

# Welcome to Community of the Cross Lutheran Church



**Fifth Sunday  
of Easter  
April 28, 2024**

# Prelude

*“I am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives”*

Marsha Gullickson



# Prelude

*“Amazing Grace /  
I Know My Redeemer Lives”*

Marsha Gullickson



Wm Walker & Lewis D Edwards / arr. Tari-Jean Lybbert ©2013 Tari-Jean Lybbert

# Prelude

*“Thine is the Glory”*

Marsha Gullickson



G F Handel / arr. Lani Smith ©2006 Lorenz Publishing

# Prelude

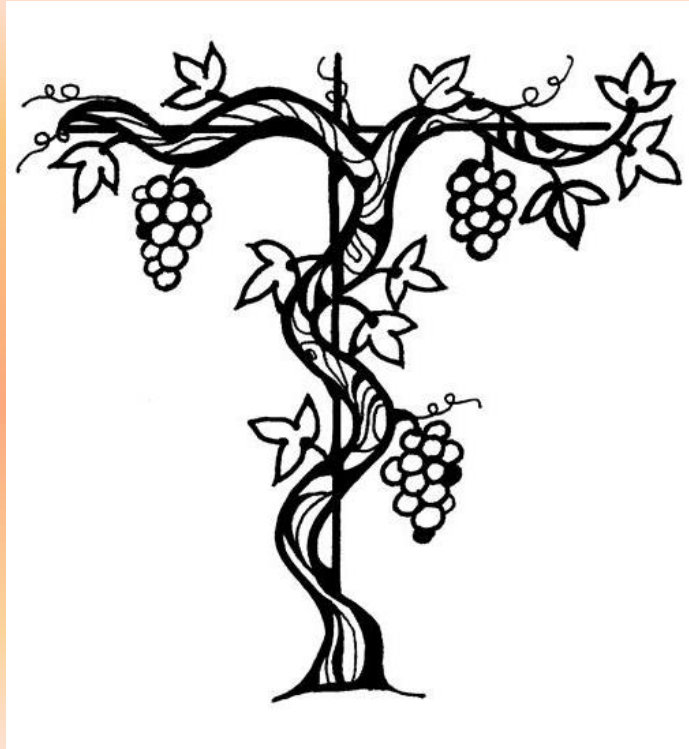
*“Festive Day”*

Jubilation Ringers



by Cathy Moglebust Copyright 2003 Choristers Guild

# Welcome to Community of the Cross Lutheran Church



# ***“Touching Lives with the Love of God”***



COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

- 1) Nurture the community*** within our congregation
- 2) Encourage the community*** within our neighborhood
- 3) Transform the various communities*** where our members live and work with the love of God

# Welcome and Announcements



# Confession and Forgiveness

*P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, creator of  
darkness and light.*

**C: Amen.**



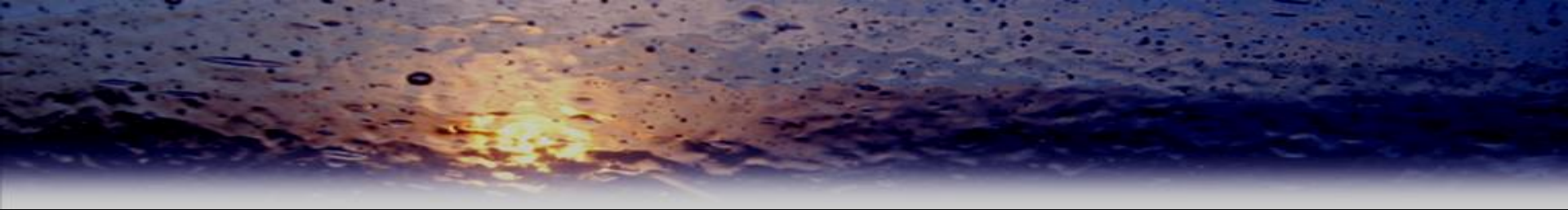
*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*Silence is kept for reflection*



*P: God, our rock and refuge,*

**C: We pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**



*P: In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.*

**C: Amen.**

# Thine is the Glory

ELW #376

**Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry  
Thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded graveclothes  
Where thy body lay.**



**Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry  
Thou o'er death hast won!**



**Lo, Jesus meets thee,  
Risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee,  
Scatters fear and gloom;  
Let his Church with gladness  
Hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth;  
Death hath lost its sting!**



**Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry  
Thou o'er death has won!**





**No more we doubt thee,  
Glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without thee;  
Aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conqu'rors,  
Through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To thy home above.**



**Thine is the glory,  
Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry  
Thou o'er death has won!**



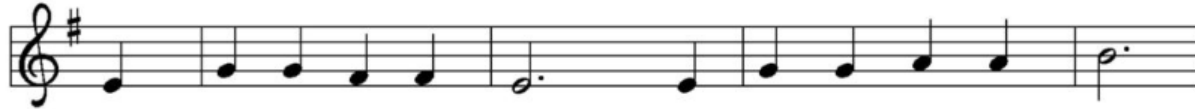


# Greeting

*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.**

# Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

# Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

# Prayer of the Day

*P: Let us pray.*

C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.



