

Commissioned by the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
with gratitude to the Rev. Allan C. Bjornberg for his eighteen years of ministry as bishop.

Lift Up Your Eyes

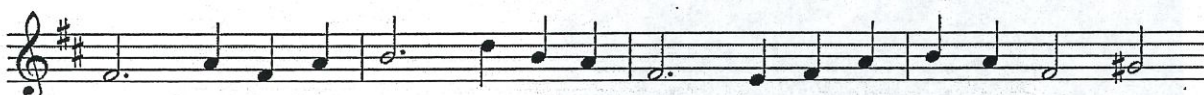
BJORNBERG

Susan R. Briehl

Mark Mummert



Lift up your eyes, the moun-tains rise, a ref-uge forged by fire and
O taste and see, mid-bar-ren trees, on fro-zen prai-rie, win-try
Be still and know, though change be slow, the winds still blow and wa-ters
In peace lie down, the stars sur-round and moon il-lu-mines an-cient
With mer-cy crowned, the thirst-y ground a-wakes to thun-der rain-ing



ice for flow-er wild, for bird and beast, from val-ley wide to rock-y
field all hope is hid in nest and womb, in bur-ied seed and closed co-
flow o'er stone and sand and soil to shape the can-yon, land, and des-ert-
ground where sto-ries told by el-ders wise more fine than gold from dust a-
down a ris-ing song on lake and stream as riv-ers strong-er race to



peaks.	Lift up your eyes,	see love	a - rise.
coon.	O taste and see	the life	un - seen.
scape.	Be still and know	faith forms	you so.
rise.	In peace lie down,	the saints	sur - round.
seas.	With mer-cy crowned,	let joy	re - sound.

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James Gonia elected bishop of ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod
12-25-MRC

CHICAGO (ELCA) - The Rev. James W. Gonia, West Dundee, Ill., was elected April 28 to a six-year term as bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Gonia was elected on the fifth ballot during the synod assembly April 26-28 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Gonia is program director for West Africa, Tanzania and Madagascar at ELCA churchwide ministries. He will be installed as bishop Sept. 23 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Denver.

On the fifth ballot, Gonia received 263 votes and the Rev. Bruce Kuenzel, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Los Alamos, N.M., received 175. Of the 438 votes cast, 220 votes were required for an election.

On the fourth ballot Gonia received 216 votes, Kuenzel received 117, and the Rev. Steven Loy, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, N.M., received 116.

Gonia was associate pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Denver from 1999 to 2009. From 1988 to 1998, he was an ELCA missionary in Madagascar, a regional evangelism co-director and teacher and director of Betela Seminary there.

Gonia received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., in 1982; a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Northwestern Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in 1988; and a Master of Theology degree in Islamic studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1997. Luther is one of eight ELCA seminaries.

Information about the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod is available at <http://www.rmsELCA.org>.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Nicolas Boss, (May 7); Jan Nachtigal, (May 7); Jennifer Zenor, (May 7) and Becky Maddox, (May 8). Happy Birthday!

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by the Thurows in honor of Jane's 15th birthday.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL will be meeting this Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Gruver room.

F³ (Faith, Friendship, Fun): The final Spring F³ for 3rd—6th graders will be held on Thursday, May 10th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Games, quizzes, singing, food, etc. will be happening. Bring a friend and plan on coming down. F³ will resume again after this May event, in September.

MOTHER'S DAY BONNETS: All women are invited, on May 13th, to wear a hat to church in honor of Mother's Day. Just like the old days! Be creative—wear what you want—let's have a good time!

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS will next meet on Thursday, May 17th from 6-7 p.m. Supper will be provided. We will practice for Confirmation Sundays. All students must be present. No class May 9th or 16th.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation will be held twice this year on May 20th & May 27th at the 10:30 a.m. service. The following 11 persons will be confirmed at that time; Hailey Anderson, Conner Beeston, Hanna Heggie, Chris Henry, Roz Kidwell, Keeley Marshall, Mikayla Martinez, Sydney McKim, Jane Thurow, Maria Thurow and Tavia Zenor. Congratulations to each of these young people on their special day.

Light Breakfasts: The entire congregation is invited both Sundays to a light breakfast honoring our 11 persons being confirmed. They are at 9:00 a.m. on May 20th & May 27th downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please attend and show our young people how proud we are of them.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES Roland & Linda Kidwell will be briefly reporting on the happenings of the Assembly during each worship service this morning.

