***Saint John Lutheran Church***

*We trust God and invite you to experience God’s inclusive love!*

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022 10:00 A.M.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15**

**Sunday, May 15 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 am Worship**

**11:15 am Drive-by Communion**

**11:30 am Coffee Hour**

**3:30 pm Online Bible Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Monday, May 16 Office Closed**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**7:00 pm Easy Does It Al-Anon**

**Tuesday, May 17 10:30 am Centering Prayer**

**12:30 pm Theology on Tap**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Wednesday, May 18 5:45 pm Supper**

**6:30 pm Wednesday Night Worship**

**7:30 pm Choir Practice**

**Thursday, May 19 10:00 am Mat Weaving**

**Saturday,** **May 21 5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Sunday,** **May 22 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 am Worship**

**11:15 am Drive-by Communion**

**11:30 am Coffee Hour**

**3:30 pm Online Bible Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Serving Saints**

**Reader: Julie Gates**

**Altar Guild: Sandra Harwood**

**Ushers: Harry and Sharon Willard**

**Stewards: Enid Mswia and Rita Johnson**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

*As we enter holy space and time, please silence your cell phones and enter quietly and reverently.*

**Welcome**

*Welcome! The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

**You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through.**

**In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.**

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

Our mission here at St. John is…

**We trust God and invite you to experience God’s inclusive Love**!

**Gathering Song** *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* **#367**

**Greeting**

*The presiding minister and the people greet each other and pray.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise** *This is the feast* **p.169**

**The Prayer of the Day**

**Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song. The first reading is usually from the Old Testament. The psalms are ancient songs of faith. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, gives the witness of the early church.*

**Acts 11:1-18**

1Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” 4Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ 10This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ 15And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

17If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” 18When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 148**

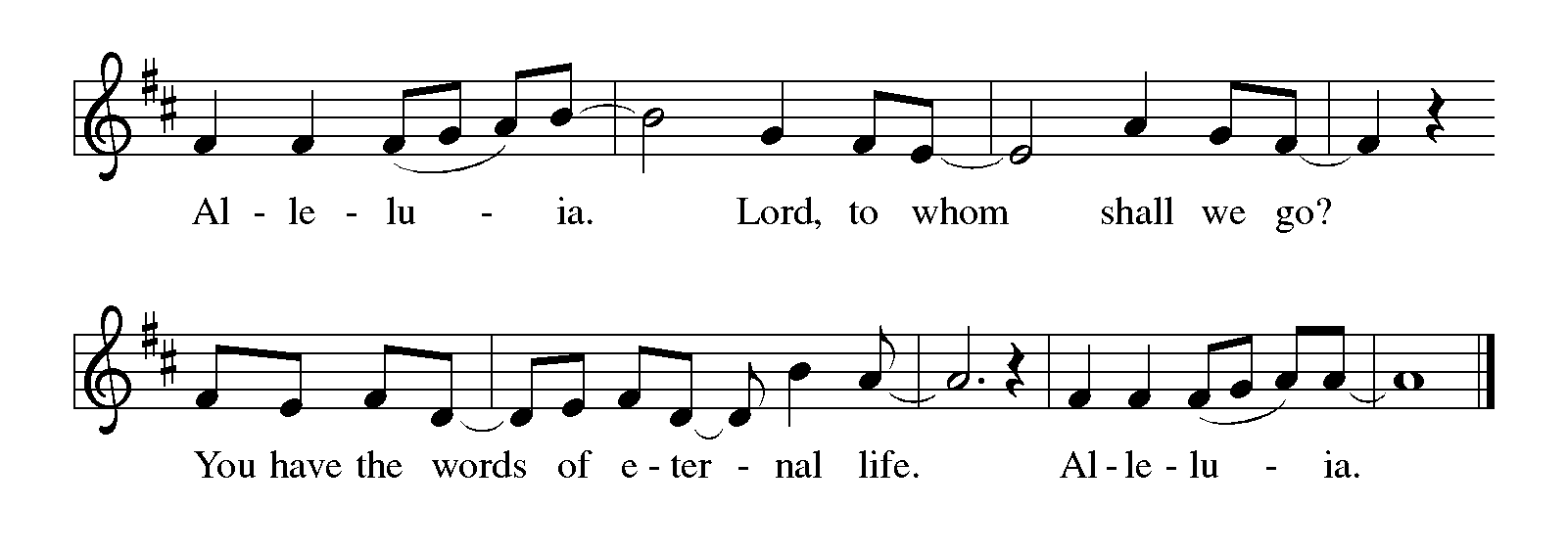
1Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
  praise God in the heights.  
**2Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
  sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**3Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
  sing praise, all you shining stars.  
**4Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
  and you waters above the heavens.**5Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
  who commanded, and they were created,  
**6who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
  giving them a law that shall not pass away.**7Praise the Lord from the earth,  
  you sea monsters and all deeps;  
**8fire and hail, snow and fog,  
  tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**9mountains and all hills,  
  fruit trees and all cedars; **10wild beasts and all cattle,  
  creeping things and flying birds;**11sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
  princes and all rulers of the world;  
**12young men and maidens,  
  old and young together.**13Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
  whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
**14The Lord has raised up strength for the people**