# **Children's Sermon**

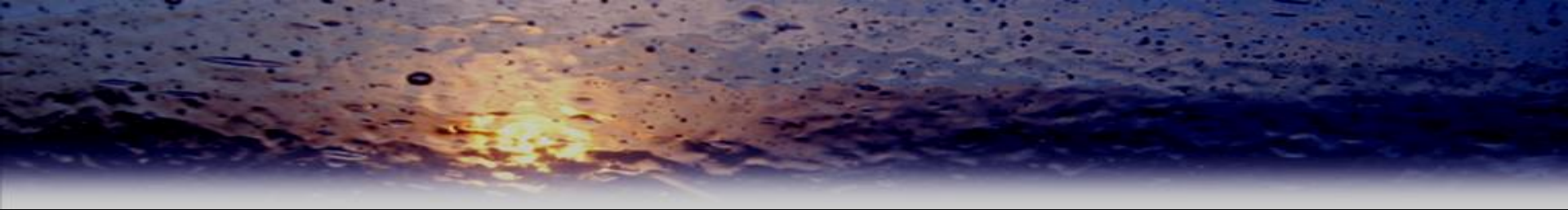
**Presenter: Jenna Trenbeath**



# Reading

Acts 8:26-40





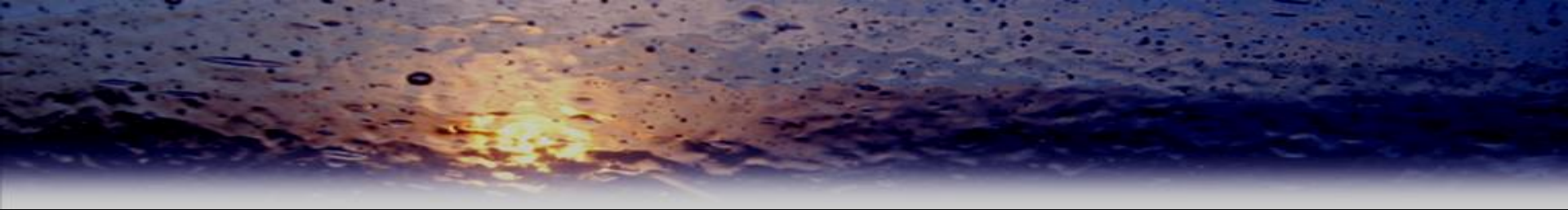
An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.



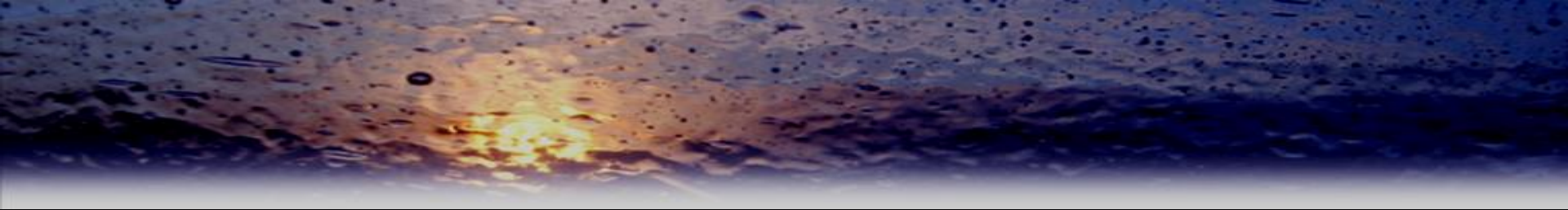
He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.



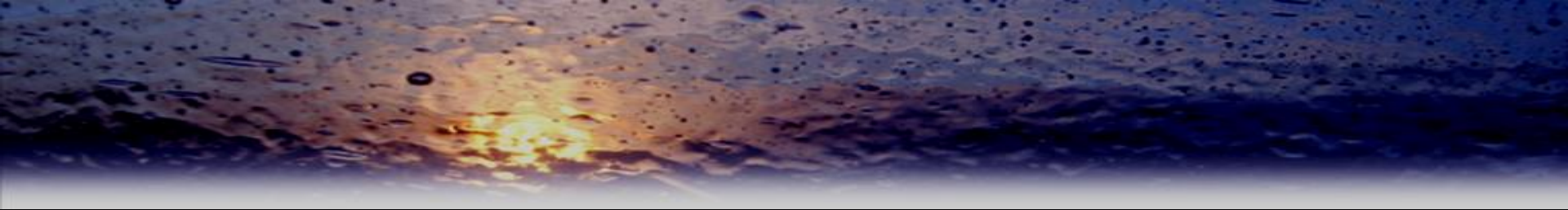
He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”  
He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”  
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now  
the passage of the scripture that he was reading was  
this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like  
a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his  
mouth.”



