

# **St. John's Lutheran Church**

*Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love*

## ***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**April 28, 2024**



***Welcome!***

*Out of a broken and divided world, all people are welcomed into the whole body of Jesus Christ at St. John's. As children of one God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.*

*All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.*

*In addition to gathering in person when possible, St. John's will continue weekly streaming of worship on Facebook. You can find the stream at our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StJohnsBeaufort](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsBeaufort)*

*Because we are not all are able to gather in person, we also celebrate Holy Communion together in streaming worship. Households who are unable to gather in person may prepare elements of bread and wine for the celebration, taking them together as a community gathered, even while distanced. Any kind of bread or cracker and any kind of wine or juice may be used.*

*Personal Listening Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available.*

**[www.StJohnsBeaufort.org](http://www.StJohnsBeaufort.org)**

# Fifth Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2024

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
*(10:30 am Service)*

*O Lord, I Am Not Worthy*  
Choir

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God.

**We have sinned against you and against one another. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever. Amen.**



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

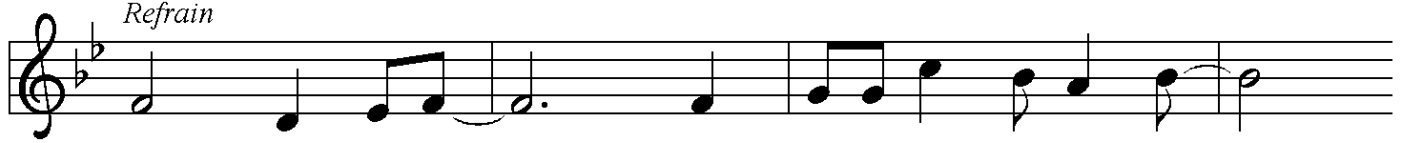
**He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
 be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



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



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.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

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.

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

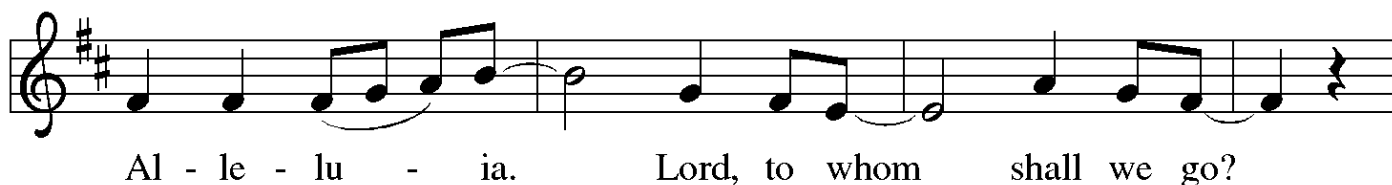
## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

**John 15:1-8**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

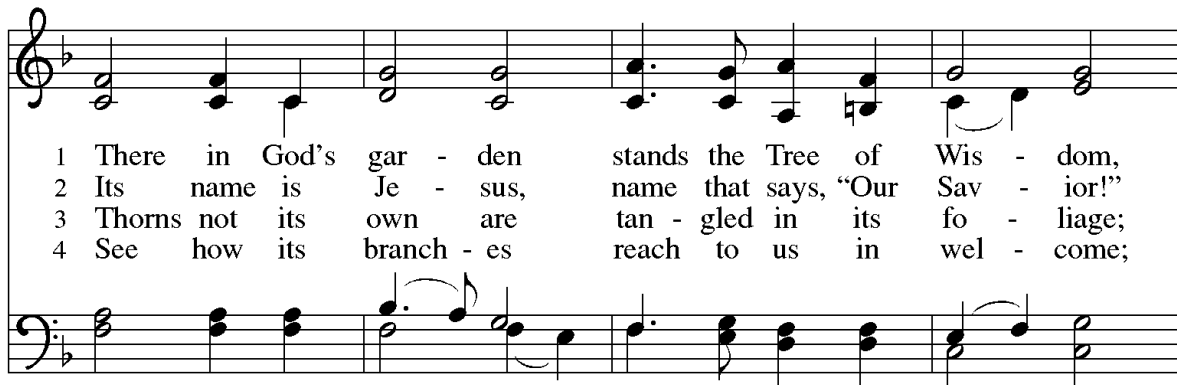
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON



