

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word ELW (red), p. 211-222

Fifth Sunday of Easter

[ \* Indicates when the congregation is standing as able ]

[ **Bolded** section of text is for congregation to recite ]

Music Director: Lois Horst

## Gathering

### Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

**Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.**

We need not fear.

**In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.**

Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

**Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you. Amen.**

**Children's Choir** 'Jesus Loves Me' (Warner)

### Children's Message

*It's the last time of Sunday School for the season. Just let the children say "Thank you" to their Sunday School Teachers and let them hand out the flowers. Then let one of the children read the prayer – they might go up to the lectern for this.*

Dear God,

Thank you for

our Sunday School time this year.

Thank you for our teachers,

who cared for us, helped us,

and taught us about your love.

Thank you for all the stories we heard,

for the things we learned.

Help us remember

that you are always with us,

wherever we go.

Keep us safe and happy,

and bring us back together again with joy.

Amen.

### \* Hymn (red) ELW 761 Evening and Morning

1 Evening and morning,  
sunset and dawning,  
wealth, peace, and gladness,  
comfort in sadness:  
these are your works, rich in glory divine!  
Times without number,

awake or in slumber,  
your eye observes us,  
from danger preserves us,  
causing your mercy upon us to shine.

2 Gracious Lord, hear me,  
pardon and spare me;  
calm all my terrors,  
blot out my errors,  
that justified in your sight I may stand.  
Order my goings,  
direct all my doings;  
guard me and guide me  
and stay close beside me;  
all I commit to your fatherly hand.

3 Ills that still grieve me  
soon are to leave me;  
though billows tower,  
and winds gain power,  
after the storm the fair sun shows its face.  
Joys e'er increasing  
and peace never ceasing:  
these shall I treasure  
and share in full measure  
when in your mansions you grant me a place.

4 To God in heaven  
all praise be given!  
O God, we offer  
and gladly proffer  
gifts from your hand; these alone you will prize:  
hearts that receive you  
and faith to believe you;  
hymns that adore you  
are precious before you  
and to your throne like sweet incense arise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Composite. Text © 1930, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

**\* Apostolic Greeting (p. 213)**

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

Response: **And also with you.**

**\* Canticle of Praise (p. 213)**

*Refrain*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

1 Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *Refrain*

3 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

*Final Refrain*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,  
and peace to Gods' people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Choir**

**Word**

**First Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

The First Reading is from 1 Peter, chapter 2:

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup> This honour, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup> and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Response: Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 (sung responsively)**

Psalm 31 is sung responsively:

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to  
shame; deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag | and my stronghold; for the sake of  
your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,

for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

**15 My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of  
my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

**16 Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love.”**

**\* Gospel Acclamation (p. 216)**

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia.

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**\* Gospel: John 14:1-14**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

**\* Hymn (red) ELW 851 When in Our Music God is Glorified**

- 1 When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia!
- 2 How oft, in making music, we have found  
a new dimension in the world of sound,  
as worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!
- 3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:  
Alleluia!

4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
when utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
Alleluia!

5 Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise;  
let all rejoice who have a voice to raise;  
and may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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**Message The Power of Music** [1 Peter 2: 2-10; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; John 14: 1-14]

**"Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."  
Amen.**

Martin Luther, on commenting on the role of 'Music in the Life of the Church', places music and theology next to each other – not competing, but cooperating – indicating how important this gift of music is, and how diligently we should treat this astonishingly rich tradition in the church.

What I hear Luther saying is the Power of Music enhances the Power of the Word in such a way as to make the two together more meaningful and memorable.

As we read the Word in today's scriptures, Peter tells us that Christ is the stone that the builders rejected; yet this stone, Jesus, becomes the cornerstone of a new building, composed of Christians - 'living stones', whose job it is, to live and spread God's word.

In the Gospel lesson, Jesus tells Thomas to believe that He, Jesus, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He tells him and Philip, that the one who believes in Jesus will also do the works that Jesus does, and will do greater works – implying that these works will help and improve the lives of others on earth.

So, what does Luther mean when he says we should diligently continue to use this gift of music as an astonishingly rich tradition in the church? He certainly put his money where his mouth was, so to speak, as he prolifically wrote his many theological books, but also wrote words to hymns, and composed the music to some as well. Did you know that we regularly sing at least 6 of his well-known hymns here at St. Luke's, but that there are 11 others in our hymn book that we could learn?

In order to further examine what Luther meant when he attributes such high praise to Music, we need to investigate what power music has! It has the power to do many things. It can affect a whole range of feelings, from joy to sorrow and everything in between. So how does that enhance the Word?

When I think of "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry", I experience a mixture of different emotions in both the words and the music – nostalgia, comfort, and joy, as the hymn takes us through the various stages of our lives, ending with "I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold." In a sense, I relive my life every time I sing that hymn, and I examine my faith through the words of the music. Can you think of hymns whose words evoke strong feelings for you?

We often associate music with past events. Whenever I hear or sing "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less", I'm taken back to my first year of teaching in Oromocto, NB, when our principal announced over the P.A. that John F. Kennedy had been shot. What a shock! That hymn was sung at his funeral and hearing or

singing it, still triggers that memory and evokes strong feelings of hope and security: "On Christ the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand." Again, for me, the Word is enhanced by the power of the Music. Can you associate any songs with past events that do that for you?

So, when we think about it, Luther was right. Music tends to make the Word more memorable. So, let's further examine other powers of music that enhance the Word and how it accomplishes that?

Music helps us connect with God. How? It gives us the language to express praise, and thanksgiving, and worship God. It affects our moods; so, as well as expressing joy and praise, it also allows us to lament, and seek refuge and help in times of trouble. It helps unite and inspire us in our relationship with God and those we encounter in our daily living.