In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.



As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.



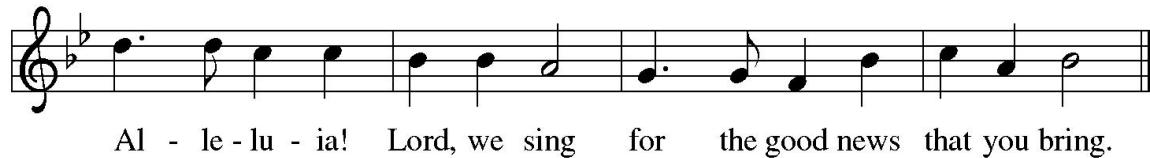
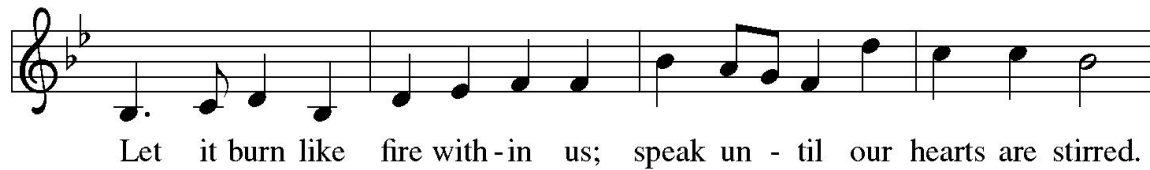
When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



*P: Word of God. Word of life.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation







# Gospel

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

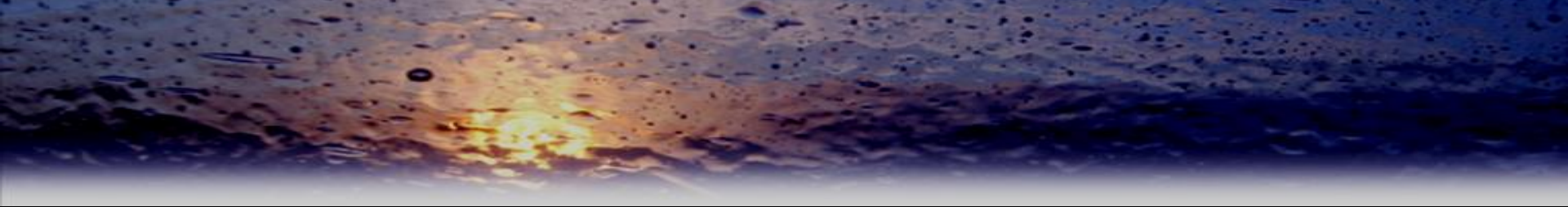
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**



[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.



Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.



Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

*P: The Gospel of our Lord*

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



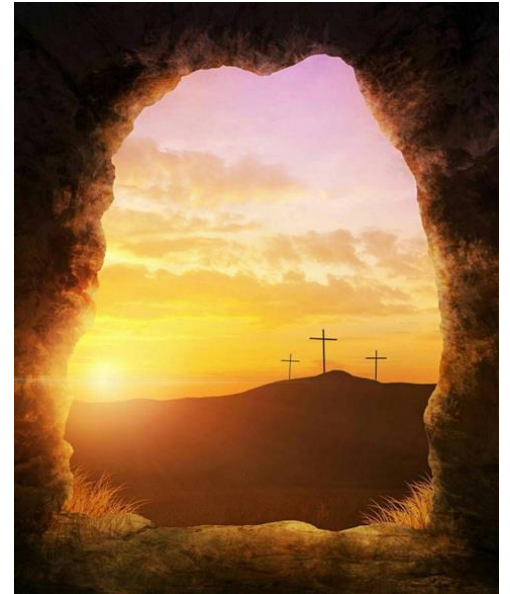
**Message**

**Pastor  
Christine Wenzel**

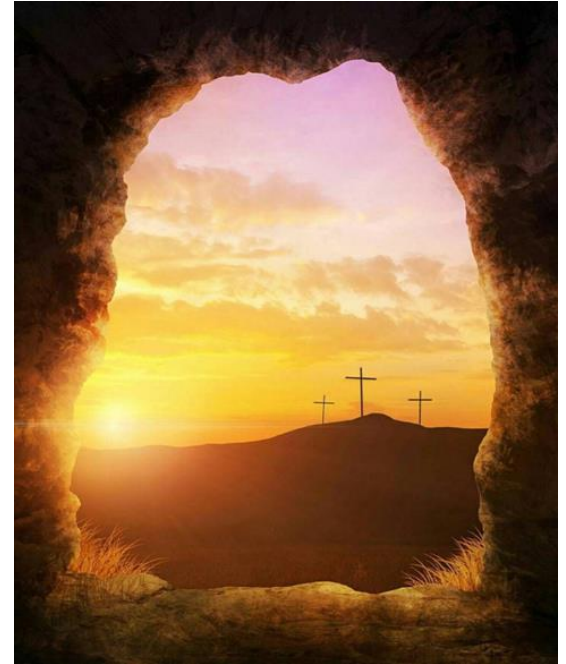
# **We Know That Christ is Raised**

**ELW #449**

**We know that Christ is raised  
And dies no more.  
Embraced by death,  
He broke its fearful hold,  
And our despair  
He turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!**