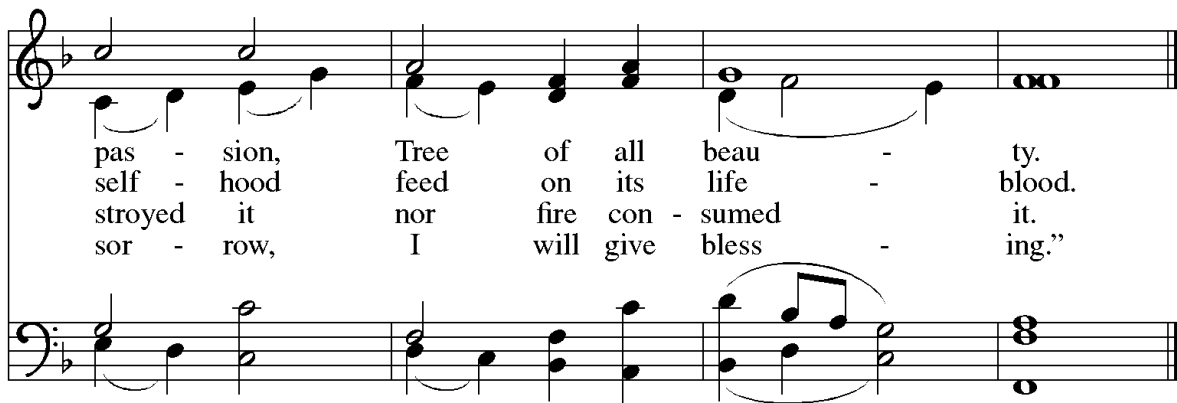
1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

*Each petition ends:* God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

**PEACE** *We share the peace with those who are with us in our homes or wherever we are located. We also pray for peace for and with all those with whom we join in worship, despite the fact that we are scattered.*



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*As church together we are dependent on one another to meet the financial needs of the congregation. We are grateful to all who generously support the mission we are called to share. In addition to giving during the passing of offering plates in worship, options for giving include:*

- + *mailing checks to the church office*
- + *using your personal bank's online bill payment system to set up a recurring gift*
- + *using St. John's online giving system which allows you to make one time and recurring gifts, using either a bank draft or a credit card. To access this online giving system, you can scan this QR code with your phone or tablet camera or navigate to [www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns](http://www.SJBft.org/GiveToStJohns) on any browser.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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. Amen.**

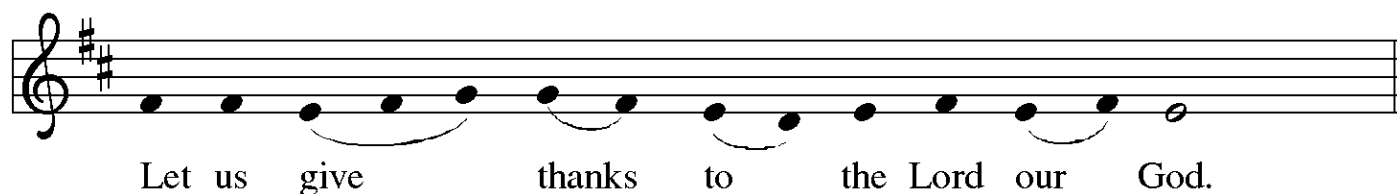
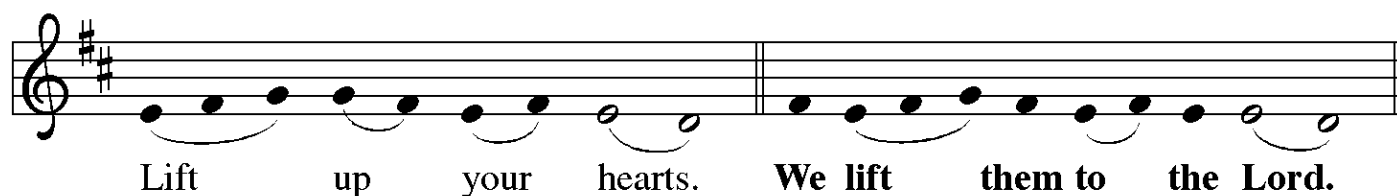
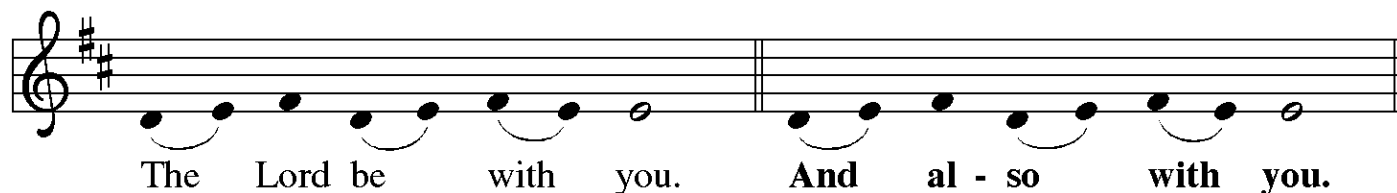
## LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood, to gift us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, community, and new life.*



