Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Pastor Lee Welker
April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gathered by the Spirit
Fed by Jesus
Sent to live God's Love

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Neighborhood Connection
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Welcome to worship today. Our prayer is that we may meet our Holy God in song, word, activity, and prayer.

Introduction
Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

*[Congregation's responses are printed in **BOLD** type.]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERED

THANKSGIVING OF BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.
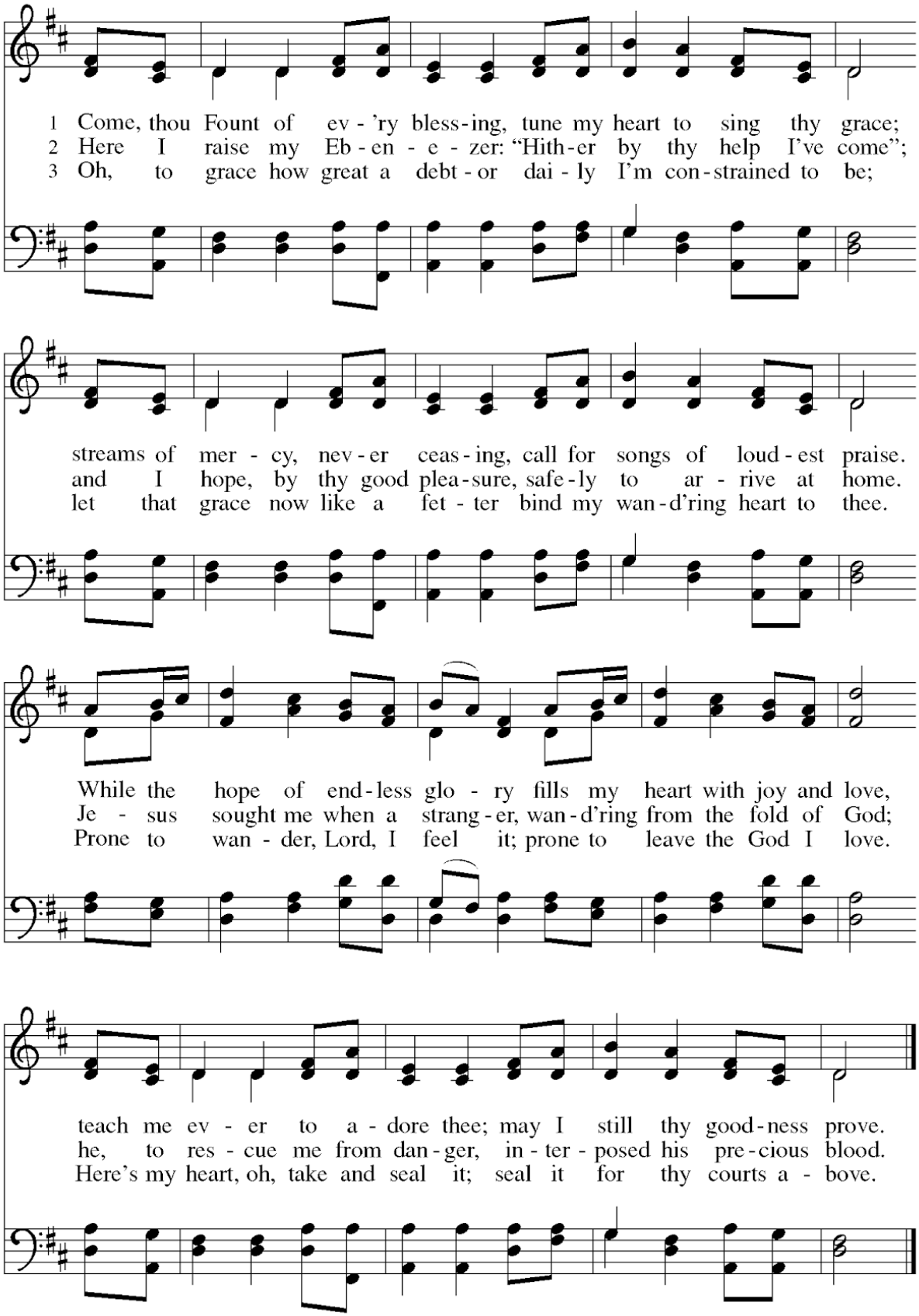
Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
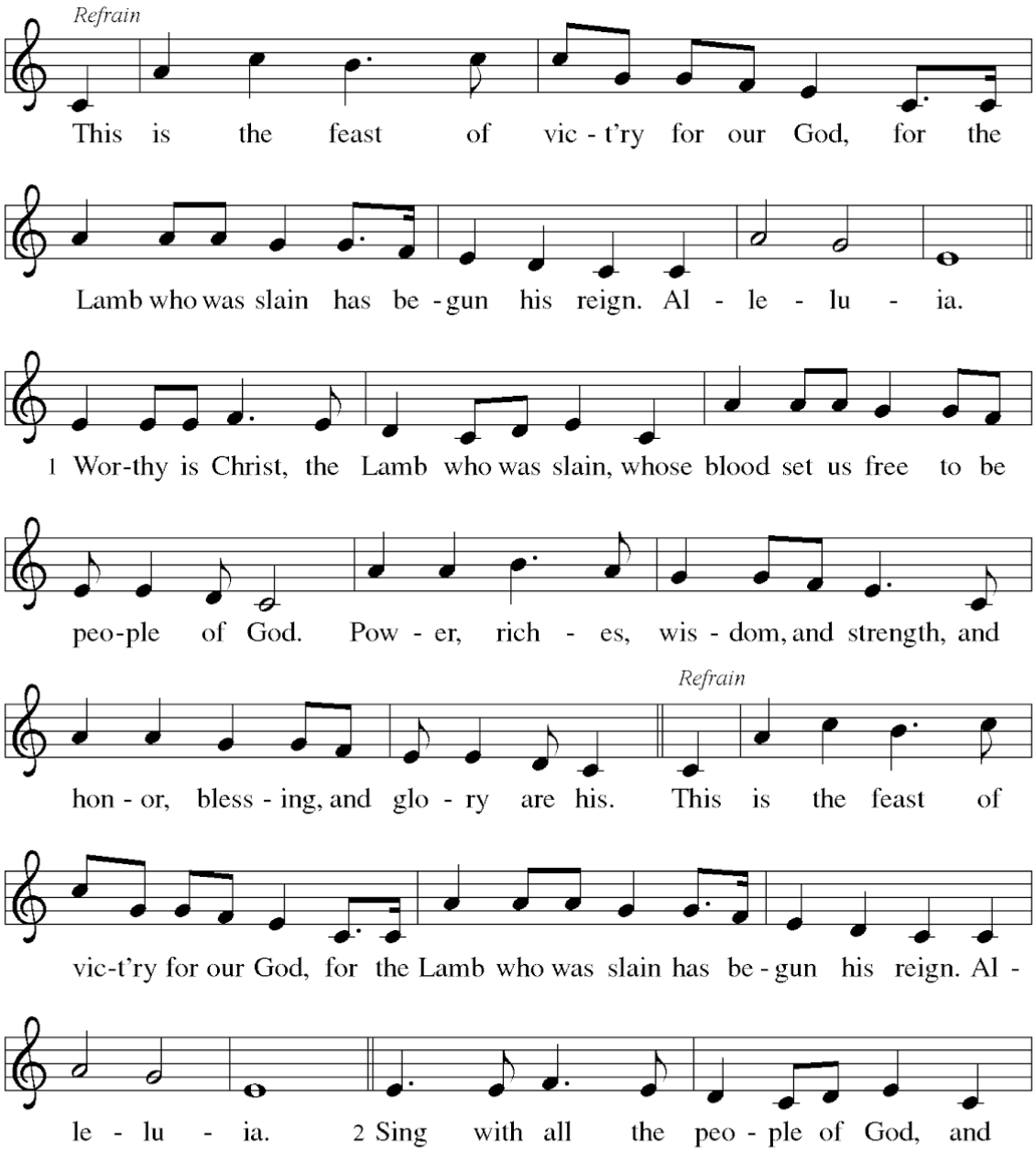


