# The Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday after the Ascension May 12, 2024

at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

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



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRELUDE**

## \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, 

  → one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. C: Amen.
- *P*: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

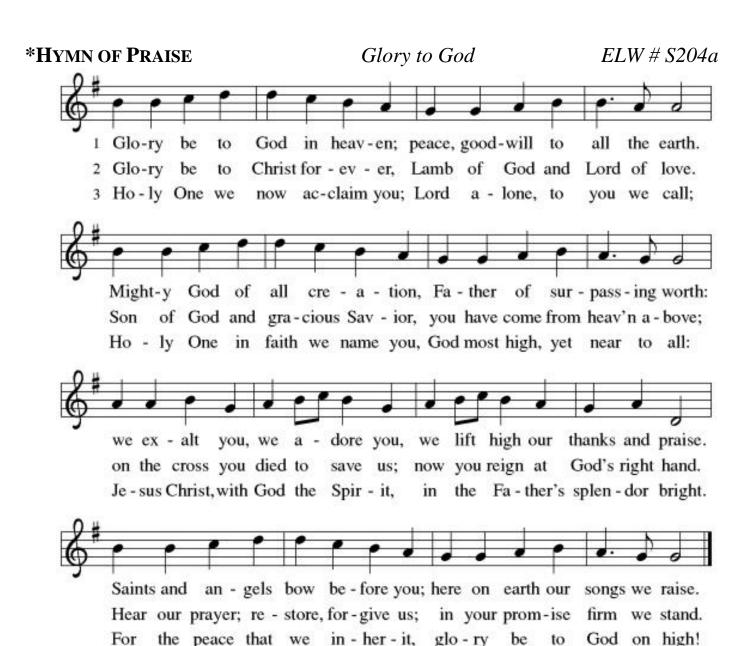
\*OPENING HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide

ELW # 391

## \*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.



#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray* ...Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *C:* Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

## PSALM 47 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup>For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

<sup>4</sup>who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

<sup>6</sup>Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup>God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high. <sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

HOMILY Pastor Traci

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

ELW # 793

## \*NICENE CREED

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

C: 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 THE CHURCH

- A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.
- A: We pray for the church and all ministers of the gospel, that the Spirit will empower them to be your witnesses throughout the earth. Keep all teachers and missionaries under your care and guide them as they proclaim your word to the world. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: For the well-being of creation and for all your creatures: for zoos, nature preserves, and conservation organizations, for endangered species, and for those who work to protect all that you have made. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: For the nations and those who govern: for all countries, regions, and people in crisis or at war. Bring your peace on earth, in our homes, and in our hearts. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: For all in any need: for exiles, refugees, and those fleeing war and poverty, for those who suffer from individual and institutionalized racism. For those who grieve, and for those near death. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: For this congregation and for its concerns: for visitors, for those who are absent, for those in prison, for the homebound, and for those who travel. Enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- A: In thanksgiving for all the faithful departed who now rest in you. Following the example of all those who have died in the faith, strengthen us to share your good news in the world. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.
- P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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... Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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.

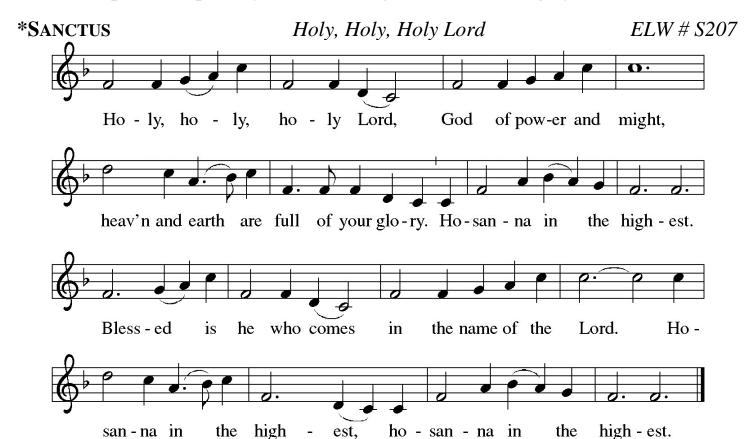
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest.

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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

## C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

## C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

- *P*: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
- C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

**COMMUNION HYMN** 

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

ELW # 470

## \*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... Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. C: Amen.

## \*BENEDICTION

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

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope 

→ bless you now and always. C: Amen.

\*SENDING SONG

Let All Things Now Living

ELW # 881

## \*DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## \*POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 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 in honor of Ruth Marshall from Jean Sinal.