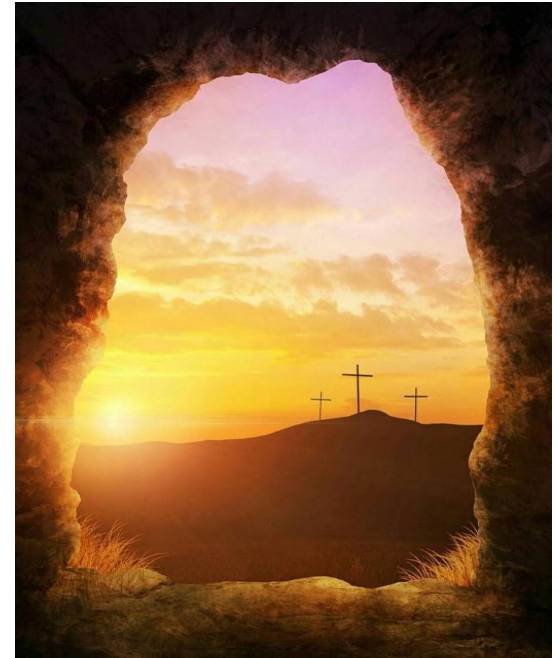


**We share by water  
In his saving death.  
Reborn, we share  
With him an Easter life,  
As living members  
Of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!**

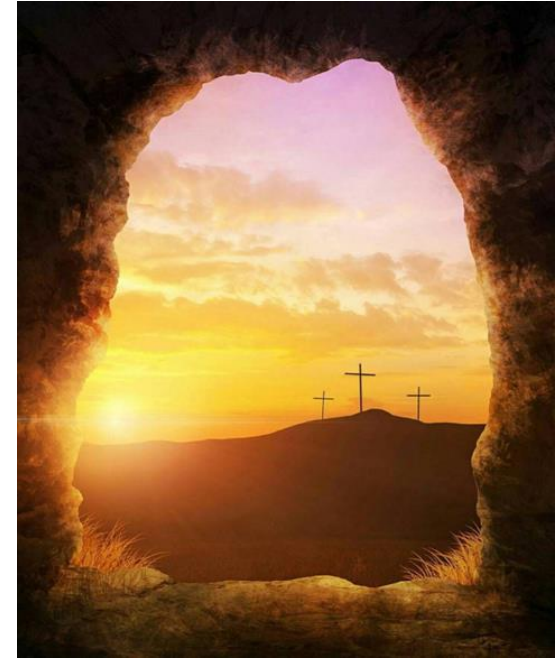




**The Father's splendor  
Clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission  
Shakes the Church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God  
The Three in One.  
Hallelujah!**



**A new creation comes  
To life and grows  
As Christ's new body  
Takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored  
And whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!**



# Prayers

A serene landscape featuring a calm lake that perfectly reflects the surrounding environment. In the background, misty mountains rise, their peaks softened by a light haze. The shoreline is lined with a dense forest of evergreen trees. The overall color palette is a mix of soft blues, greens, and greys, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere.

