

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (setting 1) 10:30 am
April 28, 2024

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA).

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*The Call*—setting by K. Lee Scott

*See text—George Herbert's Easter poem—at hymn #816.*

(solo: Karen Leigh Campbell, contralto)

*Please see note at end of bulletin for more on today's music.*

### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C Amen.**

P Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P 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!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

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

P Look, here is water!

**C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### \*HYMN

ELW 452

*Awake, O sleeper, rise from death*


### \*GREETING

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

**C And also with you.**

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE


*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:

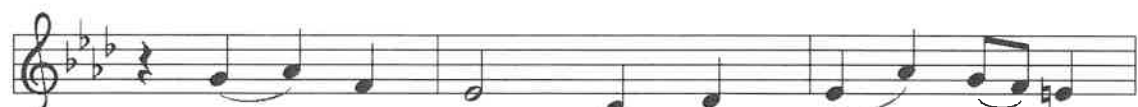


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



*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**

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**Lisa Wackler**

**Today's Psalm (not read):**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.*

## **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>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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## 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. <sup>10</sup>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>13</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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*GOSPEL**

**John 15:1-8**

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 449**

*We know that Christ is raised*

**\*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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

You can text your offering to 844-262-6943 — Text To Give.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Come away to the skies*—setting by Richard Erickson  
(see text in music note at end of bulletin)

(Communion Assistants come to the altar at the Offertory Hymn)

## \*OFFERTORY HYMN

LBW 149

*This joyful Eastertide*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
sprung to life this mor - - row.  
Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our  
faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -  
ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen.

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

P 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:

**\*SANCTUS**

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.

### **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

**C** **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.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

## COMMUNION

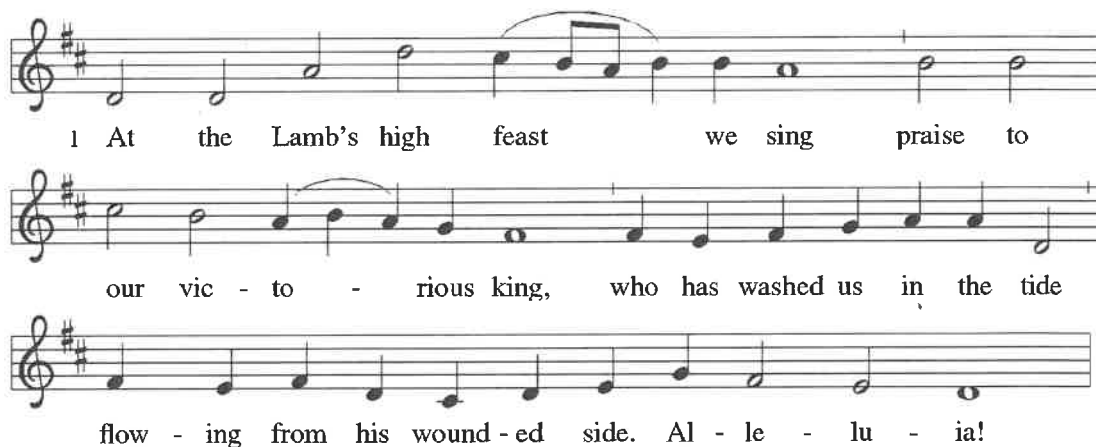
*Everyone is welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come forward by way of the center aisle to receive Christ's body and blood. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Please pick up a small glass from the trays on either side of the aisle.*

*After receiving the bread, you will then find two chalices on each side of either the pastor or assisting minister, the first being a pouring chalice of wine and the second being a pouring chalice of grape juice. Used glasses can then be placed in the trays on the far side of the communion assistants. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisle.*

## SONG OF THE LAMB

ELW 362 (stz 1)

*At the Lamb's high feast we sing*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!

## COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 445

*Wash, O God, our sons and daughters*

### \*TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.

**C** **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 881**

*Let all things now living*

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*The holy Christ has arisen—setting by Marcel Dupré*

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*Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially; The family and friends of John Ralston upon his passing. Marlee, Susanne Maier-Meise, Anthony Barnes, Lynn Adkins, Francine Walker, Jay Guerber, Michael & Ludette Palero, Donna Hershey, Betty Mastrobattista, Shannon Isenberg, Chris Gockeley, Caleb Benedict, the Dubinsky family, Dan Isley, Vicky, Ron & Nancy Rademacher, Sharon Defalco, Meaghan, Vesper Seeney, Jeannette Richardson, Andi, Vi Baker, Tionna, Robert Grathwol, Mildred Shannon, June Ericsson, Isaiah, Karen Brunn, Mihkel & Sarah Smit, Pearl Apisson, Stephanie Skurcenski, Sue Ericsson, Grace Yin. For all those suffering in the Middle East, Ukraine and Haiti and for all those persecuted for their religious beliefs throughout the world.*

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## **Serving Today:**

Acolytes: **Abby Stonerook, Isaac Barnhart**

Altar Flowers: **Deborah Charlton**

Altar Guild: **Valerie Nadal**

Greeters/Ushers: **Christi Barnhart, Paul Thistle, Kim Stonerook**

Lay Reader: **Veronica Ferris**

Communion Assistants: **Caitlin Thistle, Joan Janshego, Veronica Ferris, Jason Stonerook**

A/V Assistant: **Mike Barnhart**

Coffee Hour: **Christi Barnhart**

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## **Music Note**

The text of the prelude solo (see at hymn #816) is a remarkable Easter poem by Welsh poet, orator, mystic and priest George Herbert (1596-1633). “The Call” manages to somehow quote at least five Biblical texts with additional theological allusions—all in just three pithy verses totaling 83 one-syllable words plus a single, archaic, two-syllable word: “killeth”. Several composers have set this poem to music: the tune used today is by American church musician K. Lee Scott (b. 1950). The offertory anthem uses another American tune, MIDDLEBURY, with an Easter text, below:

*1-Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise  
and rejoice in the day you were born:  
on this festival day, come exulting away,  
and with singing to Zion return.*

*Hallelujah—*

*2-For thy glory we were first created to share  
both the nature and kingdom divine;  
now created again, that our lives may remain  
throughout time and eternity thine.*

*3-We with thanks do approve the design of that love  
which has joined us to Jesus’ name;  
so united in heart let us nevermore part  
till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.*

*4-Hallelujah we sing to our Father and King,  
and our rapturous praises repeat:  
to the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again;  
sing, all heaven and fall at his feet.*

*Sustained by God,*

WE SUSTAIN THE  
COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL'S



*Rejoicing in 180 years!*



452

## Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984  
 Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829

AZMON  
 CM

HOLY BAPTISM

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

# We Know That Christ Is Raised

449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

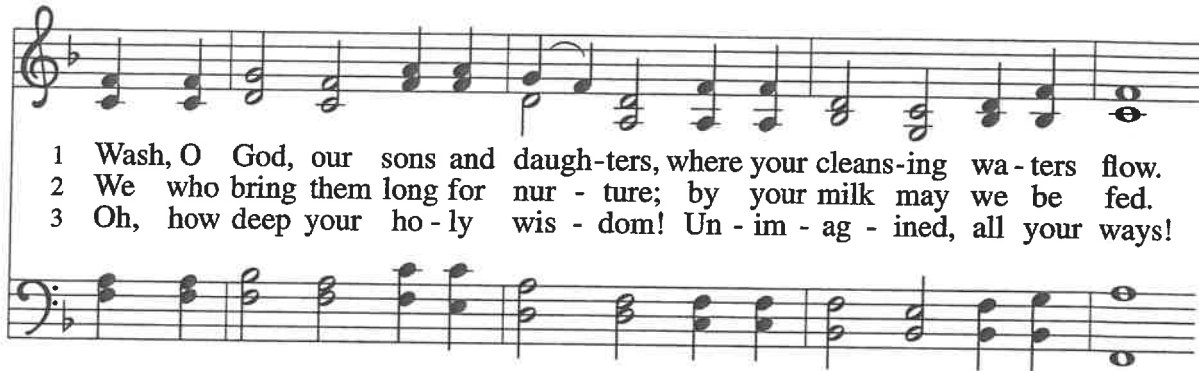


Hal - le - lu - jah!