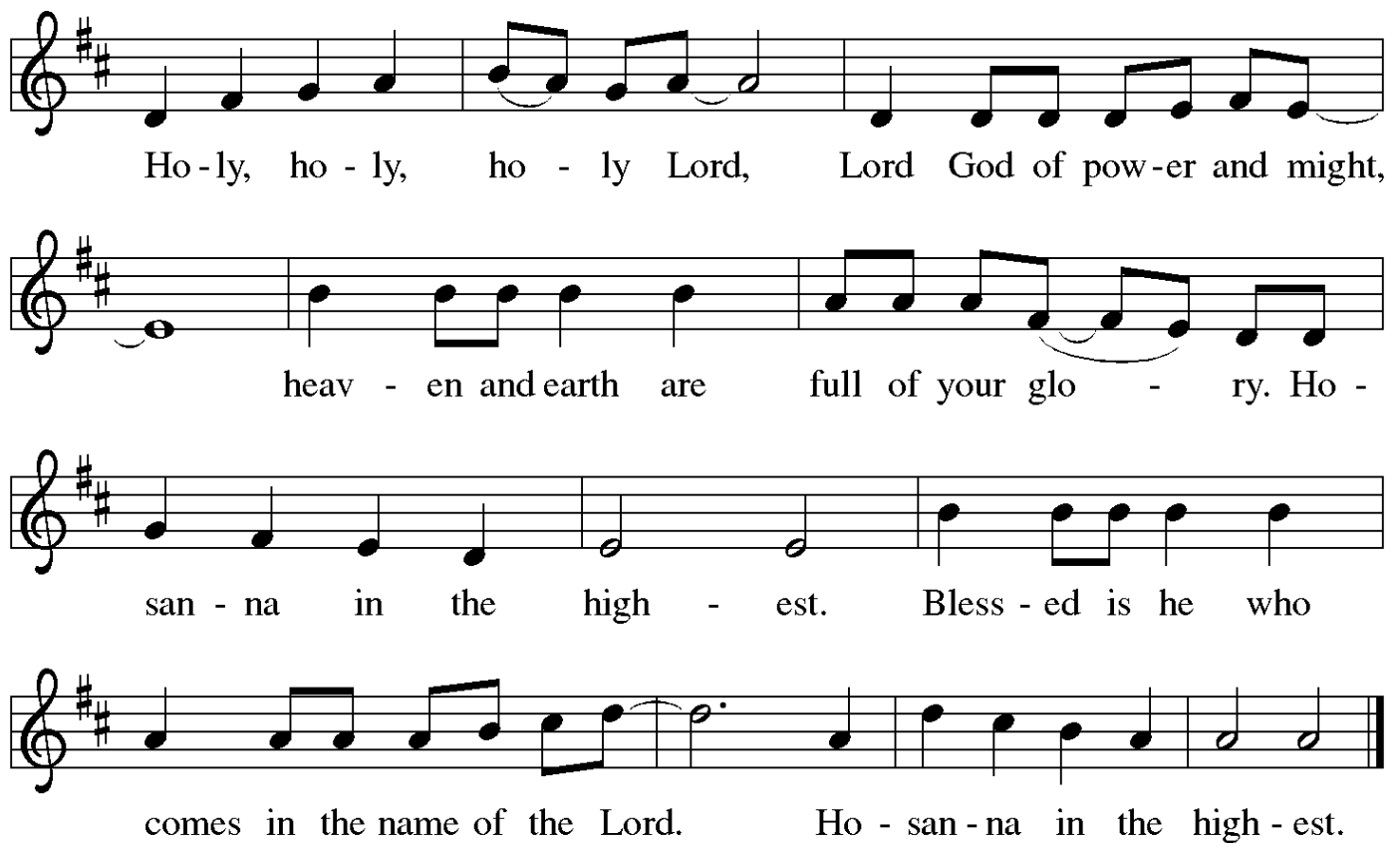
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*Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms at your heart.*