**and praise for all faithful servants,  
  the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

**Revelation 21:1-6**

1I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
 “See, the home of God is among mortals.  
 He will dwell with them;  
 they will be his peoples,  
 and God himself will be with them;  
 4he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
 Death will be no more;  
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
 for the first things have passed away.”  
 5And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation** 

*The gospel reading comes from one of the first four books of the New Testament that tell of Jesus’ ministry.*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 13:31-35**

31When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

**Sermon**

*Preaching connects God’s word of law and gospel to our time and place*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Hymn of the Day** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* **#392**

**Apostles’ Creed**

**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**

*God’s word is proclaimed as we sing and confess our faith. The creed is an ancient statement of faith. We pray for the needs of our church, our community, our world and ourselves; and we offer prayers of thanksgiving.*

**Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. Bless the ministry of our sister congregations: Agustinian Lutheran School, Guatemala and St. Johannes, Bavaria; Grace Missions and Chez Moi Orphanage, Haiti.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power.  Protect those serving in the military, especially ***Chantz*** *Roche and* ***Sequoya*** *McLendon.* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress *especially,* ***Cathleen*** *Dahl,* ***Charlie*** *Parks,* ***William*** *Panick,* ***Bob*** *Keener,* ***Susan and David*** *Friend,* ***Maureen*** *Caldwell,* ***April*** *Kennedy,* ***Andy*** *and* ***June*** *Harnack,* ***John*** *Bennett,* ***Sarah*** *Lanier,* ***Catherine*** *Campbell,* ***Charlie*** *Norman* ***and Connie*** *Klopfenstein,* ***Kay*** *Pedrotti,* ***Kathy*** *Gates,* ***Janet*** *Kindred,* ***Frank*** *Dansby,* ***Debbie*** *Sakmar*. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send blessings to those celebrating birthdays, ***John*** *Roy,* ***Peggy*** *Thomas,* ***Adam*** *Miller,* ***Sharon*** *Willard*; those celebrating anniversaries, ***Doug and Lynn*** *Jones,* ***Bill and Kathy*** *Gates,* ***Terry and Terry*** *Emlet,* ***Les and Bobbi*** *Windsor.*

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear now the spoken and unspoken prayers of your people …...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person’s identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ.  God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**MEAL**

*We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ’s peace. A collection of material goods for the church’s mission is gathered as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all of God’s gifts. The table is set with bread and wine. A gift of music is offered, and prayers of thanksgiving are sung and spoken.*

**Gathering of Gifts**

**Choir**

**Offering Hymn** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* **#183**

**Offering Prayer**

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table.

**Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Before the Lord’s Supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us in a prayer of thanksgiving(Eucharist) to God for creation and salvation, remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ, and the Holy Spirit’s presence in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

