

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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



Ascension of our Lord
Service of Holy Communion
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (setting 1) 10:30 am
May 12, 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

III from *Psalms 95*—Felix Mendelssohn

(duet: Marcia Perez, soprano and John LeSane, tenor)

In His hands are all the corners of the earth, and the sea is His, and the strength of the mountains; these He made. Come, let us worship, let us adore, let us kneel before the Lord.

See note at end of bulletin for more on today's music.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **C Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **C Amen.**

*HYMN

ELW 645

Christ is made the sure foundation

*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



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



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 -



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring every thing into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jason Stonerook

Today's Psalm (not read):

Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world, and that the disciples will be accompanied and empowered by the Holy Spirit. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward

heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

R The Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.

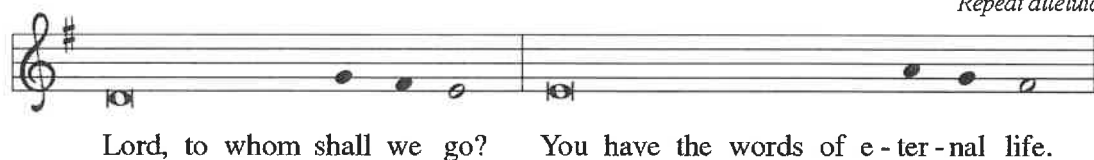
¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R The Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



***GOSPEL**

Luke 24:44-53

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 579

Lord, you give the great commission
(stanzas 1 + 3)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: We present Gemma Elizabeth Wilbrink for baptism.

- P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Gemma Elizabeth baptized into Christ? *Response:* We do.
- P As you bring Gemma Elizabeth to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Gemma Elizabeth grow in the Christian faith and life? *Response:* We do.
- P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Gemma Elizabeth in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response:* We do.
- P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
- C We do.**
- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C We renounce them.**
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **C We renounce them.**
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C We renounce them.**
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C Amen.**

P Gemma Elizabeth, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Gemma Elizabeth with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gemma Elizabeth, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized, Gemma Elizabeth Wilbrink.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 579

Lord, you give the great commission
(stanza 5)

***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.

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction (*especially*). Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith. Inspire us by their witness. 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

Above all praise and majesty (from 6 Anthems)

—Felix Mendelssohn

*Above all praise and majesty, Lord,
Thou reignest evermore, Hallelujah!*

(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.

*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. **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 MUSIC

“Prayer from Christ ascending toward his Father”

IV from *L'Ascension*—Olivier Messiaen

“And now, O Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world...And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.” (John 17: 6, 11)

