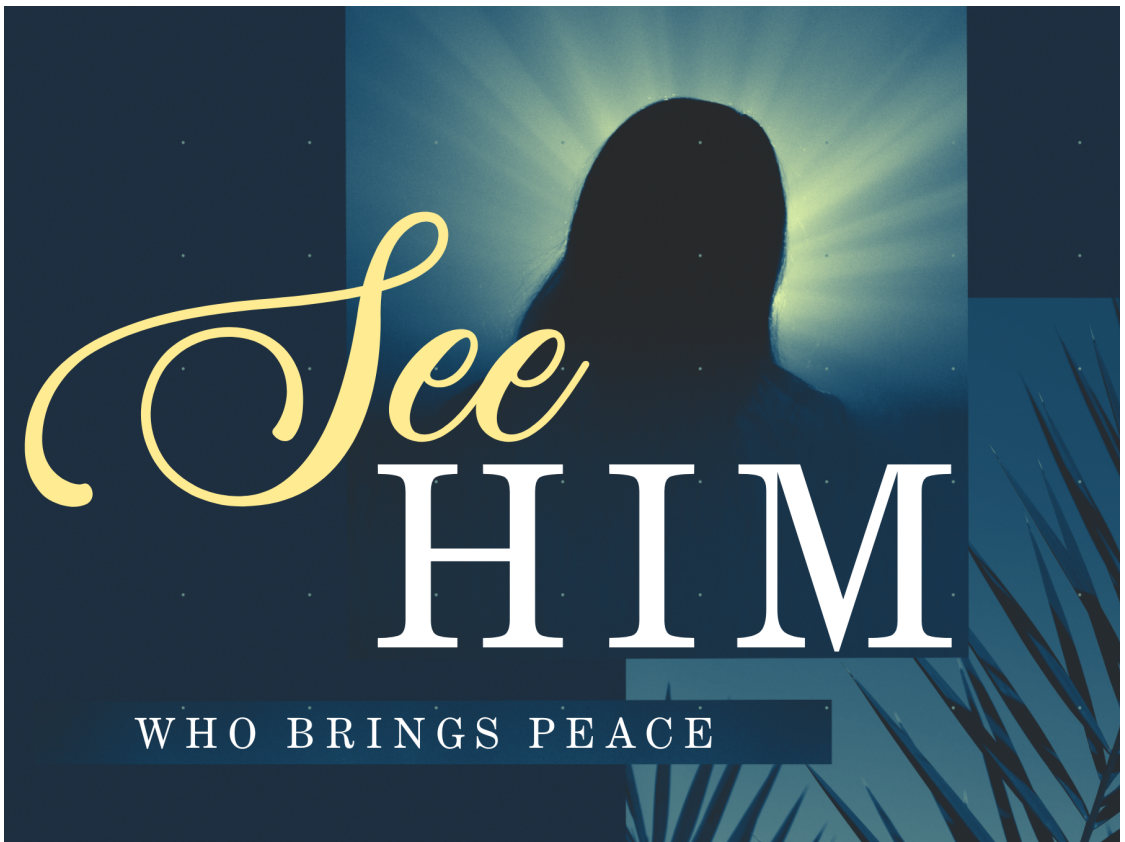


RIVER OF LIFE



7 APRIL 2024



RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN | refreshing truth for all people

725 S. Estrella Pkwy (Suite 120) Goodyear, Arizona 85338

The Second Sunday of Easter

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht (623) 312.8650 pastor.lincoln.albrecht@gmail.com

WELCOME TO RIVER OF LIFE

Thank you for joining us this morning. In our worship service, God's children—you & I—gather together before God to be strengthened through God's Word. In response to God's message of love to us, we offer God our worship and praise.

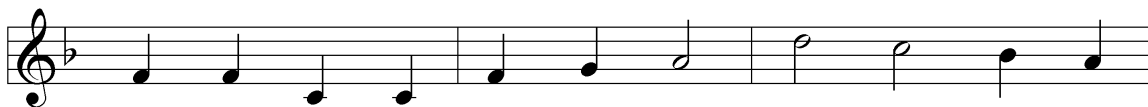
The worship folder you're holding has the entire Order of Service. If you have questions, feel free to ask one of our ushers or anyone near you. The unfamiliar can be intimidating—let us help you. We want you to be comfortable & comforted here.