## PREFACE

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under  
oppression, he wept over Jerusalem. With infinite love, he granted the people your 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

**Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

**Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song,  
you are a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us this life: the life of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, life in you, now and  
forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

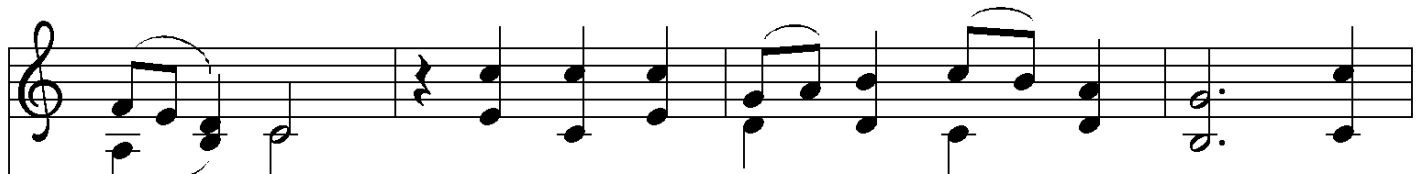
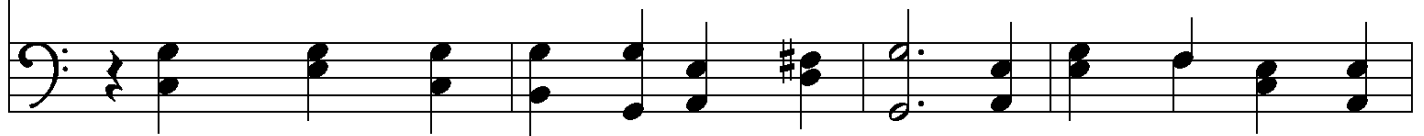
## SENDING HYMN

### *A Mighty Fortress*

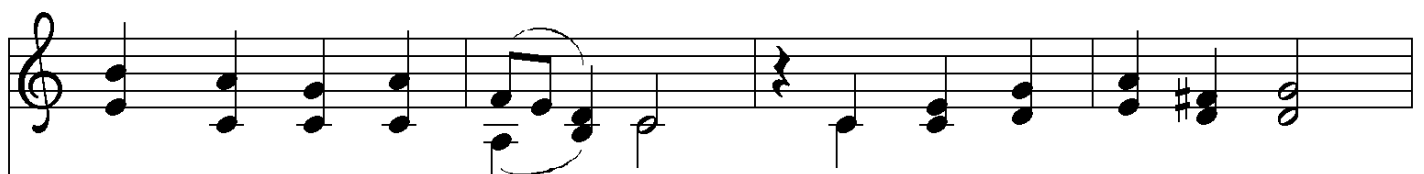
ELW 504-LBW 229



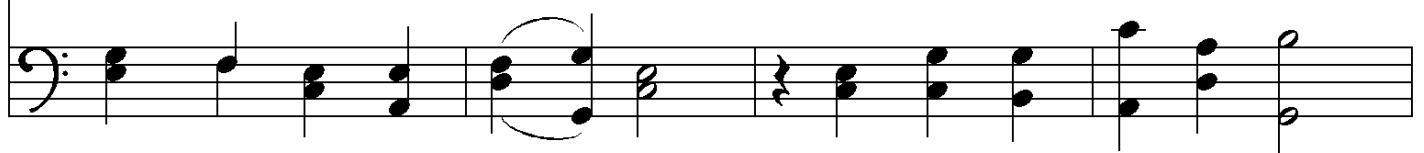
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe!      With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he!      Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage!      His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,      though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight.      On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored.      He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail!      One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day.      The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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# **St. John's Lutheran Church**

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**Pastor P. Shannon Mullen**

**Deacon Katie Justice**

**Pastor Craig Boehlke, part time assisting pastor**

**Josh Overby, Director of Music**

**Gloria Bockelman, Worship Accompanist**

**+ + +**

## **Mission Statement:**

*Sharing God's Grace, Serving Through Love*

## **Core Values:**

*We hear the Good News of God's Love in worship and scripture.*

*All are welcome and valued, with no exceptions.*

*We serve and help our neighbors, community, and those who are in need.*

*We love, care for, nourish, and support one another.*

*We are boldly generous with time, talents, space, and resources.*

**+ + +**

*The Altar Flowers are given  
to the Glory of God.*

*The flowers were arranged by Pat Bennett.*

**[www.StJohnsBeaufort.org](http://www.StJohnsBeaufort.org)**