

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

**Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)  
320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600**

**Vacancy Pastor: Mark Gullerud**

**Email: markgull76@hotmail.com Cell: (605) 282-9185**



**Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Michael  
Slattengren,**

**Website: [sslcwest.org](http://sslcwest.org)**

**Church Office: (650) 964-5915**



**St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers), Julia  
Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)**

**School Office: (650) 961-2071 School Website: [ssls.org](http://ssls.org)**

**May 4, 2025   ✝   Easter 3**

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**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

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✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 30 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.  
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>**

## Opening Hymn: 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King LSB 470



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly  
2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day, The faith - ful  
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, Who sits and  
4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; A - mong them



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!  
wom - en went their way To seek the tomb where Je - sus lay.  
speaks un - to the three, "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."  
came their mas - ter dear And said, "My peace be with you here."



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 When Thomas first the tidings heard

That they had seen the risen Lord,

He doubted the disciples' word.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 "My piercèd side, O Thomas, see,

And look upon My hands, My feet;

Not faithless but believing be."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 No longer Thomas then denied;

He saw the feet, the hands, the side;

"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 How blest are they who have not seen

And yet whose faith has constant been,

For they eternal life shall win.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

9 On this most holy day of days

Be laud and jubilee and praise:

To God your hearts and voices raise.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy

of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:  
God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession and Absolution

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

**Kyrie** *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** We pray:

O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By His resurrection to life, grant Your faithful people gladness of heart and the

hope of eternal joys; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**© Amen**

## **First Reading**

**Acts 9:1-22 (NKJV)**

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." <sup>6</sup> So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." <sup>7</sup> And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. <sup>12</sup> "And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." <sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> "And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." <sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came,

has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. <sup>19</sup> So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup> Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

## Revelation 5:11-14 (NKJV)

**P** The Epistle reading is Revelation 5:11-14

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

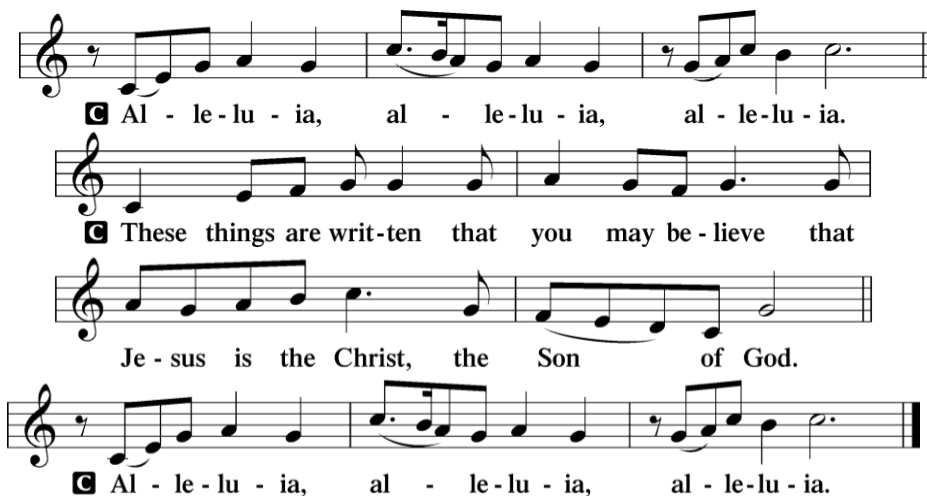
<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" <sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" <sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## Alleluia and Verse

*When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

**God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,**

**by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy**



**Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn 729 I Am Content**

LSB 729



1 I am con-tent! My Je - sus ev - er lives, In whom my  
2 I am con-tent! My Je - sus is my head; His mem - ber  
3 I am con-tent! My Je - sus is my light, My ra - diant  
4 I am con-tent! At length I shall be free, A - wak - ened



heart is pleased. He has ful-filled the Law of God for me,  
I shall be. He bowed His head when on the cross He died  
sun of grace. His cheer - ing rays beam bless-ings forth for all,  
from the dead, A - ris - ing glo - rious ev - er - more to be



God's wrath He has ap - peased. Since He in death  
With cries of ag - o - ny. Now death is brought  
Sweet com - fort, hope, and peace. This Eas - ter sun  
With You, my liv - ing head. The chains that hold



could per - ish nev - er, I al - so shall  
in - to sub - jec - tion For me by Je -  
has brought sal - va - tion And ev - er - last -  
my bod - y, sev - er; Then shall my soul



not die for - ev - er. I am con - tent! I am con - tent!  
sus' res - ur - rec - tion. I am con - tent! I am con - tent!  
ing ex - ul - ta - tion. I am con - tent! I am con - tent!  
re - joice for - ev - er. I am con - tent! I am con - tent!

