

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 11, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Thankful Heart Rejoices* *Arranger Lani Smith*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **C: Amen.**

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

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. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. 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.**

***OPENING HYMN** *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!* *ELW # 315*

***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.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Glory to God

ELW # S204a



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 50:1-6 (*read responsively*)

¹The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For

we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord. *C:* **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW # S 205a



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel: Mark 9:2-9**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

- 1 Dazzling presence on the mountain:
human eye had never seen
such a wonder, such resplendence,
heav'n and earth in cloud convene.
"This is my Son, the beloved,"
thund'rous voice from cloud exclaimed.
Word made flesh to heal creation,
to disciples God proclaimed.

- 2 From this mount of mystic splendor
to the cross Christ presses on;
here no Moses nor Elijah,
only thieves Christ's wings adorn.
"Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,"
was one's penitential sigh.
With transfiguring assurance,
Christ rejoins his fervent cry.

- 3 From the heights of new creation,
Christ beholds his world, redeemed;
as with Peter and companions,
brings us now to sights unseen.
Justice, mercy, and compassion:
these the booths he bids us build,
that the earth he loves may flourish
as each life with grace is filled.

- 4 Let our praise ring from each mountain,
into deepest valleys pour,
where, with lives of grateful service,
we adore Christ evermore.
To the Son, God's own beloved,
and the Spirit endlessly,
may the church's praise be lifted
to the blessed Trinity.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace, **C: receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting
that is comfortable for both you and them.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

A: Let us pray... Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **C: Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUSHoly, Holy, Holy Lord*

ELW # S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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 AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God

ELW # S208



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.

***INVITATION**

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

COMMUNION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW # 488

***BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray... Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **C: Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Arranger Lani Smith

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 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
 that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my niece, Sandy Johnson, given by the Mary Nelson Family.

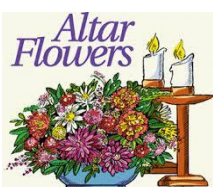
Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
 Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
 Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree
 Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings
 Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka
 Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck
 Our Sexton – Phil Claar
 Our Assisting Minister – Mike Lamborn
 Our Lector – Greg Haffling
 Our Acolytes – Ben Decker, Gavin Kuster, Norah Kuster
 Our Usher – Martie Gilbert
 Our Altar Guild – Elaine Buchart, Tina Harclerode
 Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
 Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”



Annual Giving Statements for 2023 are available in the Narthex. Those not picked up will be mailed.



The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. There are still many Sundays available. Price-\$40.00.

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Tues. 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Worship & Music Meeting, via Zoom. 6:00 pm

Tuesday – Council Meeting, WR/Zoom 6:30 pm

Wednesday – Ash Wednesday
12:00 pm Spoken Liturgy only
7:00 pm Worship in Sanctuary (No Meal)

Thursday – Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 am

Sunday – Scout Sunday
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, LJ Gilbert, Martie Gilbert, Brenda Harley & Family, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Alex Klotz, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Doug Smith, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Office Closure During Inclement Weather

On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Salem United Church of Christ, along with the regular volunteers, will be assisting with distribution of food on Thursday, February 15, from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m.



The items most needed are: Beverages, Pasta Sides, Ravioli, Kidney Beans, and Paper Towels.

Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Ron Carnell, Sarah Detwiler, Lottie Ebersole, Gloria Guyer, Connie Lamborn, Peggy Steinfurth and Audrey Stern!

Also, appreciated were the monetary gifts from St. Matthew members!

Linda Smith

Ash Wednesday—February 14

Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes is scheduled for 12 Noon (spoken liturgy only) and 7PM (full liturgy with music). Homebound members can make arrangements to receive ashes on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday by calling Pastor Traci (814-935-9267).

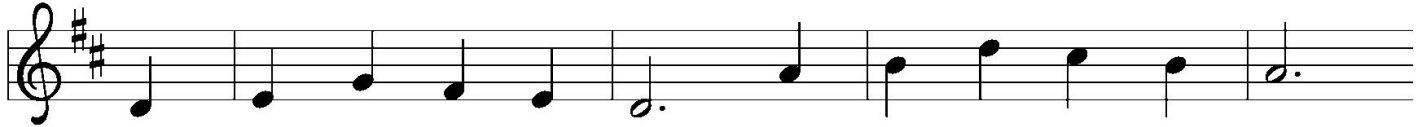
Lent of Love

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and worship on the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Dinner is at 6:15PM & Evening Prayer is at 7PM. Each worship service will focus on a biblical story about different aspects of love.

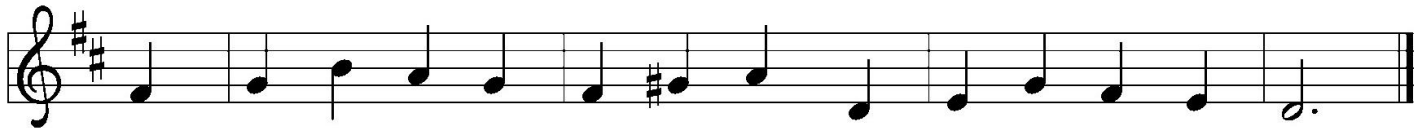
2024 Young at Heart Luncheon

Social Ministry & Fellowship Committees will host a Young at Heart Luncheon which is being planned for July 16, 2024 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Main course will be ham loaf. We will require an RSVP and more details will be announced.





1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

- 1 Dazzling presence on the mountain:
human eye had never seen
such a wonder, such resplendence,
heav'n and earth in cloud convene.
"This is my Son, the beloved,"
thund'rous voice from cloud exclaimed.
Word made flesh to heal creation,
to disciples God proclaimed.
- 2 From this mount of mystic splendor
to the cross Christ presses on;
here no Moses nor Elijah,
only thieves Christ's wings adorn.
"Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,"
was one's penitential sigh.
With transfiguring assurance,
Christ rejoins his fervent cry.
- 3 From the heights of new creation,
Christ beholds his world, redeemed;
as with Peter and companions,
brings us now to sights unseen.
Justice, mercy, and compassion:
these the booths he bids us build,
that the earth he loves may flourish
as each life with grace is filled.
- 4 Let our praise ring from each mountain,
into deepest valleys pour,
where, with lives of grateful service,
we adore Christ evermore.
To the Son, God's own beloved,
and the Spirit endlessly,
may the church's praise be lifted
to the blessed Trinity.



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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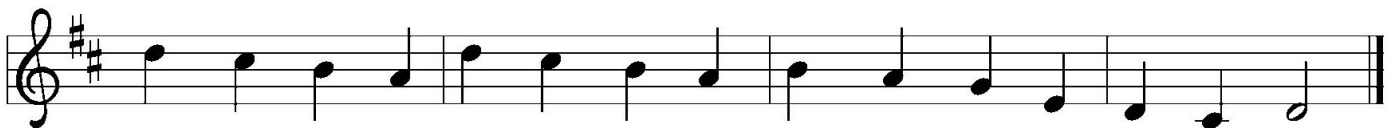
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1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880