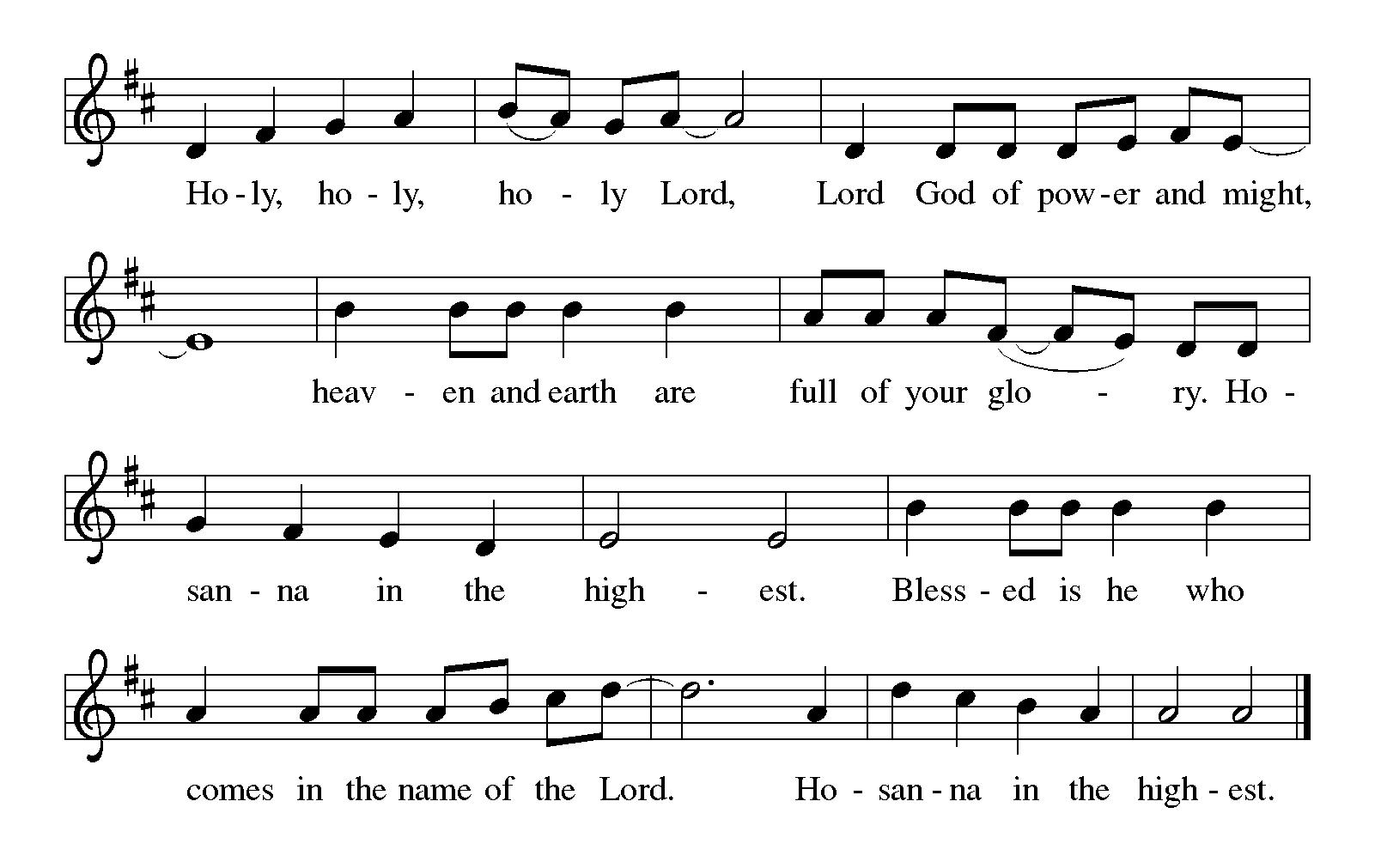
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Preface for Easter**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  