Text: attr. Johann Joachim Möller, 1660–1733; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73

Text and tune: Public domain

(NKJV)

**Sermon Text: John 21:1-14** After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." <sup>6</sup> And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. <sup>7</sup> Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. <sup>9</sup> Then, as soon as

they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" -- knowing that it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. <sup>14</sup> *This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.*

### **Sermon Theme: Jesus' Resurrection Appearance at the Sea of Tiberias**

1. He reveals His glory as the Living Lord.
2. He gives an important lesson with the miraculous catch.
3. He demonstrates His power and faithfulness to provide for His servants.

#### **Offertory**      *LSB 956*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

## Prayer of the Church

### Hymn of the Day 729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus LSB 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;

Thine can never fail.

Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me

Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;

Never let me fall.

I am trusting Thee forever

And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Text and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

### Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

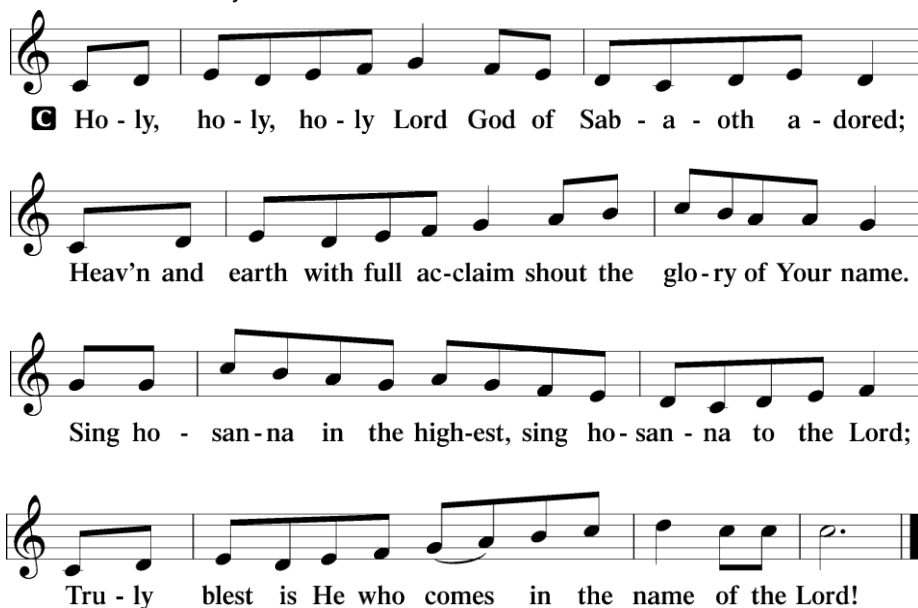
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**P** It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- C** 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.

## The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

## Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord") LSB 209

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

**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 210 Latin: "Lamb

*of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)*

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## The Distribution

- ✠ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

*Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we*

believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211 Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## LSB 794



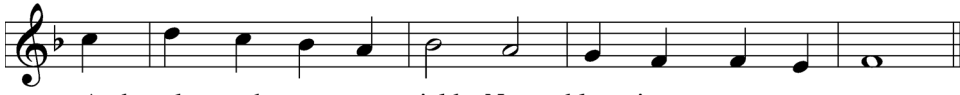
1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;  
2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,  
3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,  
△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;  
The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,  
The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.  
To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day  
Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood  
His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,  
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo-ment yield New bless-ings on my way.  
And gives to me by faith The high-est heav'n-ly good.  
Help, com-fort, and sup-port In sor-row's gloom-y hour.  
God Fa-ther, God the Son, And God the Ho-ly Ghost.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

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## Announcements

Today **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**  
4/4/25 **11:00 a.m. Choir**  
Friday **SSLS Run-a-Thon**  
4/9/25  
Next Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Mother's Day)**  
4/11/25

**Church Calendars** for the month of May are available and can be picked up in the distribution boxes.

**Run-a-Thon** SSLS will have its annual Run-a-Thon on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This year the students will be raising money that will go to help cover costs of the Traveling Vacation Bible School which will be held in July at St. Stephen. Make donations out to SSLS.

**Used Cell Phones** Missionary Bruce Naumann is asking for used cellphones that can be used by his seminary students in Tanzania, Africa. They can be Android or Apple phones, with Androids being preferable. If you have a used cell phone lying around and are willing to donate it, please bring it to church. It will be brought to Eau Claire, WI where the General Pastoral Conference will be held and where Missionary Naumann can collect them and transport back to Tanzania