Restrooms are located in the front corner for your convenience.

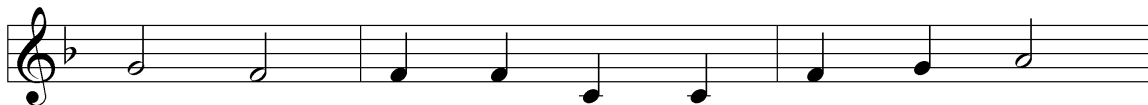
God wants everyone to worship together. We recognize that public worship is a learning process for children. Parents, if you feel like you need a moment, there is a room in the back of the worship area where you can see, hear, and participate in worship without being heard.

OUR FOCUS FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

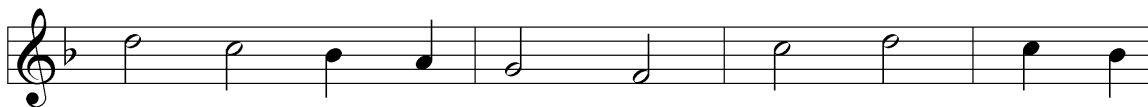
Peace. What does this word mean to you? Does your mind race to international affairs or domestic issues? Do you think of smoothing over things at the office or handling matters at home? Sometimes a word can be so full of meaning and ideas that we can not adequately define it. In our Gospel text, Jesus graciously speaks to his friends. They have been his disciples (learning followers). Soon they will be his apostles (commissioned administrators). They will share peace with everyone they meet. But before they can do that they have to have peace for themselves. This is what Jesus provides. Peace which the world cannot forge for themselves. Peace that passes all understanding. This is Jesus' proprietary peace—there's nothing like it in the rest of the world. This is the peace he won for us all. **Peace be to you!**

OPENING HYMN*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* | **142**

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant
 2 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is
 3 But to - day a - mong his own Christ ap - peared, be -



glad - ness! God has brought his Is - ra - el
 fly - ing From his light, to whom we give
 stow - ing Bless - ed peace, which ev - er - more



In - to joy from sad - ness. See the spring of
 Laud and praise un - dy - ing. Nei - ther could the
 Pass - es hu - man know - ing. Come, you faith - ful,



souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on And from
 gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal Nor the
 raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness! God has



three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en.
 watch - ers nor the seal Hold him as a mor - tal.
 brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness.

The Gathering ¹

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

M: Dear friends in Christ, today we come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Let us draw near to him in worship and in praise, in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Upon Calvary's hill, the cross is vacant. Morning light breaks upon the empty tomb. As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

P: Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Upon this your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life. The Lord is gracious and righteous!

P: When I was in great need, he saved me.

M: The Lord is my strength and my song;

P: He has become my salvation.

¹ Today's Gathering dialogue is based on the words of Psalm 16 and Psalm 116.

M: Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

P: Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

M: I keep my eyes always on the Lord. I will not be shaken.

P: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

M: You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your Faithful One see decay.

P: My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices. My body also will rest secure,

M: You make known to me the path of life;

P: You will fill me with joy in your presence.

M: I will praise the Lord, who counsels me.

SONG OF PRAISE

The Day of Resurrection | 166



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil That we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful; Let earth her song be - gin.



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,
And, lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord has ris - en; Our joy shall have no end.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

The Word

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 1

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus encouraged the little ones to come to him. During this portion of the worship service, the children are invited forward to learn a truth tailored for them.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 20:29

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

SONG OF PRAISE


Christ the Lord Is Risen Today | **150 (1)**



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!



see the place where he was laid; Al - le - lu - ia!



praise him for the ran - som paid. Al - le - lu - ia!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 18

18 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴ Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶ But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

⁷ Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹ So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

GOSPEL READING

John 20

M: The Gospel according to John chapter twenty:

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

M: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord.

P: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.
 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
 5 Christ has a - ris - en; he sets us free.



Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
 Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.
 He has a - ris - en this world to save.
 Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
 He who gives life did death un - der - go.
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.
 Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done.
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
 And in its con - quest his might did show.
 On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
 E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
 He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

Our Response to God's Word

M: In Christ, you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

P: We believe in Christ and trust in the truth he has revealed to us in his Word.

