

**A Service of Holy Communion for the
Fifth Sunday of Easter:
*Church Music Sunday***

10:30 a.m. | May 18, 2025 | *Year C*



University Lutheran Church
66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass.
unilu.org

PRELUDE “When in Our Music God Is Glorified”

[FREDERICKTOWN] — Tune by Charles R. Anders (1929–2020); setting by Robert J. Powell (1932–2025); *see* ELW 850

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR MUSIC

For the music of the spheres, for the morning stars singing together, for the joyful shouts of all the heavenly beings [Job 38:7], for the angels and the living creatures singing before the throne of God [Revelation 7:11-12], for music of exquisite beauty that moves us to tears: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For sopranos—and for sousaphones, saxophones, sackbuts, shawms, and shekeres; for mezzos—and for mbiras, marimbas, maracas, and metallophones; for seas that roar, for rivers that clap and hills that ring out [Psalm 98:7-8], for birds that sing: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For altos—and for accordions and autoharps; for contraltos and countertenors—and for clarinets, cornets, castanets, celestas, cymbals, and cellos; for choirs and their conductors and directors; for composers and arrangers; for hymn writers, who give us text and tune: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For tenors—and for theorbos, timpani, triangles, trumpets, trombones, tambourines, and tubas; for baritones and basses—and for basset horns, bassoons, bagpipes, and mixing-bowl bells; for voices, violins, violas, and vielles; for symphonies and bands, for organs and horns: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For patrons of the arts and piano tuners; for transposers, transcribers, and improvisers; for editors and publishers; for the adaptability of artists and their creativity with new forms of music-making; for recording studios; for livestream, videos, and virtual concerts: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For four-part harmony and Gregorian chant; for call and response, for canons and rounds, for spirituals, for songs of exaltation and praise; for the hymn sung by Jesus and the disciples after the last supper and before going out into the night of betrayal and desertion [Mark 14:26]; **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For this gift of music, which, next to the word of God, deserves the highest praise [Martin Luther]; for a means to express that which seems inexpressible; for the rests in between the notes; and for the sound of sheer silence [1 Kings 19:12]: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

But when we cannot sing the Lord's song in a strange land [Psalm 137:4], when we have hung up our harps and wept [Psalm 137:2], when we are imprisoned, when we are overcome with grief, then: For songs without words and songs of protest, for singing and making melody in our hearts [Ephesians 5:19], for keening and wailing, and for laments and for requiems: **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

PRAYER FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gifts of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 731 "Earth and All Stars!"

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE

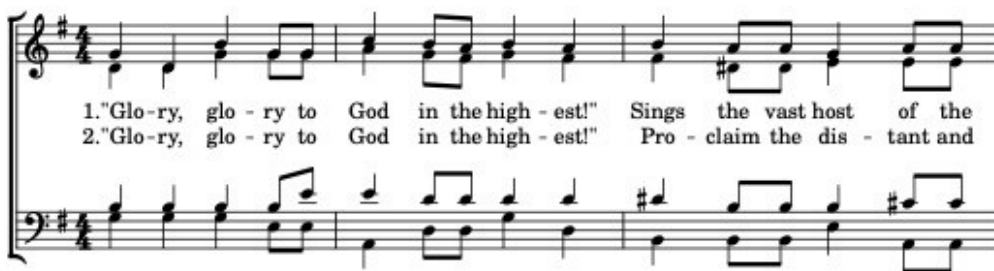
1. O, which way should I turn, Lord, when grief and pain press
2. But may I e - ven come near, with so much guilt with -

on me? To whom do I con - fide, when my heart beats loud with
in me? Who on this earth - ly jour - ney is pure in Your great

joy? To You, to You, o Mother, I come in joy and sor - row; You
eyes? With child-like trust, I run di - rect - ly in - to Your strong arms, and

send us all our de - lights, You heal our ev' - ry hurt.
filled with hope im - plore You, "have mer - cy on me, Lord."