EASTER PROCLAMAATION

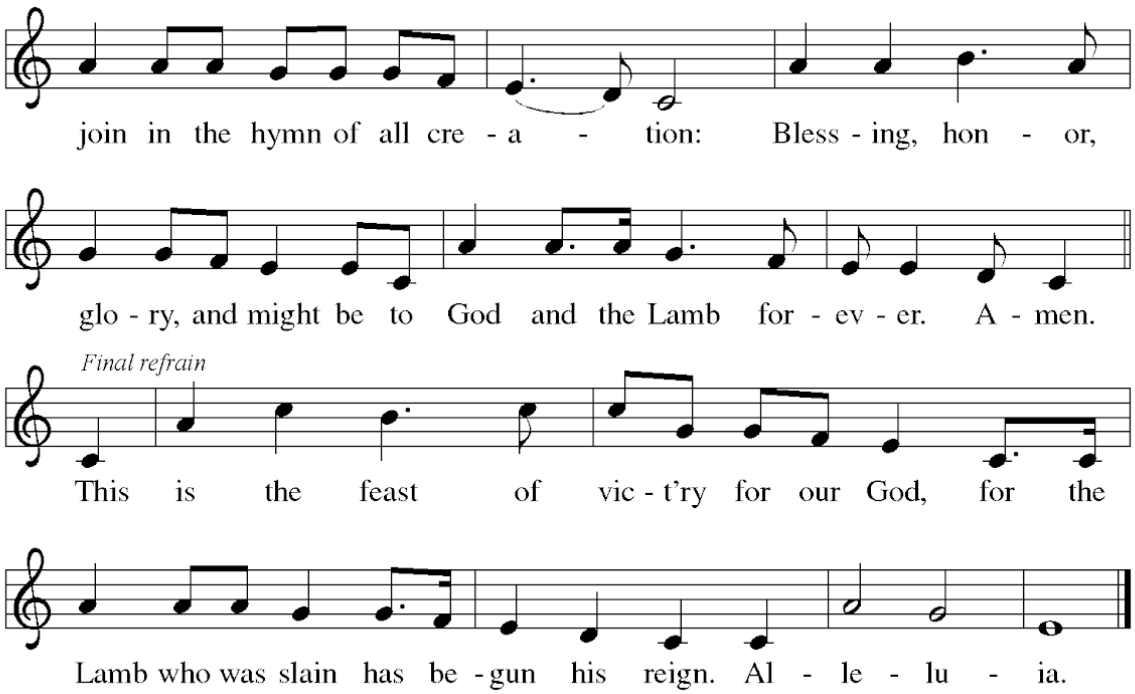
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.

Stones roll away, tombs are open, new possibilities are born, women sing for joy and men race to share the good news.
We have received the good news. The Lord is our salvation.

The Easter joy of the living Christ Jesus be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God our shepherd,

you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their

food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 23 *(read responsively)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

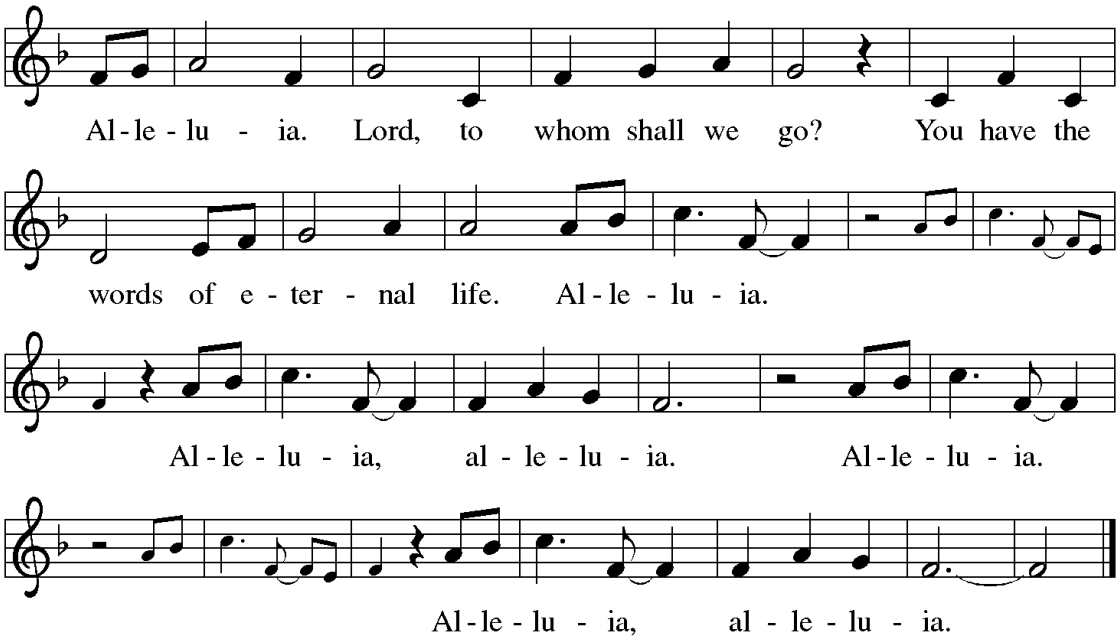
It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going

astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please stand, as you are able)*



GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The Holy Gospel according to John, 10th chapter,
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and
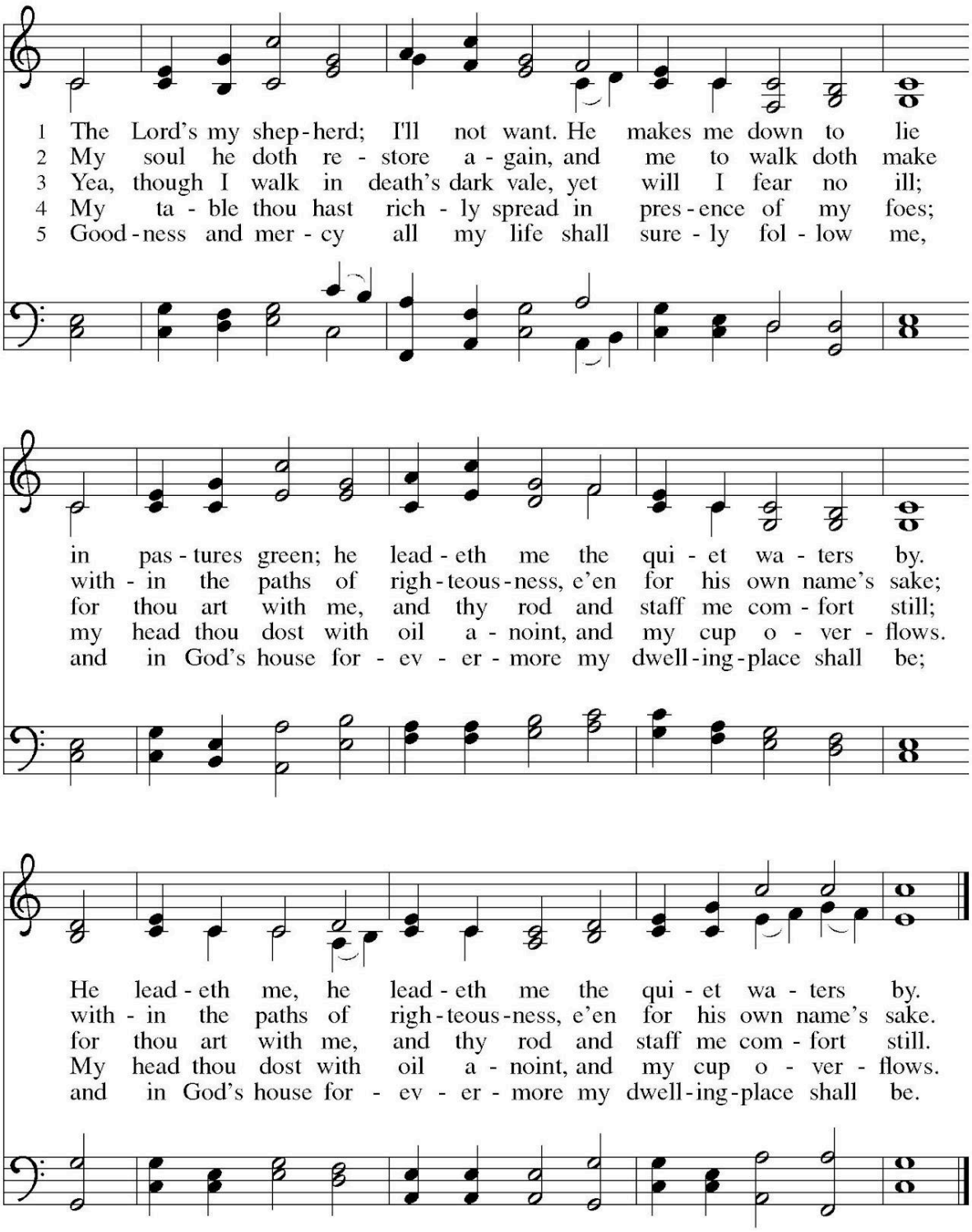
will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN 778 The Lord's My Shepherd