COLE BENTLEY, our intern in 2010-2011 will be graduating from Wartburg Theological Seminary next Sunday, May 13 at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to contact him, Carrie, Sam, and Tim you may do so at 1829 Denver Dr. #2A, Dubuque, Iowa 52003. Cole has been assigned to the Western North Dakota Synod.

BUCK-A-CHICK SALE: This Easter season, join congregations from across the country by supporting the "Buck-A-Chick" sale. TELC members can purchase and decorate a paper chick (copies of the "chick" page are available in the Gruver Room) for themselves or in honor of a loved one for one dollar. This is the cost of providing a chick to a family experiencing hunger. Funds raised with the "Buck-A-Chick" campaign will help TELC and ELCA World Hunger provide families living in poverty with chicks for a source of eggs, food and income. The "Buck-A-Chick" project is going on now through May 24th, the 50 days of Easter. A donation jar is available in the Gruver Room so that page purchases can be made on the honor system.

PICKING THE HYMNS FOR SUMMER WORSHIP: Would you like to pick your favorite hymns for worship? Now is your chance! Again this year we are giving you the opportunity to pick the hymns for summer worship during the months of June, July, and August. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gruver Room on Sunday, May 6th. Please pick a Sunday and sign up.

DONATIONS for a pipe organ are being solicited. If you wish to make a donation please mark it clearly "Organ Fund" and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or bring it into the church office.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

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Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (5/6)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (5/13)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt 10:30 a.m. Judy Rohr	8:00 a.m. Debbe Conyers 10:30 a.m. Roland Kidwell
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mikayla Martinez 10:30 a.m. Roz Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Tavia Zenor
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt Jennie Lawrence 10:30 a.m. Ed & Lois Hiller	8:00 a.m. Bob Middleton Doris Eyestone 10:30 a.m. Pete & Joan Dana
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. David & Mary Brinkman 10:30 a.m. Shirley Heggie Betsy Wiest	8:00 a.m. Mari & Mikayla Martinez 10:30 a.m. Jason & Trey Sherwood
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter 10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Mikayla Martinez 10:30 a.m. Roz Kidwell
<i>Stewards:</i>	R. Kidwell / A. Toven	
	<i>Altar Guild:</i> The Oolmans	

Coffee Fellowship:

	<u><i>This Week at Trinity</i></u>
Sunday, May 6	8:00 a.m. Worship (HC) 9:15 a.m. SS / Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship (HC)
Tuesday, May 8	9:00 a.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday, May 9	10:00 a.m. Women's Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thursday, May 10	7:00 p.m. Seekers



You are already pruned because of the word
JN. 15:3

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to approach the communion rail and would like to receive communion, please let one of the ushers know and we will come to you. Grape juice (yellow) is available in the center of each tray. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service just off the South Lobby area, for children ages 5 and younger.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

Announcements continue on the inside

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" vss. 1-4, 8 #362

SERMON: "Keep in Touch with Jesus" John 15:1-8 Pastor Rohr

TODAY'S SONG: "Lift Up Your Eyes" Insert

***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 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 INTERCESSION:

Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

**A brief silence.*

Holy, abiding God, breathe your love into your people. By your Spirit shape us to share your love with one another, so that others see your love and come to know you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Spread your sheltering presence over all new things in your creation: plants sprouting out of soil and young animals growing stronger. Protect all that is fragile. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Go forth with all missionaries in their work of serving others and sharing the good news of salvation we have in Christ. Make their work both welcomed and welcoming. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Abide with people who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness. Surround them with people who will show compassion. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Be a steadfast presence for migrant workers, refugees, and all who do not have permanent homes. Guide them, care for them, and give them security. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

**Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Giving thanks for the saints who abide with you eternally, we ask you to open us to your presence in our midst until the day when you gather all people into your eternal presence. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25–31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹ fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts ¹ live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow ¹ before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ¹ down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel be- ¹ fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall ¹ serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- ¹ tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people ¹ yet unborn,
saying to them, "The ¹ LORD has acted!"

**Glory be to the Father and ¹ to the Son:
and to the ¹ Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and e- ¹ ver shall be:
world without end. ¹ Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7–21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** (In unison)

Let us pray.

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.