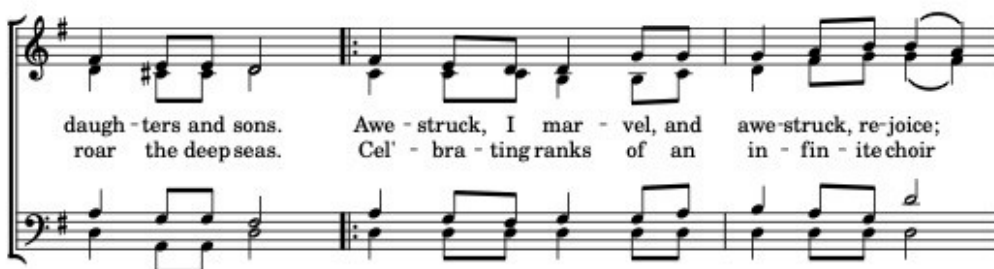
GLORIA




1. "Glo-ry, glo - ry to God in the high - est!" Sings the vast host of the
2. "Glo-ry, glo - ry to God in the high - est!" Pro - claim the dis - tant and



hea-ven-ly ones. "Glo-ry, Glo-ry to God in the high-est!" Mur - mer we too, earth - ly
fi - er - y stars. "Glo-ry, Glo-ry to God in the high-est!" Whis - per the bree - zes and



daugh - ters and sons. Awe - struck, I mar - vel, and awe-struck, re-joice;
roar the deep seas. Cel' - bra - ting ranks of an in - fin - ite choir



Fa - ther of Worlds, hear me now lift my voice: "Glo-ry to God in the high-est!"
belt out an un - end-ing thanks-giv-ing hymn: "Glo-ry to God in the high-est!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 11:1–18

A reading from Acts.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six believers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be

saved.’ ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how Jesus had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that God gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 148

The congregation sings all the psalm verses, and also sings the response at the beginning and when indicated below.

Response



Verse



- ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
- ²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
- ³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens. **Response**



⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. **Response**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. **Response**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |
Hallelujah! **Response**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1–6

A reading from Revelation.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them;

they will be God's peoples,
and that very God will be with them and be their God;
4God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

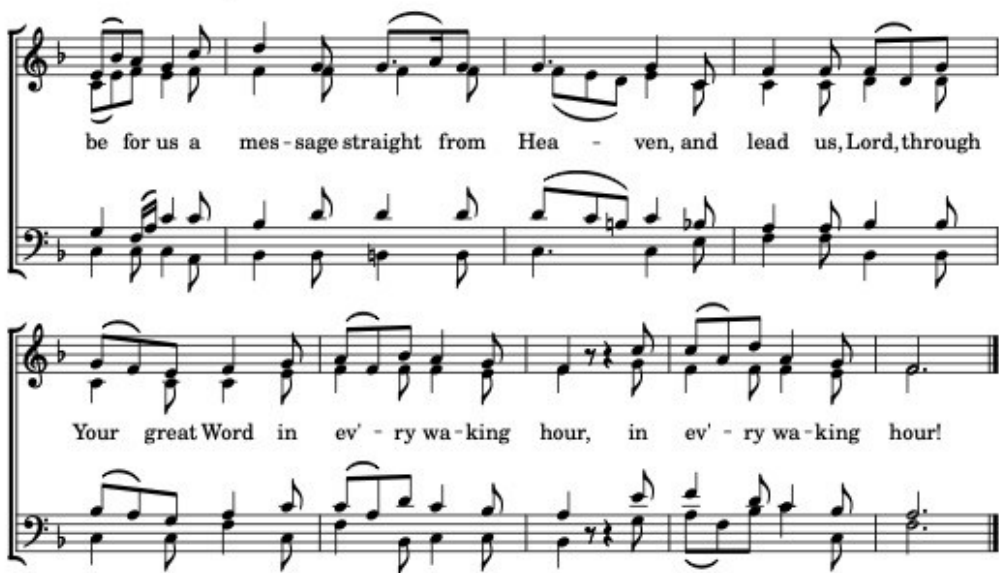
5And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new," and also said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6Then the one seated on the throne said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score is written for a choir or ensemble, featuring two systems of staves. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Grant us the courage and the strength, that we don't just see the paths that our great Sa-vior took, but that we strive to fol-low Him! Lord, let your Gos-pel". The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines.





GOSPEL John 13:31–35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son-of-Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in God’s own self and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Carrie Ballenger*

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 841 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation**

**came down from heaven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made human; who, for our sake,
was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
suffered death and was buried;
on the third day rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
who will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead;
and whose 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 worshipped 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

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the worship space. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

or

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God!

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY

1. You gave me, Lord, my life and be - ing; in heav'n - ly
2. Hap - py am I: You want for Your love, that I give

light Your teach-ings shine. My debt, how can I, dust, re - store? I
love and love a - lone. And love, great love, by Your ex - am - ple shall

can just thank You, no-thing more, I can just thank You, no-thing more.
be my life's strong cor - ner stone, shall be my life's strong co - ner stone.