*P: Lord in your mercy,*

**C: Hear our prayer.**

# Offering

*“Foundation of Grace”*

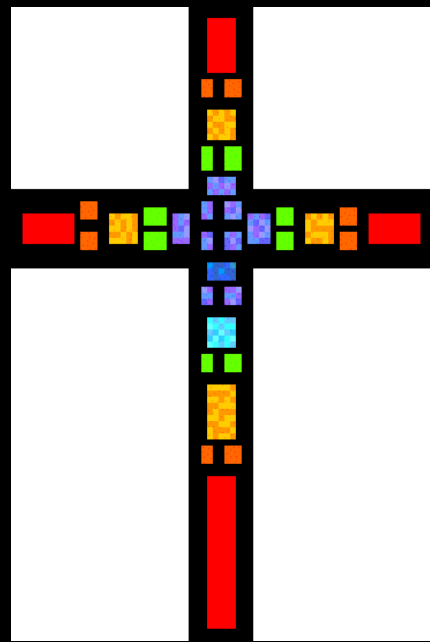
Jubilation Ringers



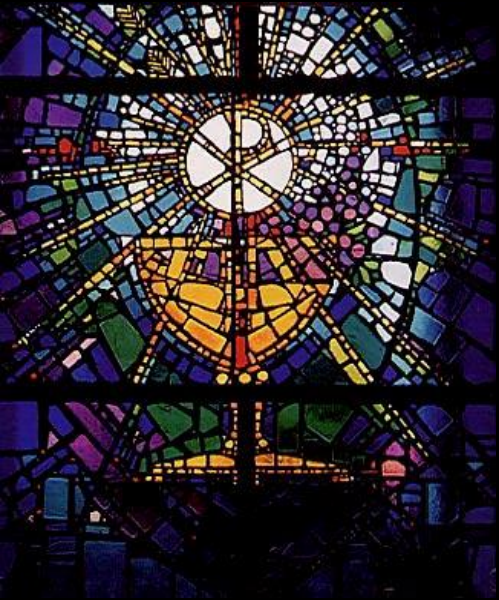
# Create In Me A Clean Heart

ELW # 186

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**



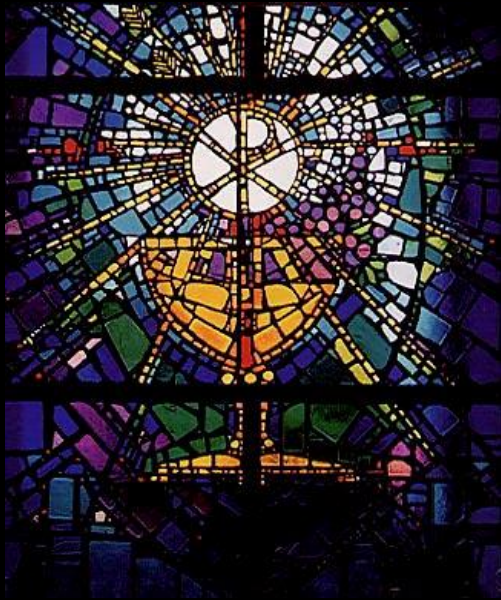
# Words of Institution



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples to eat, saying: “This is my body given for you.

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

# Words of Institution



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 many for the forgiveness of sin.