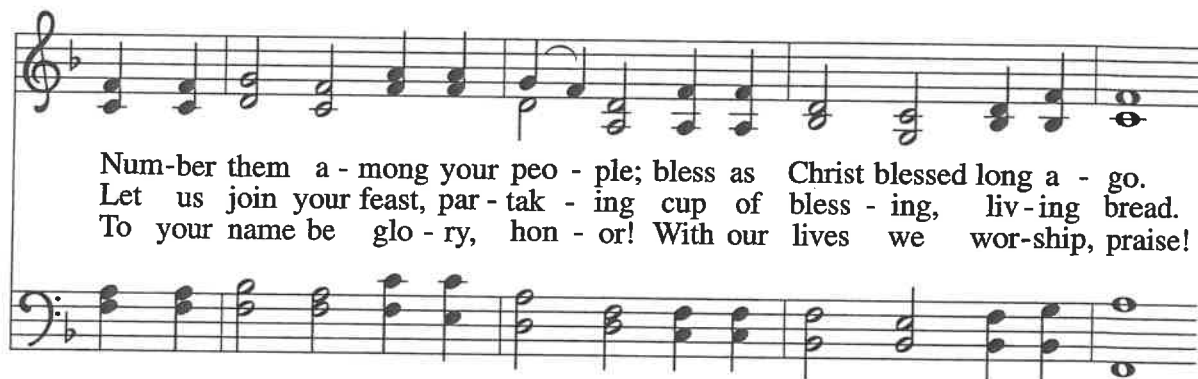
Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Text © John B. Geyer

ENGELBERG  
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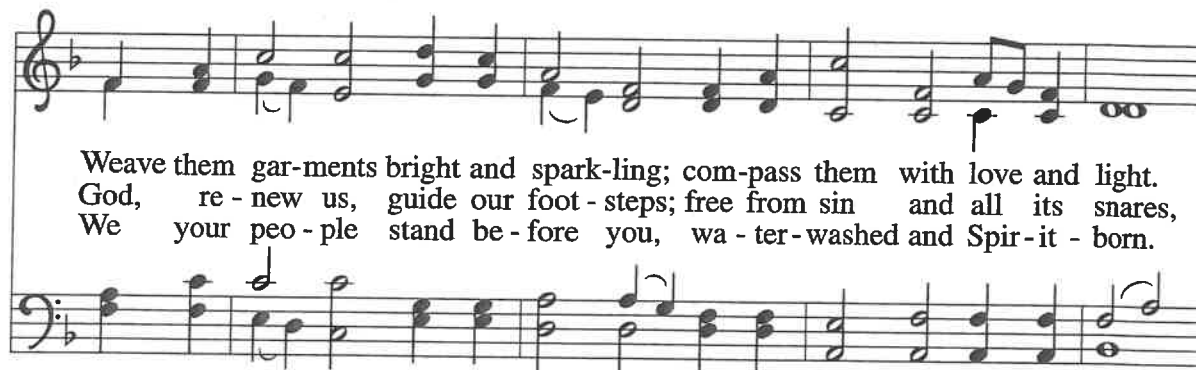
# 445 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



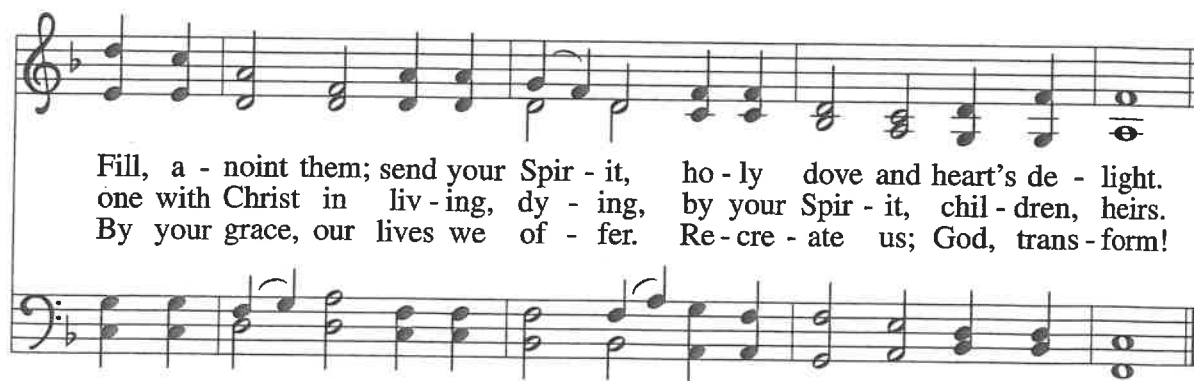
1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa - ters flow.  
 2 We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your milk - may we be fed.  
 3 Oh, how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im - ag - ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go.  
 Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread.  
 To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor - ship, praise!



Weave them gar - ments bright and spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light.  
 God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
 one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

881

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"