***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 855

Crown him with many crowns

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE

“Allegro maestoso e vivace” from *Sonata II in c minor*—
Mendelssohn

~~~~~  
*Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially;* Roland Davis, Marlee, Susanne Maier-Meise, Lynn Adkins, 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, 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.

*TODAY, May 12th, Gemma Elizabeth Wilbrink* will be baptized during the worship service. Gemma was born on May 14, 2023 to Elisa A. Park and Louis A. Wilbrink. Please welcome the newest member of St. Paul's!

*Today's altar flowers* were donated by Betty & Lou Mastrobattista in loving memory of Margaret Hunt & Rosa Mastrobattista.

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Serving Today:

Altar Flowers: **Deb Charlton**

Altar Guild: **Rob Hershey**

Assisting Minister: **Jason Stonerook**

Greeters/Ushers: **Carl Muhlbauer, Deb Charlton**

Lay Reader: **Christi Barnhart**

Communion Assistants: **Christi Barnhart, Veronica Ferris**

A/V Assistant: **Drew Morrison**

Coffee Hour: **Kim Stonerook**

Music Note

Mother's Day 2024 includes music by Felix Mendelssohn and Olivier Messiaen, as we observe Ascension Sunday on this last Sunday of Easter, a week before Pentecost.

The prelude, offering anthem and postlude are all by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), who sparked a revival of the almost-forgotten music of J.S. Bach as a 20-year-old, and composed hundreds of works of his own during his short life. The rarely-performed prelude duet is from his Op. 46, *Psalm 95* for soloists, choir and orchestra. The offering anthem was published posthumously. The postlude, from the second of his six organ sonatas, dates from 1845, two years before his death.

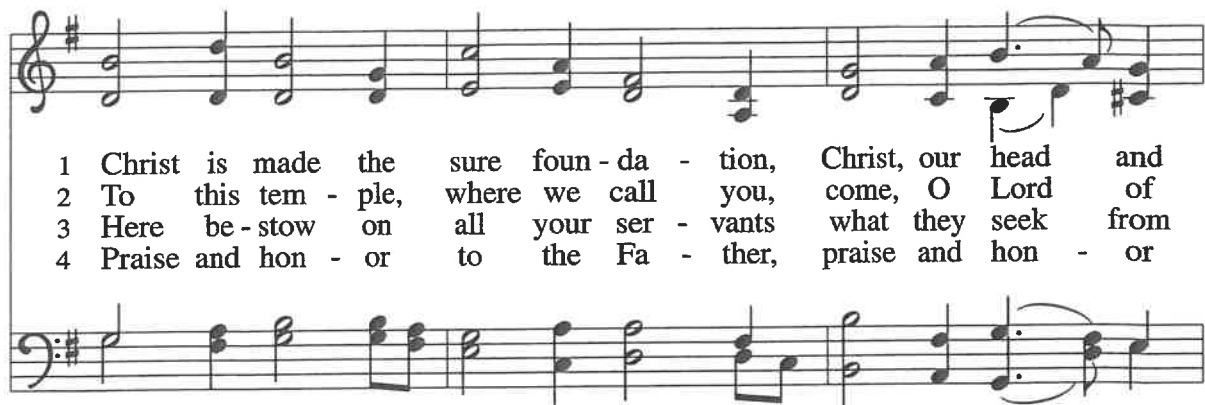
The organ music during communion is from an important early work by French organist, composer and Catholic mystic, Olivier Messiaen (1908-92). He wrote *L'Ascension* originally in 1932-33 as "four meditations for orchestra". In 1934 he rescored it for the organ and added another movement.

Sustained by God.

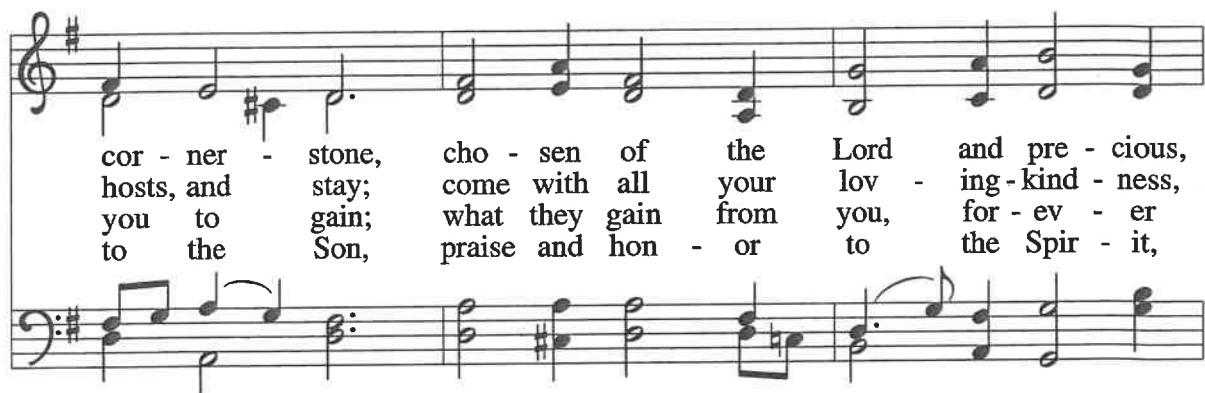
WE SUSTAIN THE
COMMUNITY OF ST. PAUL'S



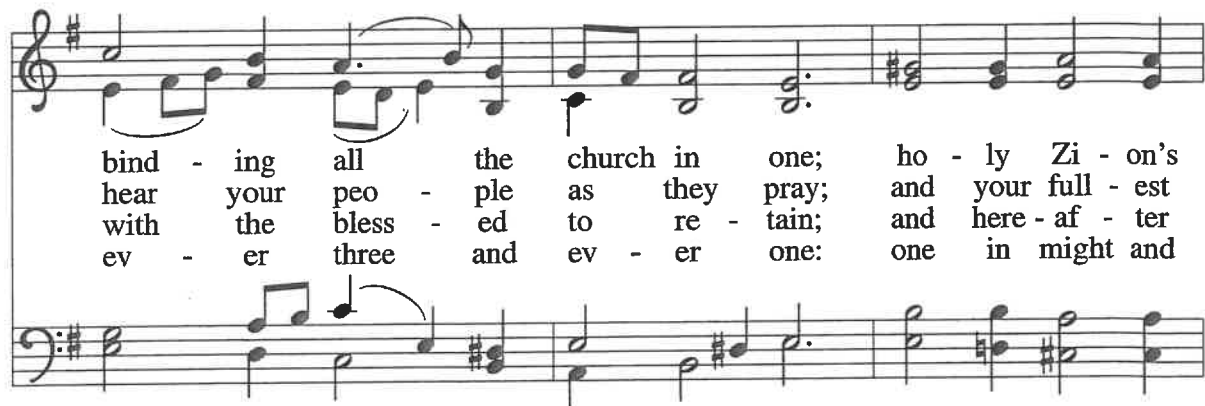
645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



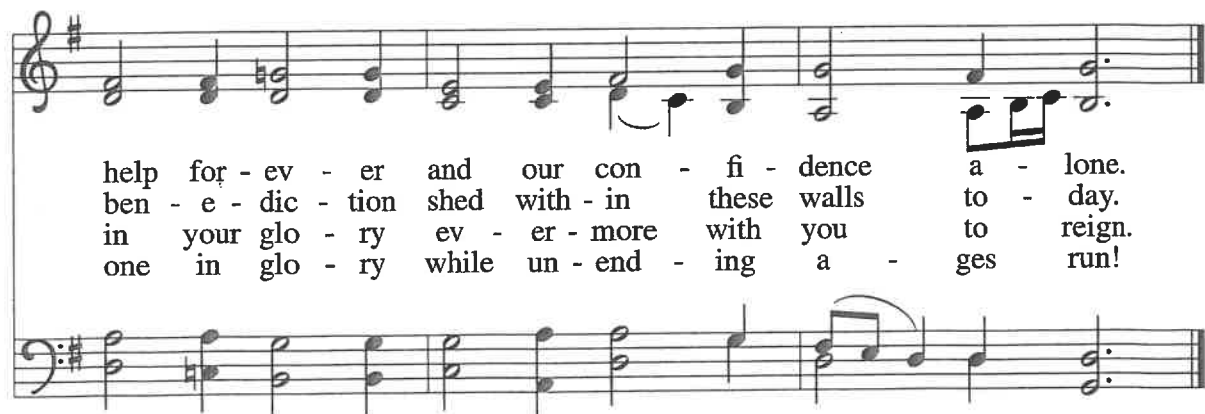
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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Refrain

With the Spir-it's gifts em-pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

580

- 1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
- 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
- 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,

that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Crown Him with Many Crowns

855

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.