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

# The Lord's Prayer

**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.**





# Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

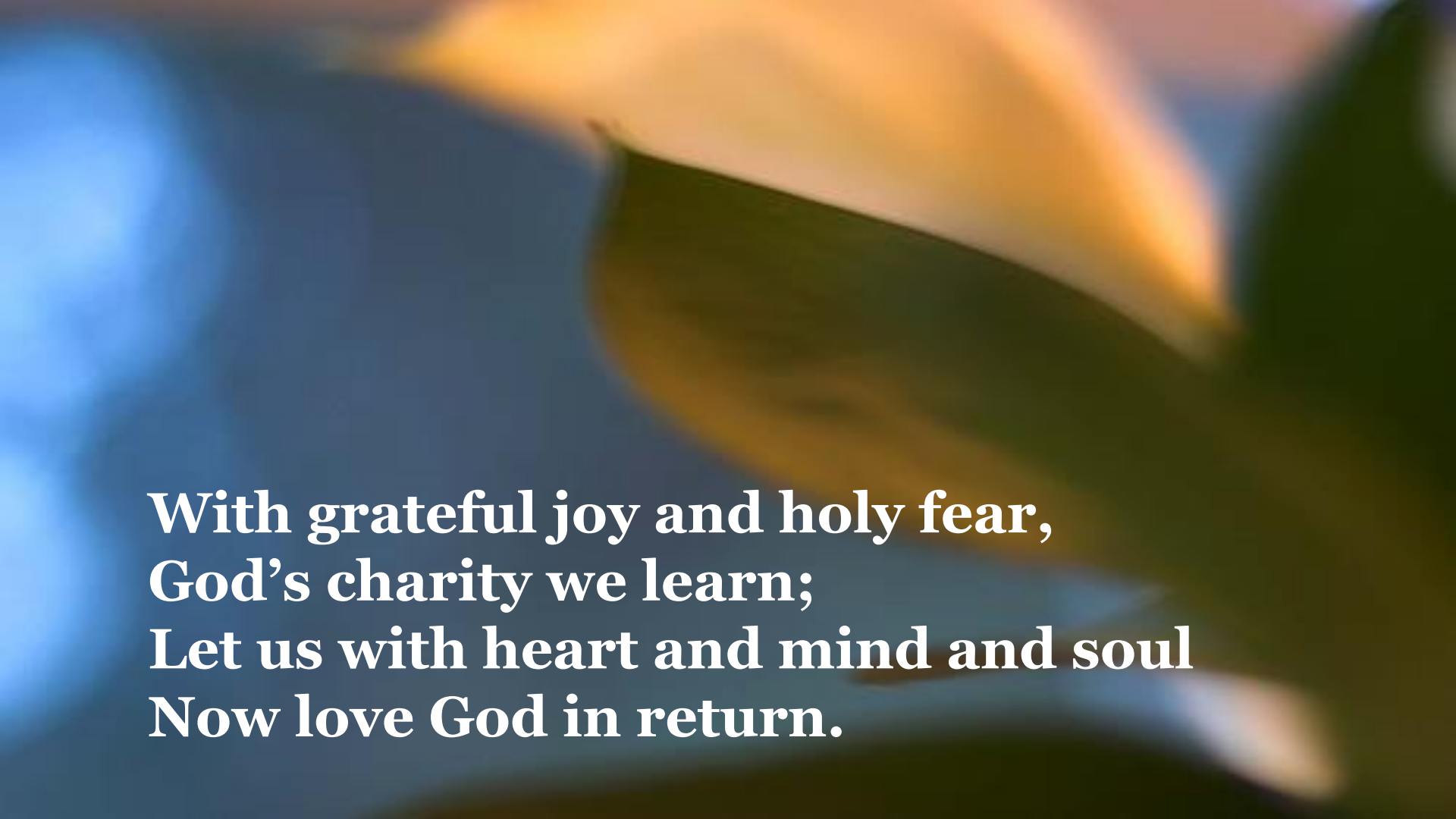


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

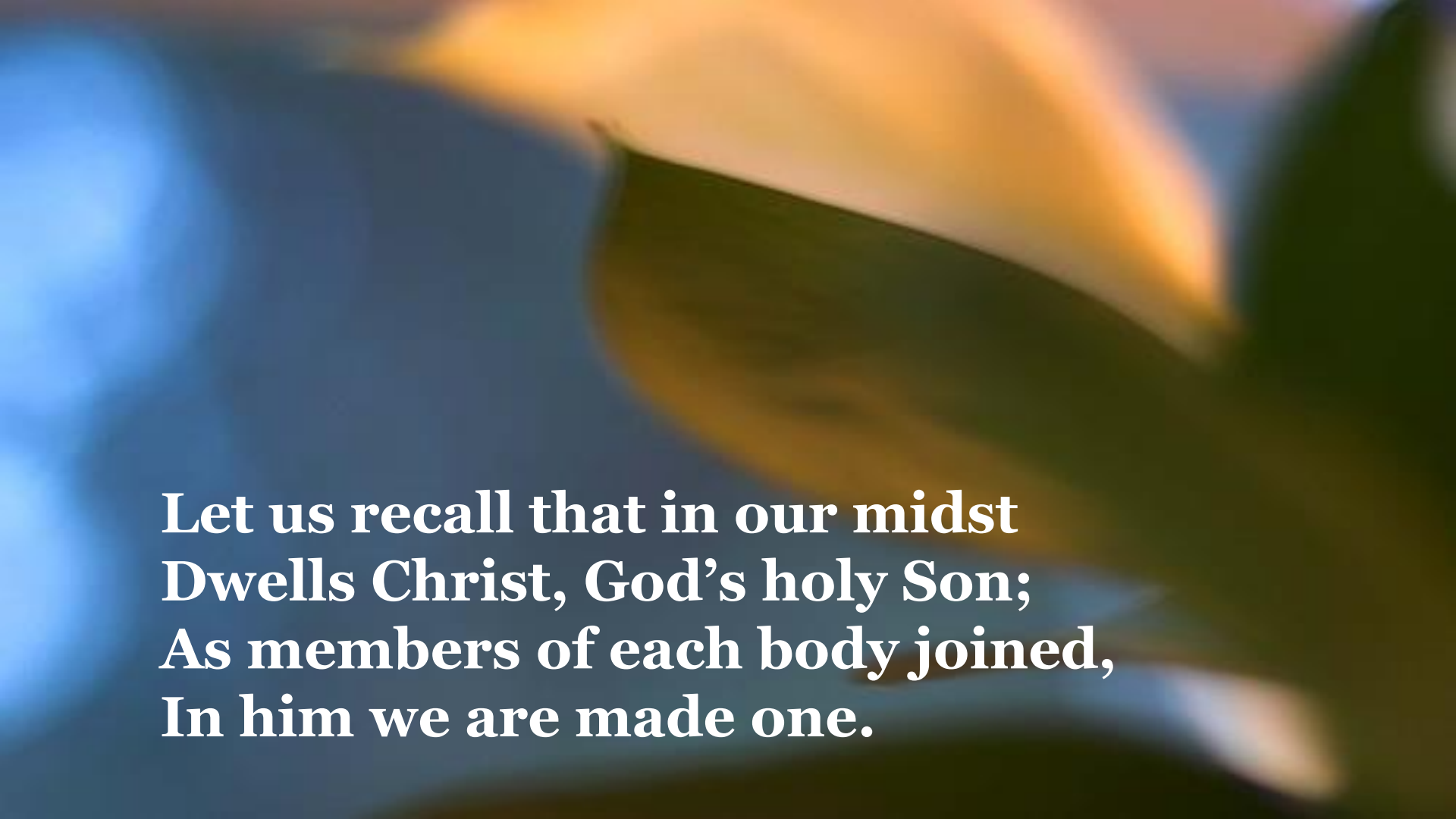
# Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW #359