ANTHEM: "O Lord, Support Us" by Robert Powell Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME: "Seeing God" Pastor Rohr

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

***PEACE:**

The peace of Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

OFFERING:

***OFFERTORY:**

***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "As the Grains of Wheat . . ."**

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;




so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be




gath-ered in-to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

***OFFERING PRAYER:**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.


SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION:

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with
 you. Lift up your hearts. We
 lift them to the Lord. Let us give
 thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:**

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

***NOW THE FEAST:**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!


1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
Refrain
God; to make all things new.

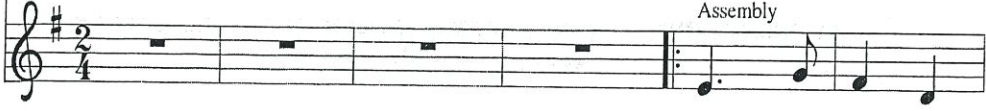
***KYRIE:**

Leader



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy,


3rd time to Coda ⊕



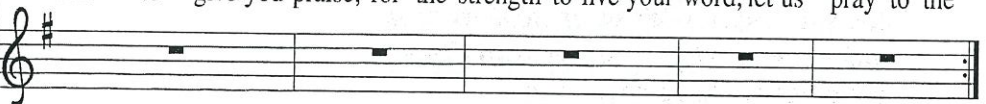
For the reign of God, and for
For your peo - ple here who have



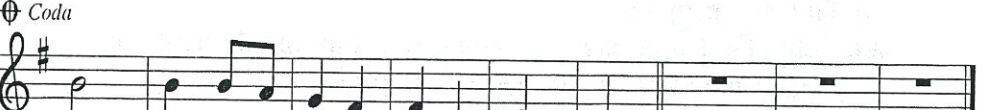
Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.



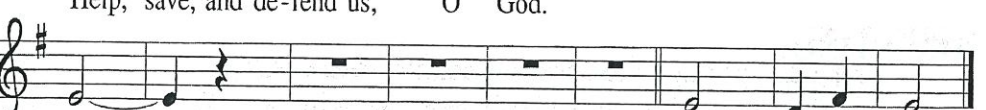
peace through-out the world, for the u - ni-ty of all, let us pray to the
come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the



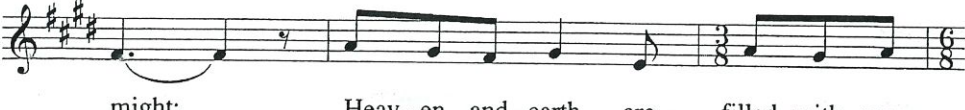
⊕ Coda




Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.




cy. A - men.




might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the



One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the



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

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

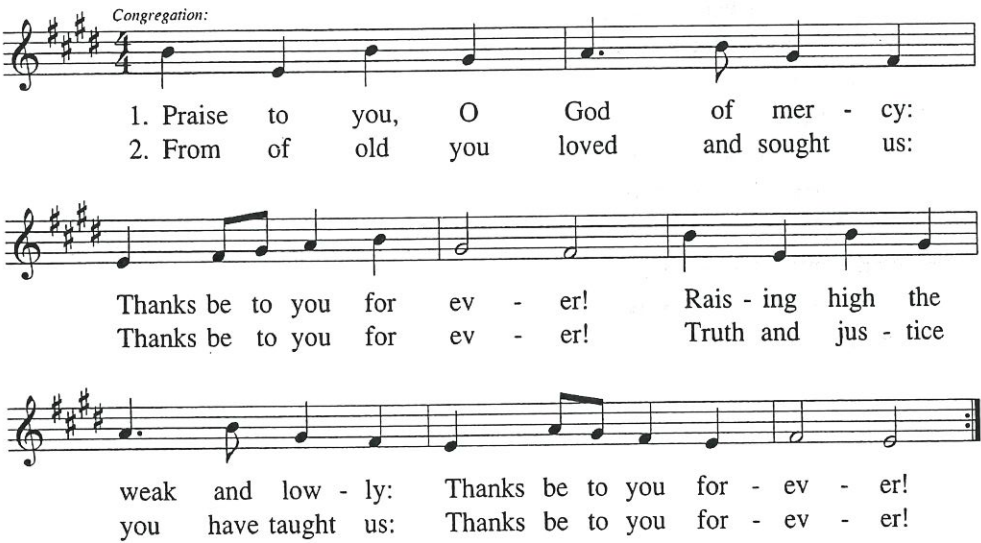
LAMB OF GOD:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION:

*POST COMMUNION HYMN:



Congregation:
1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done
and things we have failed to do.
Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace we have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
Amen.