**Eucharistic Prayer for Easter**

Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,

and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,

that we may live as your chosen ones,

clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

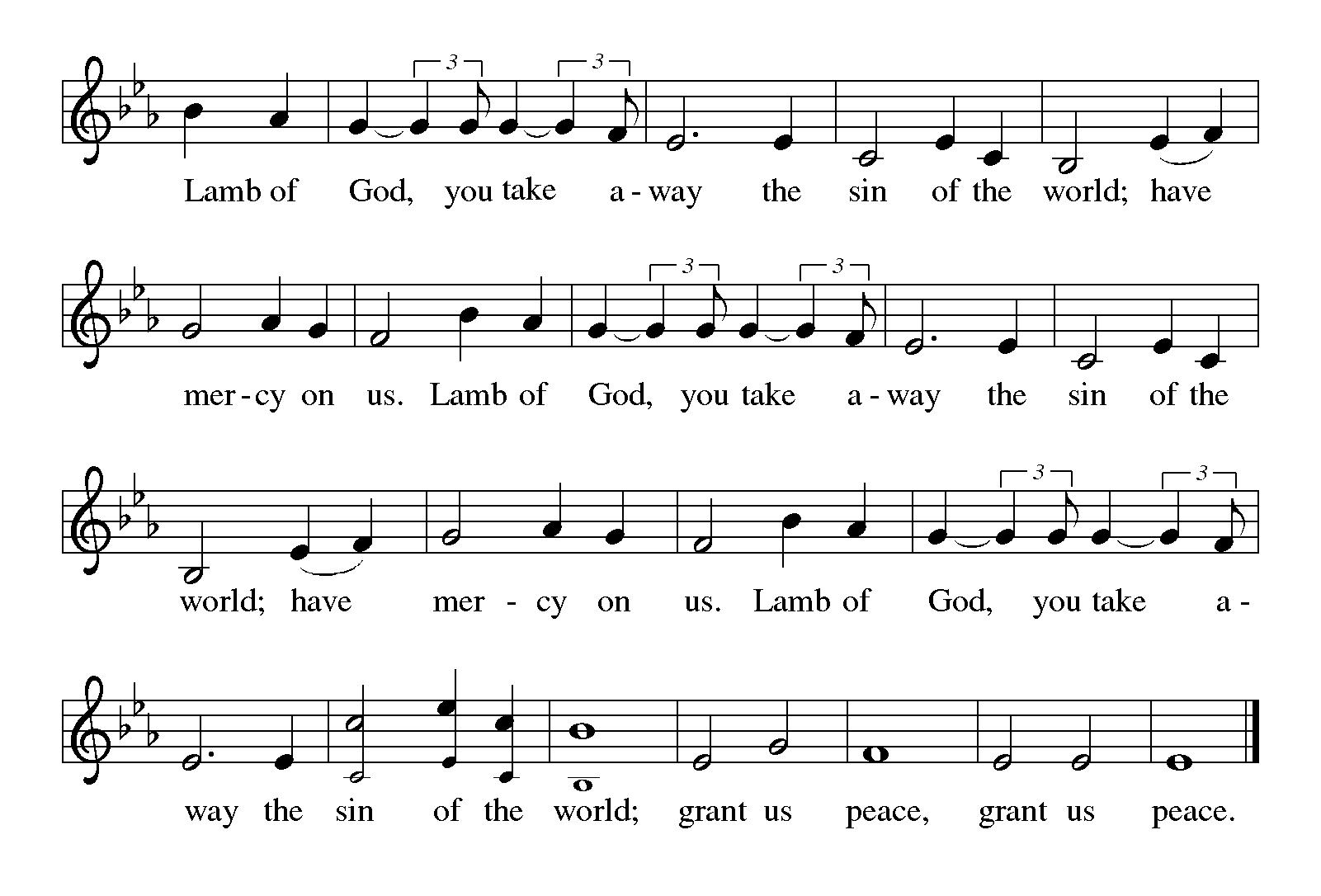
**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen**

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**The congregation is encouraged to sing during the distribution:**

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*  **#469**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail* **#359**

**Table Blessing**

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Benediction**

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Instructions for final hymn given by Pastor Mary**

**Sending Hymn** *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* **#389**

**Dismissal**

As we go on our way, let us remember…

**Through Jesus Christ, we are an equipping and responding church**

**that continues to grow, impact, and transform lives.**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK – MAY 15, 2022**

**Cathleen Dahl, Charlie Parks, William Panick, Bob Keener, Susan and David Friend, Maureen Caldwell, April Kennedy, Andy and June Harnack, John Bennett, Sarah Lanier, Catherine Campbell, Charlie Norman and Connie Klopfenstein, Kay Pedrotti, Kathy Gates, Janet Kindred, Frank Dansby, Debbie Sakmar.**

**BIRTHDAYS**  **Anniversaries**

5/17 John Roy 5/16 Doug and Lynn Jones

5/17 Peggy Thomas 5/18 Bill and Kathy Gates

5/18 Adam Miller 5/21 Terry and Terry Emlet

5/21 Sharon Willard 5/21 Les and Bobbi Windsor

**MILITARY**

Sequoya McLendon, Chantz Roche

**Family and Friends**: **Liz and Bob** Sherliza, **Deb** Tutson, (Friends of Saint John); **Margaret** Thompson (friend of Elaine Bell and Donna Milam); **Bruce Harwood** (father of Steve Harwood); **Charles** Harper, **Tim** Kennedy (family and friends of April Kennedy); **Patsy** Slagle (friend of Janet Kindred, Gayle Harvil, Marilyn Droegmiller), **Susan** St. John, **Scott** Lanier (family and friends of Sarah Lanier); **Isaac** Russell (family of Marcus Loner); **Rick** Thacker, **Brenda** Evans (friends of Cheryl and Vaughn Maples); **Sue** Tomsovic (Aunt of Tish Martin); **John** Burger, **Dana** Burger, **family of Bart Bartlett** (friends and family of Bonnie Nichols). **Melissa** Roy, **Donna** Harris (family of Jill Roy); **Doug** Maxwell, (Brother of Debbie Sakmar); **Whitney** O’Connor Hawk (granddaughter of Larry Schultz); **Ricky Bradford** (cousin of Peggy Thomas), **Jeanie Tidwell** (mother of Bill Tidwell); **Jennifer and Bobby** Mooneyham (parents of Tina Venus), **Ron and Kathy** Ballek (brother and sister-in-law of Sharon Willard).