## 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 – Martie Gilbert

Our Lector – Carla Brumbaugh

Our Acolyte – Gavin Kuster

Our Usher – Ed Kreider

Our Altar Guild – Jackie Lightner, Janet Stewart

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Second Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Youth & Camping"

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

\*Pastor Traci – Continuing ed in Pittsburgh May 13-16.

May be reached at 814-935-9267 for emergencies.

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

## **This Week Events**

**Today** – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., In Person and Zoom

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall in Use 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday – Breaking Bread Free Community Meal 5:00-6:00 p.m.,

Martinsburg Church of God

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

Saturday – Prom at the Lutheran Home 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hollidaysburg

Sunday – Day of Pentecost

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., In Person and Zoom

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation and Graduate Recognition Light refreshments served after worship.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Ginny Sell.

Prayer Concerns: Dawn Alexy, Amy & Family, Avery, Virginia Barnes, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Tana Byler, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Audrey Kensinger, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Bill 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), Dorothy Stahl, Peggy Steinfurth, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Emily 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).



## Affirmation of Baptism -Confirmation-

Max Baker + Jay Hoenstine + Camden Kuster

Pentecost Sunday May 19th, 2024 at 10:30AM Reception to Follow

## **Martinsburg Food Pantry**



The Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on Thursday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. It will be open other times by appointment.



Those helping in May will be those 3 or 4 helpers from the Martinsburg Church of God in addition to the regular helpers.

## Following are items most needed for May:

Beverages, Canned Fruit, Ravioli, Hamburger Helper, and Cleaning Products.

Many thanks for donations of food, paper items, and recent donations of \$785.00 from members!

Linda Smith



The 2024 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. The following dates are available: 5/26, 7/21, 7/28, 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 12/1. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00. If you would like a

Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.

## **Church Messenger**

The May 2024 *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.

St. Matthew Seniors
Are Invited To
A Young at Heart Luncheon

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, et 12:00

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 12:00 PM

Held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall 115 East Penn Street Martinsburg, PA

Please RSVP to the Church Office (814-793-2413) by July 8



The adult Sunday School class will be holding class both in person and on Zoom for the next few weeks.

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Meeting ID: 814 793 2413 Passcode: 16662



Favorite clothing in need of repair?
Give it another chance!

Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our experienced sewers. Lunch, materials, & expertise provided. Everyone Welcome!

LUNCH & SIMPLE MENDING JOIN US FOR BOTH OR EITHER

St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall 115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot) Wednesday, May 22 from 11AM--1PM



## THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund had a good earnings year in 2023 and as a result has \$6,072.30 for distribution in 2024. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 26, 2024. Funds will be distributed in June 2024.

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 annuities 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.

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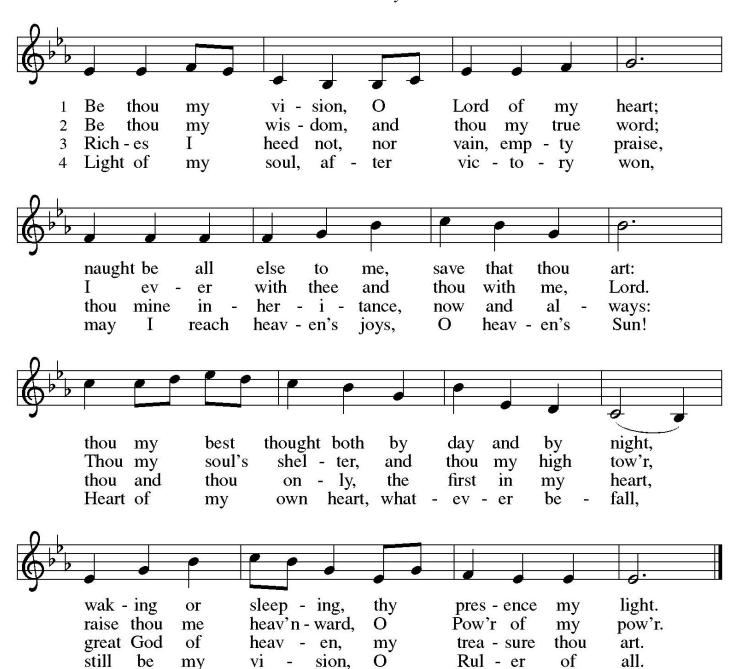


en, a - ris

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

ris - en, a - ris



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional



Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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