*GREETING:

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.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net
web-site: telclaramie.org



God's Work . . .
. . . Our Hands

Pastor..... **Ralph Rohr**
Congregation President..... **Roland Kidwell**
Intern **Andrew Dietzel**
Office Secretary **Colleen Miner**
Organists..... **Dan Groathouse**
..... **Judy Rohr**
Choir Director..... **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, May 6, 2012—Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE:

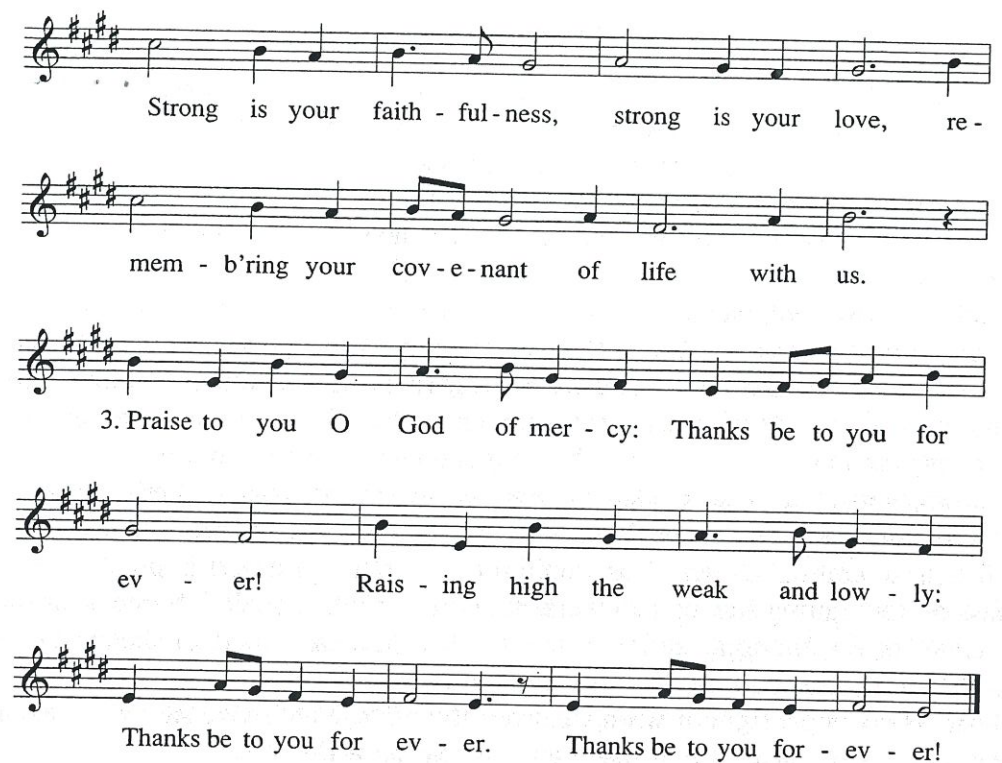
WELCOME:

*HYMN: "O God beyond All Praising"

#880

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

*BLESSING:

Presider: May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.



PARISH SHARING TIME:

*HYMN: "On Our Way Rejoicing"

#537

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME:

*SENDING:

*POSTLUDE:

Fruits of Love

The idea of Jesus as the vine and believers as the branches isn't that hard for most of us to grasp. Most of us have watched plants grow, and we understand that one branch of the plant won't do well if we separate it from the main stalk.

To continue the plant metaphor, Jesus is the one who delivers water and nutrients to the rest of the plant. We won't thrive when we're disconnected from the life source. In fact, Jesus makes clear what happens to those of us who separate from Christ: we wither.

Today's gospel emphasizes that we are not planted simply to avoid withering. We are to bear much fruit. Congregations will hear the reading this week, and many will ponder how to translate these verses into action. Are we to bring more people into our church? Are we to go out and create some sort of intentional community? Should we work more vigorously to alleviate hunger and poverty? Are we to be light and leaven in our workplaces?

The answers to all those questions might be yes. Or perhaps no. Let's return to the vine metaphor and think about what kinds of fruit we might bear. Some of us are naturals for inviting friends to church. Others of us would prefer to pray for others in private. Some of us have a passion for visiting sick parishioners, at home or in the hospital. Some of us might be called to create or sustain organizations that provide health care, food, or shelter. Others of us are already being cared for in a nurturing community.

