's Community: 6200 Loch Raven Blvd May 28 & June 4 @ Christus Victor: 9833 Harford Rd.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Michelle Alkire
Crucifer	Emily R.
Acolyte (s)	Alec B., Devon W.
Lector	JoAnn Weiland
Communion Assistant	JoAnn Weiland
Dismissal Assistant	Maddie W.

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. To In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>3</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

# (Please stand as you are able.)

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**GOSPEL** John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

The Holy Gospel according to June.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "I'am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

**SERMON** 

(Please stand as you are able.)

We Know That Christ is Raised HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 449

(Text: John B. Gever, b. 1932; Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1925; Text © John B. Gever)

# **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. Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, May 1st beginning at 5:30 pm. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! We need volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on the third floor bulletin board. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the April meal.



Our next Wednesday Night Worship will take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> after the Community Meal at 6:45 pm. This is a brief communion service held in the Smith Building with blended music featuring piano and guitar, as well as an interactive reflection. We hope you can join us and invite your friends and neighbors!

Smores' and More sponsored by Family Ministry will take place on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm. This will be a fun evening of games, devotions and smores', of course! We will meet in the park.



Baskets, Bags & More Bingo will be held on Saturday, May 4th. The bingo will be held at St. Ursula Auditorium. Doors open at 6 pm and the bingo begins at 7 pm. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin board. We are looking for volunteers. There is a signup sheet on the third floor bulletin board. If you would like to sponsor and/or fill one of the prizes, there is a board on the third floor counter.

Community Yard Sale...Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 am—1 pm in St. John's parking lot. Cost is \$20 for one space and \$30 for 2 spaces. To register, fill out a form located on the third floor bulletin board and return it to Chris Hills or the church office.





CHURGE St. John's Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 9th after worship. We will gather on the Pastors lawn. Hospitality & Fellowship will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, tossed salad, iced tea and lemonade. We will be doing a potluck for sides and desserts. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin.

St. John's night at the Ironbirds game is coming up on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$13 and checks should be made payable to St. John's. There will be fireworks after the game. For tickets contact David Evans at ravenfan79@yahoo.com.





**Registration is open for Vacation Bible School!** This years program is Camp Firelight "A Summer Camp Adventure with God" and will be held July 8-12 from 9 am—12:30 pm. Registration forms are on the third floor bulletin board, in the weekly email, in the newsletter and on our social media sites.

15

# **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

# Next Week— Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9 am—Handbell Choir

9 am—Sunday School and Faith + Fellowship † 10 am—Worship in-person

and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

† 1:30 am—Youth Group

Visit stjohnsparkville.org

The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of Lee Krieger on her birthday, with love from her family.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2024. The cost is \$50. Contact Rachel Hills at rm hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers. Available dates are June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Nursery Care for infants through age 2 is available during the Sunday School hour while parents are attending Faith and Fellowship. During worship, care is available for infants through kindergarten.





St. John's Youth Group meets in the Youth Room on the first Sunday of the month, from about 11:15 am—12:30 pm. This group is for middle and high GROUP school students. Join us as we have fun, get to know one another and grow in faith. See you there!

Faith and Fellowship meets in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor from 9 am—9:45 am each Sunday. This is an opportunity for adults to gather for light refreshments and to grow in faith.



BIBLE Bible Study takes place on Friday mornings at 11 am in the Smith Building. We have started a new study on 1st Corinthians. All are welcome.

The Food for Thought Program is in need of Chef Boyardee single serving meals, tuna & chicken salad kits, pudding cups and apple sauce pouches. Monetary donations will also be accepted.



The Prayer Partner Luncheon is today at 11:45 am. If you signed up to participate, we will see you there.

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 THE CHURCH

After each petition God of grace. Hear our prayer.

The peace of Christ be with you always. PEACE And also with you.

(We offer each other a sign of Christ's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)

# **MEAL**

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ arr. David Cherwien (© 1998 Augsburg Fortress)

Thank you for your generous support of St. John's. During this time an offering is gathered for the mission and ministry of the Church as together we experience and share God's abundant grace and love.

Many in our congregation give online. You can set up one-time or recurring donations on our website stjohnsparkville.org. Checks and cash may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. You may also donate via venmo @stjohnsparkville

# (Please stand as you are able.)

# **OFFERING HYMN**

# Come to the Table

ELW 481



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

(Text: Claire Cloninger, 1942-2019; music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956; Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music)

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One. you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

# **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts.



<sup>\*</sup> May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945 Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling Text and music ⊚ 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin, Augsburg Fortress in North America, South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **SENDING**

# **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power,
Jesus Christ, source of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope

+ bless you now and always.

Amen.

# **SENDING HYMN**

# Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

(Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.; Music: Welsh folk tune; Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company)

# **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God.

We hope you will stay for the Congregational Meeting following this service today.

We welcome Gail Jothen as our organist today, and thank her for sharing her God-given gifts with us in worship.

From *SundaysAndSeasons.com*. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual 30295.Permission for hymn use and organ music granted under ONE LICENSE #735150-A and CCLI License #11527942.

#### 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

# You are Holy (See page 13)

ELW 525

(Text and music: Per Harling, b. 1948; Text and music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your chosen people from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

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.

(The assembly is seated.)

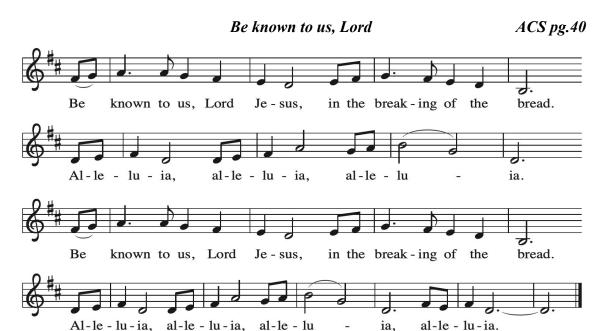
# **COMMUNION**

All are welcome at Christ's table. Bread is received in the hands. Gluten-free wafers are available-if you need one, please ask the pastor. To receive the wine, take an empty cup and the communion assistant will fill it with a sip of wine. The cups that are already filled contain grape juice. After drinking, place the used cup in the basket on your way back to your seat.

If you are not communing you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest.

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.



# COMMUNION HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

(Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958; Music: French carol; Text © Oxford University Press)

# By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

(Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952; Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.)

(Please remain seated.)

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.