**BIBLE STUDY, SUNDAYS AT 3:30 PM VIA ZOOM**

We hope that you will join this wonderful study group, led by Jill Roy. We are reading “Making Sense of the Cross”. Zoom instructions are sent out each week via email. If you are not receiving it and would like to, please let Lynn know.

**Choir practice, wednesdays after Worship**

Choir practice and planning after Wednesday night Worship. We hope you can join us!

**Serving Saints needed**

Now that we are back to normal activities, we are asking for volunteers to help with various jobs around the church. We are specifically asking for help with **Altar Guild, Assisting Ministers, Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lynn Jones in the office. Thank you for all your help!

**you are invited**

Pastor Mary and family would like to like to invite you to join them in celebration of Christopher’s High School graduation on May 21, 12-3pm at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Conyers. Lunch will be provided. No gifts are requested as your presence will be the gift to our family.

**READERS NEEDED**

If you can read/Speak another language, we would love to have you be part of our Pentecost Sunday reading of the Acts passage on Sunday June 5. Please sign the sheet in the narthex and share what language you speak. We would be happy to have several speaking the same language. So, please sign up! Pastor Mary will contact you the week before to go over the plan. Thank you!

**Wednesday night supper, 5:45 pm**

Please join us for supper on Wednesdays in the fellowship hall.

**Theology on Tap, Tuesdays, 12:30 pm**

We meet at Margo’s restaurant, 1136 W.  Taylor St., Griffin.

The group is reading the book, “*Julian of Norwich-Wisdom in a time of pandemic and beyond*”. For any questions or more information, please talk to Gary Larson or Pastor Mary.

**Centering Prayer, Tuesdays, 10:30 am**

The group will begin with a time of silent meditation, and then spend time reading and discussing the book, “*Faith after Doubt-Why your beliefs stopped working and what to do about it*” by Brian McLaren.

**BAGS NEEDED**

Plastic grocery bags are needed for the mat weaving class. If you have extra bags, please consider donating them. We are especially looking for colorful bags, but will take any color. All mats are donated to the homeless.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Just a reminder that all announcements need to be sent to Lynn Jones by Thursday morning for inclusion in the bulletin and newsletter that week. **Thank you all for your help!**

**Daily Readings**

*Monday: Psalm 133, 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42, Acts 11:19-26*

*Tuesday: Psalm 133, 2 Samuel 1:4-27, Acts 11:27-30*

*Wednesday: Psalm 133, Leviticus 19:9-18, Luke 10:25-28*

*Thursday: Psalm 67, Proverbs 2:1-5, Acts 15:36-41*

*Friday: Psalm 67, Proverbs 2:6-8, Acts 16:1-8*

*Saturday: Psalm 67, Proverbs 2:9-15, Luke 19:1-10*

*Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67,*

*Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5, John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9*

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

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**Facebook: Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner**

[**Pastor\_st.john@yahoo.com**](mailto:Pastor_st.john@yahoo.com)

**Cell 309-212-0888**

**Support Staff**

Lynn Jones, Administrative Assistant Amy Droegmiller, Youth Leader

Marilyn Droegmiller, Organist Gayle Harvil, Praise Team Director

Jennifer Durham, Choir Accompanist Heather Loner, Nursery Attendant

**Congregation Council**

Don Taylor, President Todd Droegmiller Catherine Park

Russ Rines, Vice-President Bailey Harvil-Sevier Sarah Sanders

Vaughn Maples, Secretary Donna Milam

Tish Martin, Treasurer Enid Mswia

Phyllis Hutchings, Financial Secretary

**Ministry Contacts**

Altar Guild: Sandra Harwood Member Care: Sarah Lanier, Cheryl Maples

Education: Phyllis Hutchings Property: John Sanders, Tish Martin

Fellowship: Laura Miller, Martha Dansby Social Ministry: Jill Gates, Don Taylor

Finance: Tish Martin, Phyllis Hutchings Stewardship: Mark Miller

Gifts and Memorials: Tish Martin Worship: Sandra Harwood

Glocal Mission: Larry Schultz Youth/Children’s Ministry: Amy Droegmiller

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