There is no single right or wrong answer. But we need to make sure we're asking the right questions. Are we withered husks or are we bearing fruits of love?

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

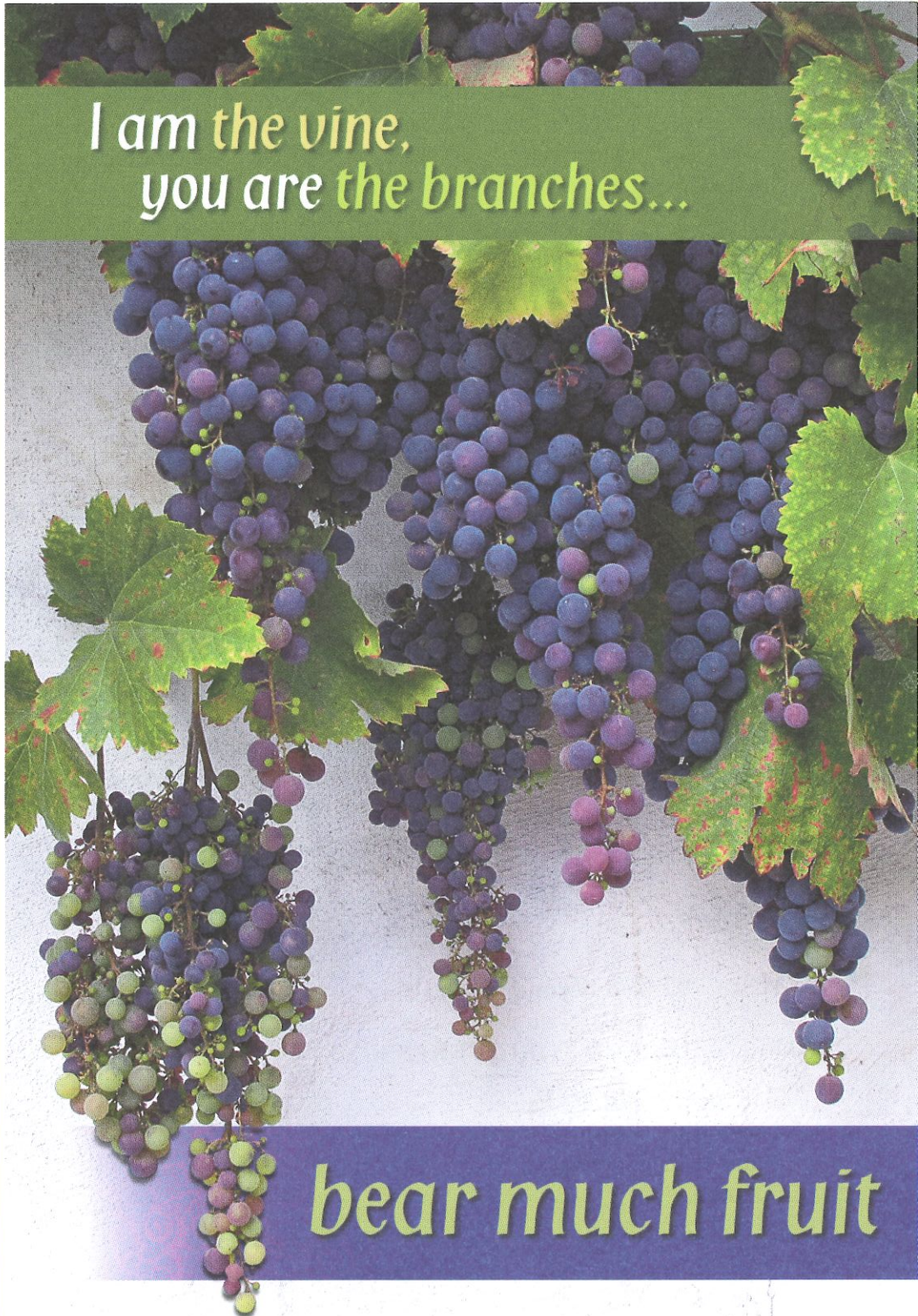
Tuesday, May 8 - Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

Wednesday, May 9

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.



I am the vine,
you are the branches...

bear much fruit