The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



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!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. *C*: Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. *C*: **Amen.**

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

*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.





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, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (*read responsively*)

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

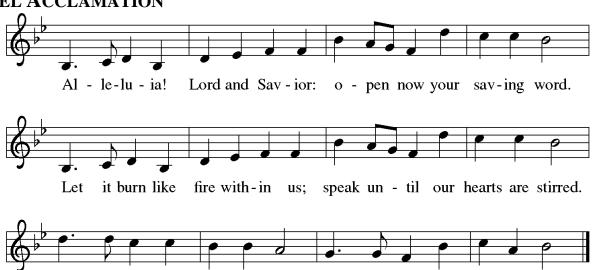
⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



for

the good news that you bring.

*Gospel: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing

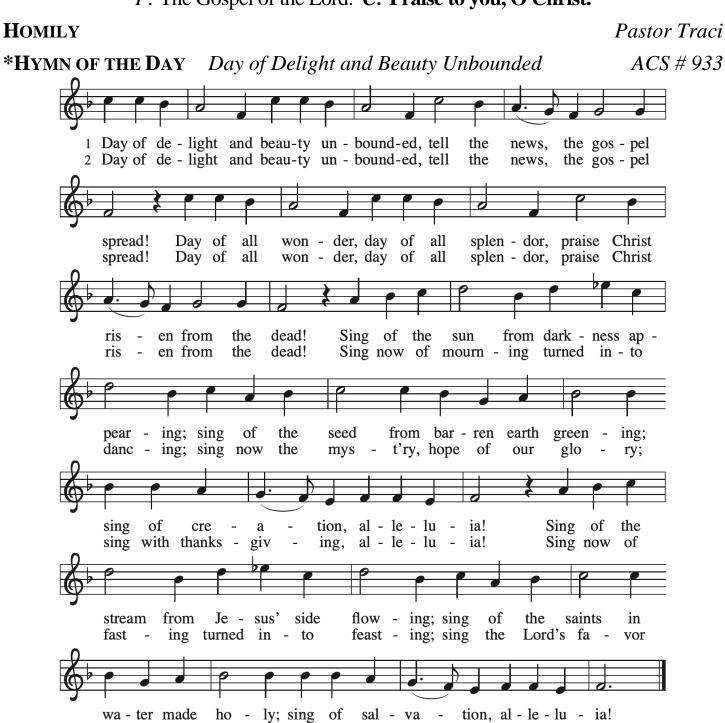
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv

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ing, al - le - lu - ia!

*NICENE CREED

- P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
- A: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- A: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

- A: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick. Hear us, O God.
 - C: Your mercy is great.
- A: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God. *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.
- P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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 ... Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. 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.

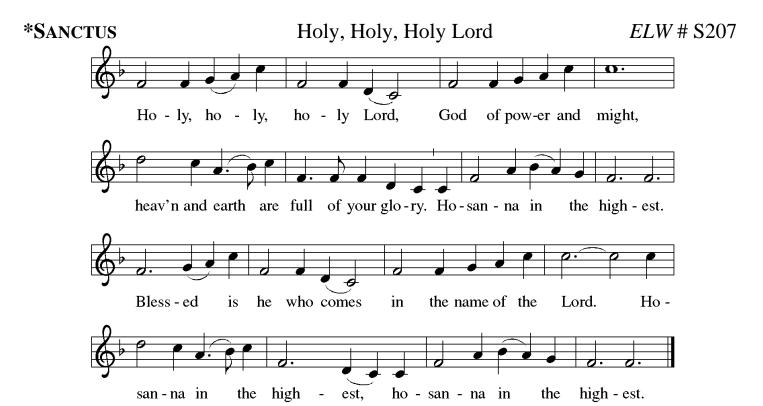
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.



*INVITATION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION HYMN Soul, Adown 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: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P: The God of all, who raised \pm Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. C: Amen.

*SENDING SONG

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

ELW # 366

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in memory of our mother, Mary McConahy, on her heavenly birthday from Jane Fagans and Gloria Guyer.

Council Secretary is needed for Council meetings. Council meets via Zoom or in the Window Room once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please consider filling this position that is required in our Constitution and By Laws.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Organist - Mary Nelson

Our Missionary Family – On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Acolyte – Lily Lightner

Our Assisting Minister – Martie Gilbert

Our Lector – Greg Haffling

Our Usher – Melissa Fetzer

Our Altar Guild – Elaine Buchart, Janet Stewart

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping"

Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursday, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Those helping on that day will be from the Martinsburg Church of God besides the regular volunteers.

Following are items most needed for May: Scalloped Potatoes, Macaroni, Tomato Sauce, Fruit and Cleaning Supplies. *Linda K. Smith*

Church Messenger

The May 2023 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Laura/Volunteers – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.

Social Ministry Meeting, via Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Council Meeting, Window Room 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – *Happy Mother's Day*

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall in use if raining 12:00 p.m.

Email Address: In January 2023 we stopped using stmatthewluth@aol.com as our email address. Please delete that from your email contact list and start using our NEW email address: **stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com**.

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

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, David and Sally Balmforth, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Doris Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Hunter Klotz, Darren Kreutzer, Dave & Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Dan & Jean Sinal, Cindy Thomas, Lori Tremmel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings.

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

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

Third Century Fund (Endowment Fund)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2022 and as a result has \$6,056.37 for distribution in 2023. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting one of the committee members: Beth Garner, Allen Kuster, Laura Orczeck, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 28, 2023. Funds will be distributed in June 2023.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as, Cash, Securities, Bequests through wills or living trusts, Life insurance policies, charitable gift annuity and Life estates.

The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements.

Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines.

- 1. Youth of all ages scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs and education.
- 2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members and the ELCA.
- 3. Worship and Music support for the worship of St, Matthew.
- 4. Capital Projects major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia



4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: Mfukahini, Haleluya, Tanzanian traditional Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress



- 1 Soul, a dorn your self with glad ness, leave the gloom - y bride to meet him, ea 2 Has - ten and as a ger ly
- 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der this sur -0 ver
- 4 Je sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru est friend, and



the day - light's splen - dor, haunts of sad - ness, come - to in knock - ing; glad - ly greet him. There stands read - y he al pass - ing won - der that the bread of life bound - less 18 dear - est trea - sure, be - yond all un - der stand - ing, peace



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



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



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

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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- 1 The strife is o'er, the bat tle done; now is the vic tor's
- 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je sus their le gions
- 3 The three sad days have quick ly sped, Christ ris es glo rious
- 4 Christ closed the yawn ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. has dis-persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

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

Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889