M: Living and serving together in trust and hope, we confess our common faith.

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

THANK OFFERING



God's people respond with thankful hearts. The people of River of Life have joined to offer God the first-fruits of all he has given us. Our offerings support God's work in this community and the world. If you are a visitor with us, thank you for joining us today. Please do not feel obligated to support our ministry, but we ask that you do take time to fill out a digital connect card (azriveroflife.com/connect) so we can thank you for joining us. Thank you & God bless you!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God Almighty, you are the source of all authority, all truth, and all power. In your power, you raised Jesus to life. In your love, you raise us, who were dead in our transgressions by nature, to a new life in the Spirit.

P: It is not by our own power or godliness that we walk in truth. We praise and thank you for strengthening and directing us on paths of righteousness.

M: It is not by our own thinking or choosing that we believe in what we have not seen. We praise and thank you for working faith in our hearts.

P: We believe in what we have not seen only because of your rich blessings.

M: We believe in Christ because God himself has powerfully worked faith in our hearts. We thank and praise you for your means of grace—your holy Word and your gracious sacraments.

P: In our Baptisms, you cleansed us from all our sins and claimed us as your own children. Thank you for this gracious adoption.

M: In the Supper, you nourish our faith and whet our appetite for heaven's feast. Hear our prayers now for our fellow believers. Bind us together by your love.

— A time for silent, personal prayers on behalf of our fellow believers. —

M: We pray as our Risen Lord taught his disciples:

P: 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of Preparation: Lord God, Heavenly Father, You called me by name and declared that I was Your child through the washing of my Baptism. I desire, now, to receive the true body and blood of my Savior, Jesus Christ, in this Holy Meal. Continue to grant me grace, that I may stand before You and the body of believers and faithfully speak of the hope that is mine through Your life, death, and resurrection. Strengthen me. Grant me the forgiveness of sins and the ability to do that which pleases you; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

M: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

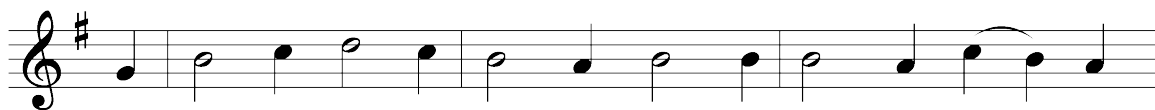
P: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

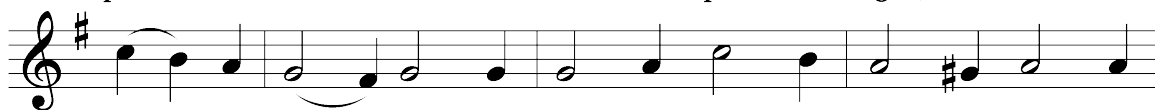
Rejoice, Angelic Choirs, Rejoice | 957 (1-2)



1 Re - joice, an - gel - ic choirs, re - joice! Re - joice now, all cre -
2 O earth, ex - ult in ra - diance bright, il - lu - mined by Christ's



a - tion! Let trum - pets loud - ly raise their voice to hail the
splen - dor! Your dark - ness now is put to flight; to him due



Lord's sal - va - tion. Let all Christ's ho - ly priest-hood sing the
prais - es ren - der! Be glad, O Church! Sing out your songs! Your



tri - umph of their might - y King in fes - tive cel - e - bra - tion!
tem - ples fill with shout - ing throngs to hail the glo - rious vic - tor!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

P: Amen.

HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 141 (1-2)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing
You have con - quered in the fight; You have



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!

DISTRIBUTION



At River of Life, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread & wine, we miraculously receive the real body & blood of Christ for the full forgiveness of sins. Scripture directs believers in preparation and reception: **"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."** (1 Cor. 11:29)

This meal is also an expression of unity with one another: **"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf."** (1 Cor. 10:17) Therefore we ask that if you are not familiar with our teachings, please speak with Pastor Albrecht before taking the Lord's Supper. Thank you.

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv-en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you.

Last time

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock: you know the Shep - herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride - groom, this my wed - ding song.

To Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

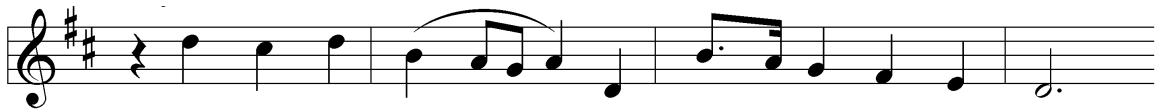
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

This Is the Feast of Victory | 265 (1)



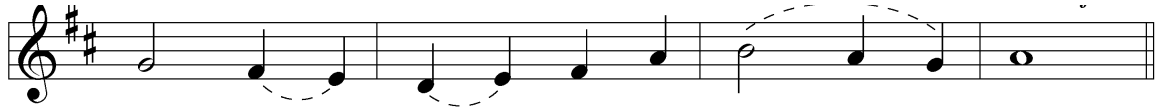
This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



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

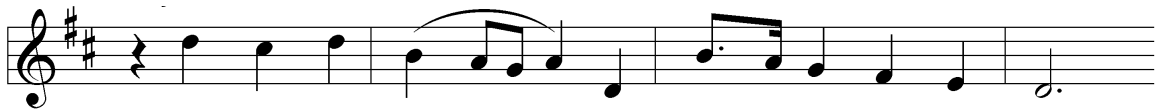
BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

P: Amen.

SONG OF DEPARTURE

This Is the Feast of Victory | **265 (4-5)**



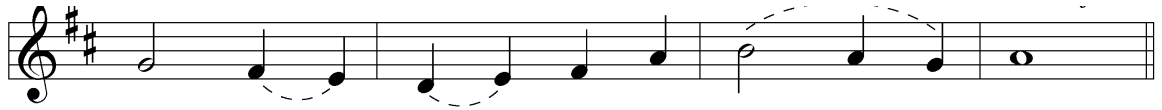
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



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



4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



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



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING

We recognize how busy this world and your life can be. Thank you for setting aside a Sunday morning to be with us in God's house. Stick around for a bite to eat and a refreshing drink. One of life's greatest pleasures is meeting new people and growing lasting relationships. We'd love to get to know you better.

INTERESTED IN JOINING RIVER OF LIFE?

Would you like to learn what the Lutheran church believes and teaches? Are you interested in joining our church, or going through a refresher class? We would love to meet with you and study God's Word. Speak with Pastor Albrecht after worship and let him know that you'd be interested in this study.

RIVER KIDS

APRIL 13TH (10AM)

Do you have little ones at home? Are you looking for encouragement and friendship? Would you like a fun place for your kids to learn new skills—all outside your home? Join us on April 13th for River Kids! It's a morning filled with arts, crafts, and learning tasks for kids ages 6 months & up. Gather together with other caregivers and enjoy adult conversation while your little ones learn and play!

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Hymn #142 **Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain** Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, adapt.

Hymn #166 **The Day of Resurrection** Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Hymn #166 **Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia** Text: Latin sequence, 11th century, abr.; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1809-81, alt.

Hymn #719 **Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia** ext: tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922-2010; Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938 Tune: Tanzanian Text: © 1968 Makumira University College, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress (Translation). Tune: Public domain

Hymn #741 **Take and Eat** Text (refrain): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Text (verses): James Quinn, S. J., b. 1919 © James Quinn, S. J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

Hymn #265 **This Is the Feast of Victory** Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

RIVER OF LIFE

Certainty & Hope In The Coming Days

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- Apr. 7** (10:30 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Adam & Eve**
- Apr. 11** (10:00 am) River Kids: Spring
- Apr. 14** (9:00 am) Worship: **See Him: Who Is Your Advocate**
- Apr. 14** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Noah**
- Apr. 18** (5:00 pm) Church Council
- Apr. 21** (9:00 am) Worship (with Lord's Supper): **See Him: Who Is Your Good Shepherd**
- Apr. 21** (10:20 am) Family Bible Study: **Blessed be the Name: Cain & Abel**
- Apr. 28** (9:00 am) Worship: **See Him: Who Makes You Fruitful**

CONNECTING WITH RIVER OF LIFE

Videos of recent worship services and audio recordings of weekly sermons are available online. Check out our website or our Facebook page.

AZRiverOfLife.com facebook.com/AZRiverOfLife

refreshing truth for you