To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may visit givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church or scan the QR code here:



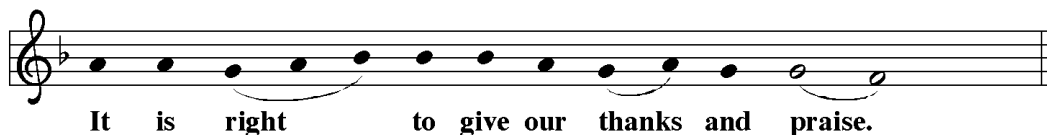
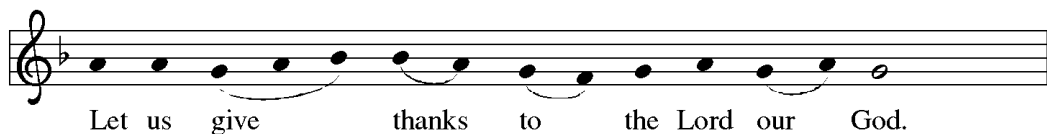
Many people in our community already give online. Visit unilu.org/giving/ if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 WINTHROP ST, CAMBRIDGE MA 02138 (there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail).

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

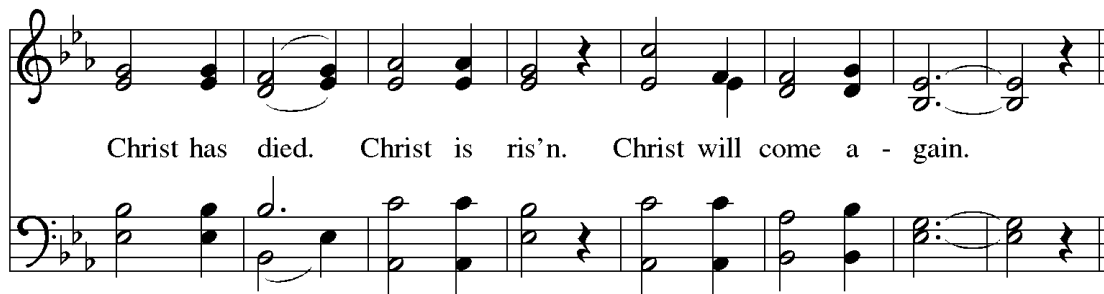
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:



The thanksgiving may conclude:



LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray:

**God our Mother, God 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.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 531 "The Trumpets Sound, the Angles Sing"

(The Feast Is Ready)

ELW 473 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

(Santo, santo, santo)

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Lord, You've heard my la - men - ta-tions; now my heart drums loud with joy!

In the world out-side these church walls, let Your great song through me flow.

There, too, you are near me, O Lord; ev' - ry where and ev' - ry hour.

Ev' - ry place, Lord, is Your tem - ple, where hearts un - fold for you like flowers.

Bless me, Lord and Bless my fel-lows, Bless our paths through these dark days.

May our thoughts and prayers and works be a re - sounding hymn of

praise, a re - sound-ing hymn of praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 854 “Blessing and Honor”

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker!” [NUN LOB, MEIN SEEL, DEN HERREN] — Tune from Johann Kugelman, *Concentus Novi* (Augsburg, Germany, 1540); setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preacher: Carrie Ballenger; *Assisting Minister:* Anne Howarth; *Reader:* Mary Pederson Metelmann; *Intercessor:* David Hoglund; *Musicians:* Imogene Stulken, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and the UniLu Choir; *Hospitality:* Mary Pederson Metelmann and Susan Worst.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik, *Ministry Intern*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Hanqi Zhang, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

Selected materials used by permission of onelicense.net #A-700151 (all rights reserved) and downloaded from Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress, 2025). Readings and Gospel prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use and reproduced with Sundays and Seasons subscription for non-sale local use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary (Consultation on Common Texts, 1992). Scripture quotations based on *Readings for the Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress, 1995, 1996, 1997), NRSV Bible (1989) and NRSVue Bible (National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 2021), adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. Psalm text from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Psalm setting by Bruce Brolsma. “Thanksgiving for Music” written by Imogene Stulken. Liturgical music: *Deutsche Messe*, D872, Franz Schubert (1797–1828); text: Neumann, English adaptation by Lorraine Fitzmaurice; excerpted movements: “Zum Kyrie,” “Zum Gloria,” “Zum Credo und Evangelium,” “Zum Offertorium,” “Schlussgesang.” Cover photo of Jerusalem, Carrie Ballenger.

Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston — and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*