NICENE CREED

Together let us confess our faith using the words of the 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

Each prayer petition ends, Merciful God,

Our response, **receive our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

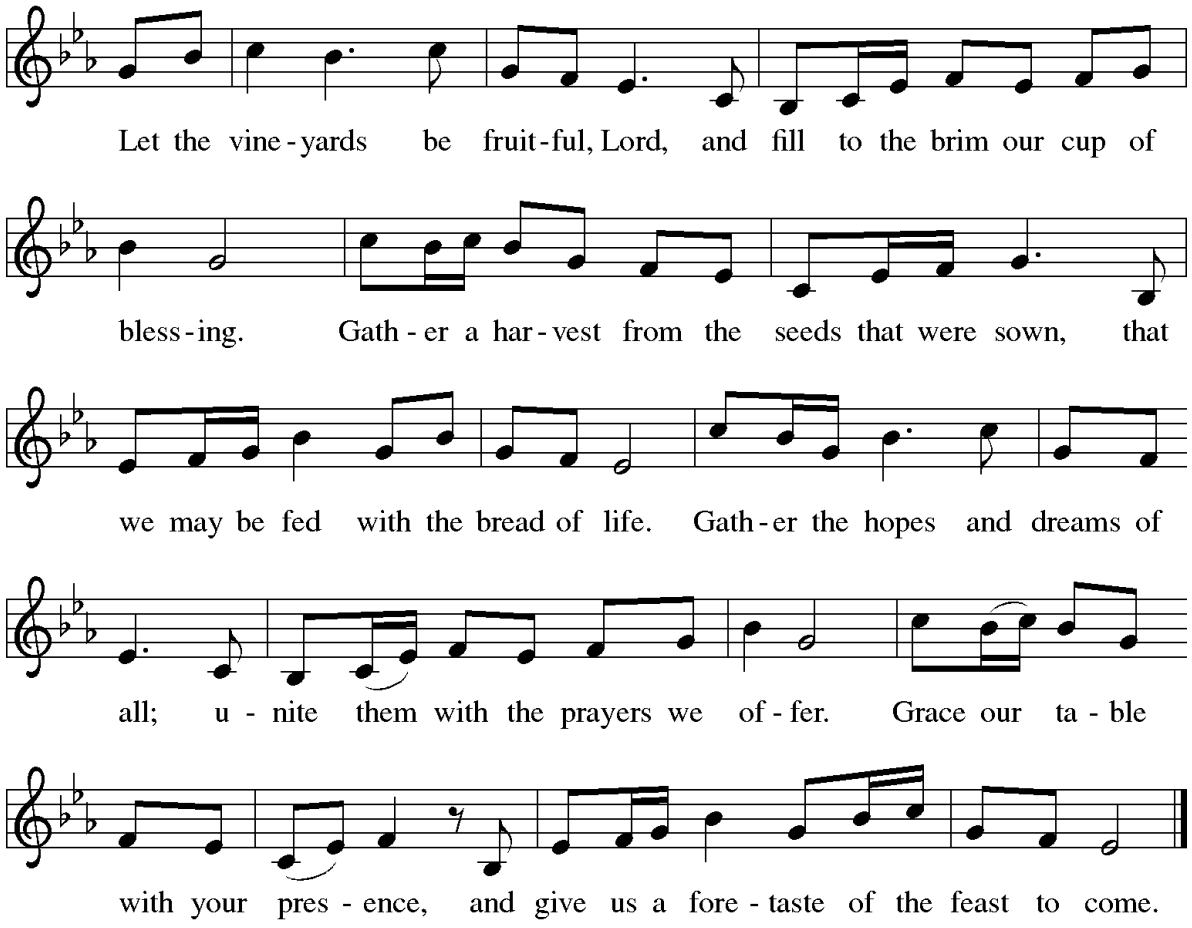
And also with you.