In my last few years of teaching as a Special Education Resource Teacher, we started having a Music Therapist come into our school to work with certain students who were having problems. I was intrigued by the comments of the classroom teachers as to how helpful this was for those students, but I never examined how it works.

In the last year, however, an excellent opportunity presented itself when my great niece needed a place to stay while completing her Master's degree in Music Therapy at Laurier. Samantha is a talented musician with a beautiful singing voice and the ability to play many musical instruments. She was delighted when I asked about her the power of music to 'enhance the Word', and here's what she shared:

"In the context of Christianity and faith, music therapy enriches people's lives by weaving together musical experience, emotional healing, and spiritual connection, often helping individuals feel closer to God while simultaneously improving their mental, emotional, and physical well-being. It can reduce anxiety, ease depression, and help people process grief or trauma in a safe, structured way. "For believers, it can deepen the sense of God's presence, and offer a medium for expressing parts of the self that are hard to put into words such as shame, gratitude, doubt, or longing, within a Christian framework of grace and acceptance.

"In hospitals and palliative settings, Christian music therapy can function as a type of pastoral care, helping people confront suffering, illness, or death while holding onto faith and hope."

Samantha continues: "In terms of my own experience in my clinical work, I've actually found myself as a Christian being affected by my clients. It's tricky as both a Psycho-therapist and Music Therapist. I can't always say "Hey, have you tried to talk to God about that?", or "Are you a Christian?" But for those I know have a pre-existing faith, I'll take a step and engage in conversation about how to integrate their spiritual practices into our sessions. As a result, I've found myself feeling closer to the Lord because of them!" So, - the power of music is therapeutic!! [I believe Samantha is sure to become a wonderful therapist!]

Pastors conducting services in long-term care centres, often experience residents who are suffering from a dementia and are seemingly completely unaware of their surroundings, but will suddenly sit up and start singing when an old familiar hymn, like 'Rock of Ages', or 'Faith of our Fathers', etc. is sung. So as Colossians 3:16 said, 'Music has the power to touch our hearts and our souls like nothing else', even if we're not aware of it.

Music can give us power to take control of circumstances. We can allow music to lift us up when we're feeling low. It can also give us a tool to teach, and witness for Christ.

For his 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Programme, Johnny Carson included a closing segment from an earlier show that had 'moved' him: The previous year, Orel Hershiser had led his team, the L.A. Dodgers, to victory at the World Series, and Johnny had asked him how he calmed his nerves between innings? His response so

moved a basically unreligious man like Johnny Carson, that he selected that segment to close his anniversary special – can you guess what that response was? - It was the simple ‘Doxology’ - ‘Praise God from whom all blessings flow... ‘

So, we need people who are gifted in music, who have the gift not only to write or compose but to lead us in praise and worship, and enjoyment. And fortunately, there are many people with those talents. But not everyone does. Nevertheless, we can still find a way to experience the power of music. We can sing – even if it’s only in the shower, or when we’re alone in the car, etc. We can also just listen and appreciate what we hear, here in church. We can attend movies, musical theatre, concerts; or listen to music on the radio or our phones. We have so many options to experience the power of music.

To sum up, music enhances words and ideas, making them more memorable, introducing emotions and feelings, and so forth. It reaches deep into our souls, and so it can lead to a life of peace, regardless of our race, creeds, or economic status, creating an atmosphere of harmony and healing – as we try to live our lives and do our bit to help make our world a better place!

Hopefully, we can now better appreciate Martin Luther’s position on theology and music. Music is a wonderful tool that complements the spoken and written word, and enriches our faith and lives.

So, I’ll close with this little ‘commercial’ – if you’re available and would like to have your spirits uplifted, consider joining us this afternoon at 2:00 for our Concert of Choirs.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

**\* Hymn (red) ELW 758 You Are the Way**

- 1 You are the way; to you alone  
from sin and death we flee;  
all those who search for God, you find  
and by your grace set free.
- 2 You are the truth; your word alone  
true wisdom can impart;  
you only can inform the mind  
and purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the rending tomb  
proclaims your conqu’ring arm;  
and those who put their trust in you  
not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;  
grant us that way to know,  
that truth to keep, that life to win,  
whose joys eternal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

**\* Apostles' Creed (p. 217)**

With the whole church we confess our Christian faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\* Prayers of Intercession**

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. Each prayer petition concludes with the response: 'Merciful God, receive our prayer'.

*A brief silence.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially those on our prayer list ..... and those we name in our hearts ..... Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

**\* Peace (p. 218)**

The peace of Christ will be with you always.

Response: **And also with you.**

# Thanksgiving

## Offering

### \* Hymn of the Month (blue) ACS 938 Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

- 1 Christ has risen while earth slumbers,  
Christ has risen where hope died,  
as he said and as he promised,  
as we doubted and denied.  
Let the moon embrace the blessing;  
let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumour:  
Christ is risen, God is here!
- 2 Christ has risen for the people  
whom he died to love and save;  
Christ has risen for the women  
bringing flow'rs to grace his grave.  
Christ has risen for disciples,  
huddled in an upstairs room.  
He whose word inspired creation  
can't be silenced by the tomb.
- 3 Christ has risen to companion  
former friends who fear the night,  
sensing loss and limitation  
where their faith had once burned bright.  
They bemoan what is no longer,  
they expect no hopeful sign  
till Christ ends their conversation,  
breaking bread and sharing wine.
- 4 Christ has risen and forever  
lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled,  
all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen, Christ is present  
making us what he has been:  
evidence of transformation  
in which God is known and seen.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949. Text © 1988 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

### \* Thanksgiving for the Word (p. 220)

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. **Amen.**

**\* Lord's Prayer (p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Sending

**\* Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. **Amen.**

**\* Hymn (red) ELW 367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt. Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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