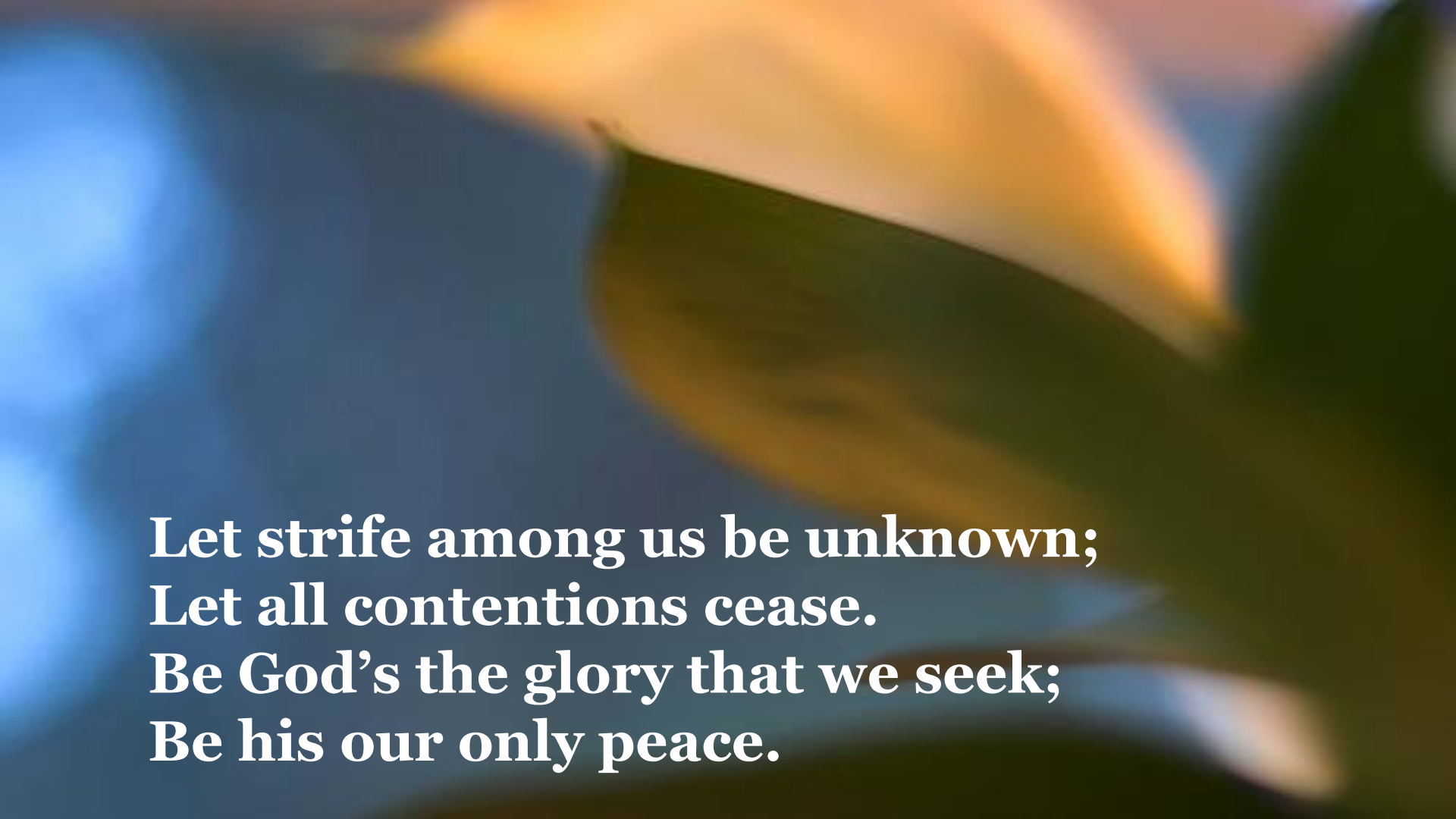
Where charity and love prevail,  
There God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love,  
By love we thus are bound.




**With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul  
Now love God in return.**



**Let us recall that in our midst  
Dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
As members of each body joined,  
In him we are made one.**



**Let strife among us be unknown;  
Let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
Be his our only peace.**



**Let us forgive each other's faults  
As we our own confess,  
That we may love each other well  
In Christian gentleness.**

# Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

# Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW #207



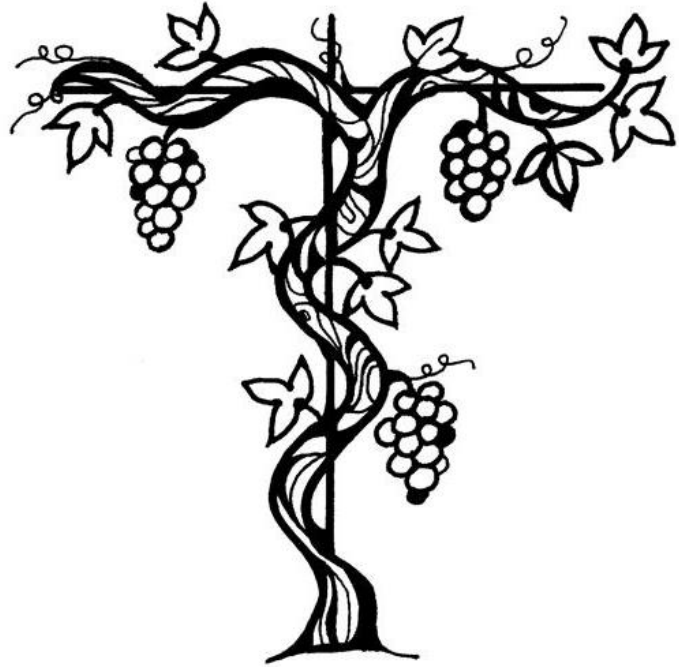
**Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
Tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev-ryone who seeks the Lord  
Rejoice and bear the name of Christ.**





**Send us with your promises  
And lead your people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

# Community of the Cross Lutheran Church



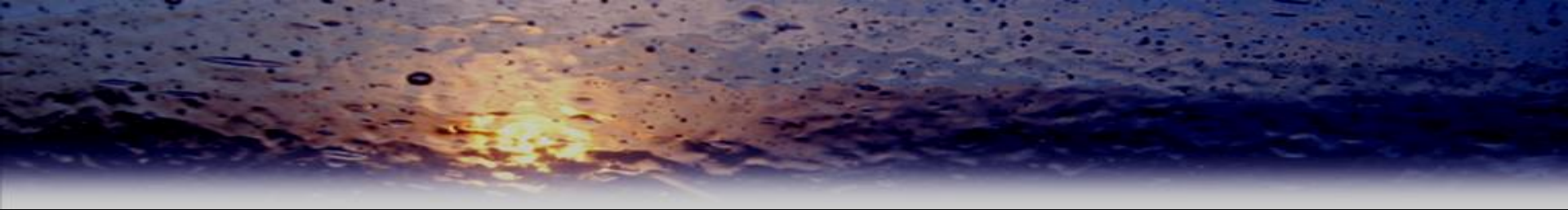
**Thanksgiving at the conclusion  
of a call for  
Pastor Christine**

**Aaron Van Hout,  
Council President**

# Thanksgiving at the end of a call for Pastor Christine

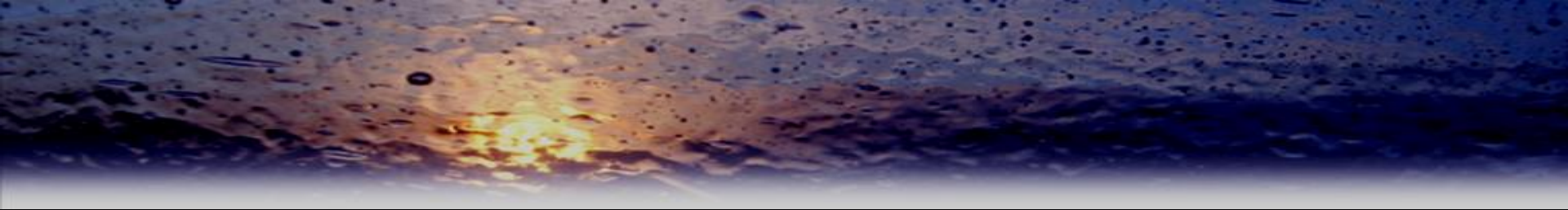
*Aaron: People of God, members of Community of the Cross Church, do you release Pastor Christine from service as your pastor?*

**C: We do, and give thanks to God for our ministry together.**



*Aaron: Pastor Christine, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Community of the Cross Church?*

**Christine: I do, and give thanks to God for our ministry together.**



*P: The lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# **Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death**

**ELW# 452**



**Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
And Christ shall give you light;  
So learn his love, its length and breadth,  
Its fullness, depth, and height.**



**To us on earth he came to bring  
From sin and fear release,  
To give the Spirit's unity,  
The very bond of peace.**



**There is one body and one hope,  
One Spirit and one call,  
One Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
One God who made us all.**



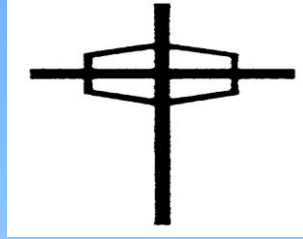


**Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
Who died that he might save;  
With kind and gentle hearts forgive  
As God in Christ forgave.**



**For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
And conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
And Christ shall give you life.**

# *Touching Lives*



*with the*

# *Love of God*

*P: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# Postlude

*“Gloria”*

*(from the First Mass in B flat)*

Marsha Gullickson