You may share the peace of Christ with one another

OFFERING

MEAL

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray. Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

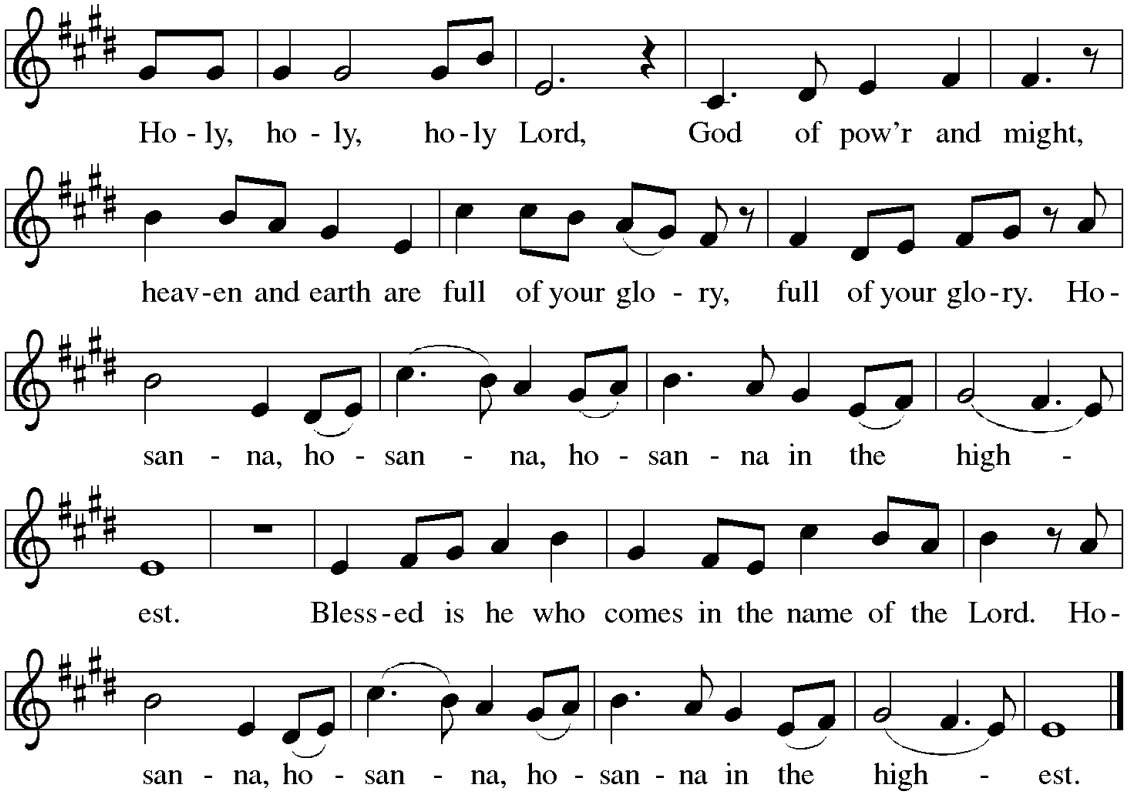
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy……

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful God……

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

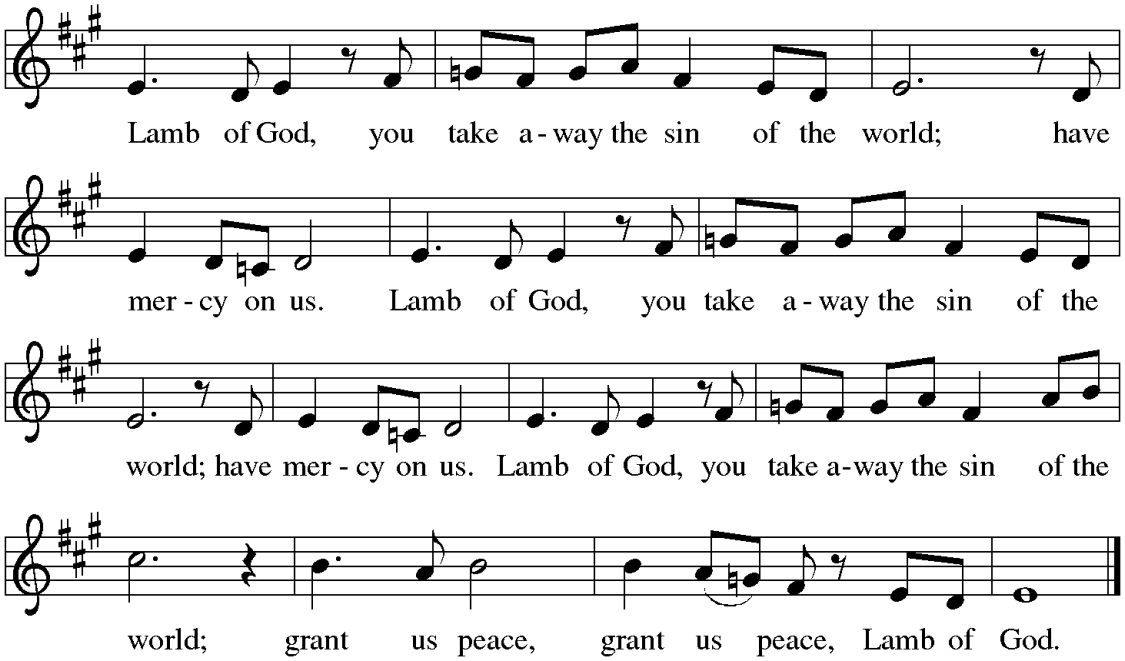
…….be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT
Assisting Minister will be communed first so that those on Zoom can partake in the communion before the congregation:

The Body of Christ given for you.
The Blood of Christ shed for you.

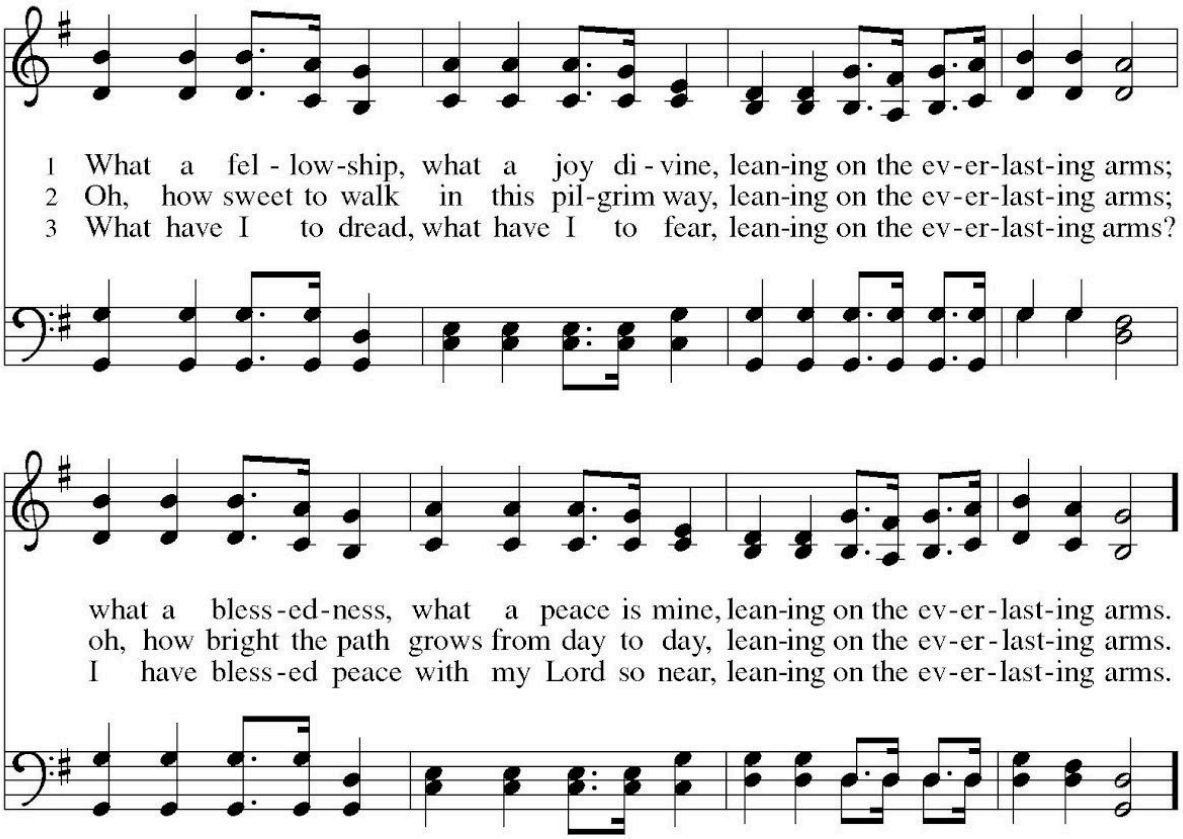


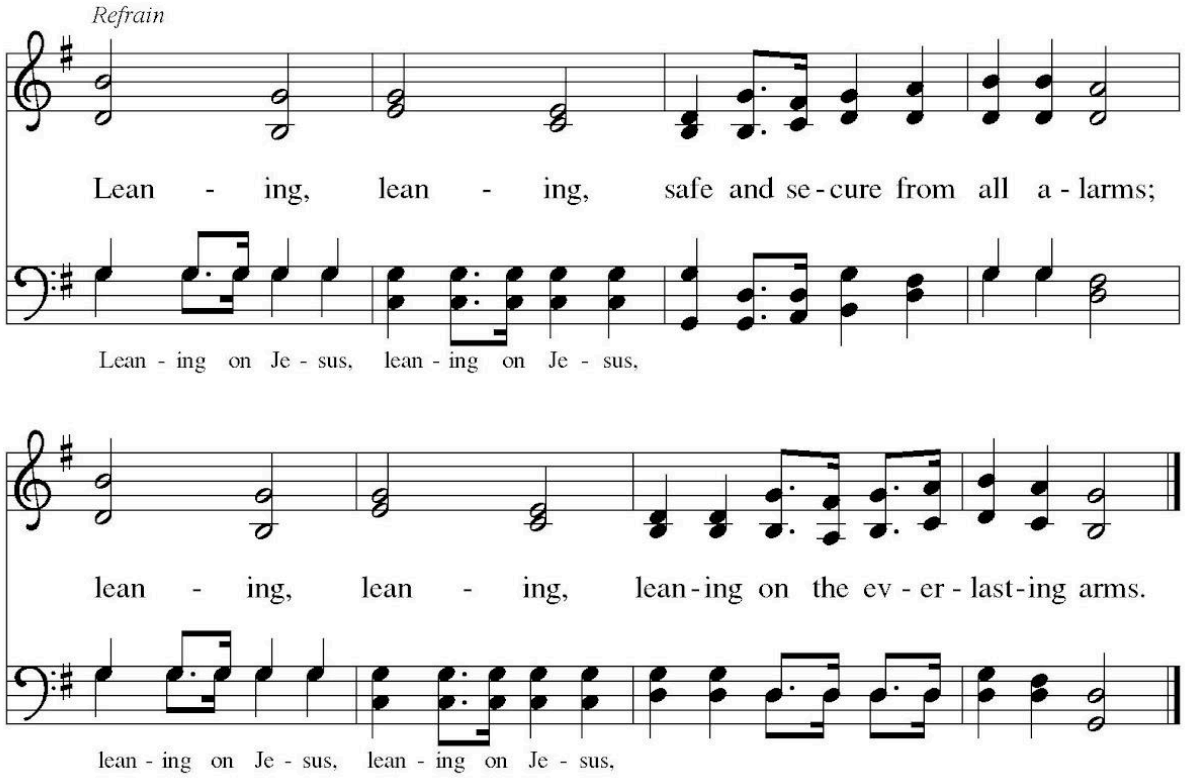
POST COMMUNION BLESSING
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus the Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER
Let us pray. Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

BENEDICTION
God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine





POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL
Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music portions of the Liturgy, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 8. Reprinted under Augsburg Fortress license 44230

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Texts for **May 3** : Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14”1-14

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Attendance at last week’s service was 30 and 3 on Zoom and YouTube.

Calendar for the Week

Saturday, May 2 – Outside Workday with weather permitting starting at 9:00am. They will work primarily on the Gardens of Gethsemane, Linda will have several work projects for us to do, but there may also be other outside chores to complete. If you are able to participate please plan to be here at 9:00am and wear your old clothes.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 16 – Ice Cream & Bingo Social at 2:00pm

Saturday, June 6 – GaGa Ball and Outdoor Games Festival Bon Fire and Wiener Roast

The ICAN Food Pantry is at Downey Avenue Christian Church, 111 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219. They appreciate all of the food and toiletry donations that are provided to them through Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Their website is www.icanfoodpantry.com. They have an Amazon wish list on their webpage where you can select items on their list, order and pay for them, and they will be mailed directly to Downey Avenue Christian Church. Thank you for any and all donations.

ICAN - Irvington Community Advocacy Network – Office located at Irvington United Methodist Church, 30 N. Audubon, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 317-322-9645
Email: ICANCenterIrvington@gmail.com
Program Director: Kari Burns

Potential Assistance and Referral Services for: *Food Pantries, *Clothing Closet, *Employment and Resumes, *Applications for Assistance, *Continuing Education, *Transportation Assistance

If the office is closed and you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 211 or go to findhelp.org.