# CHRIST ASCENDS TO RULE OVER ALL

*The Ascension of our Lord*
*May 25, 2017*

## WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. We are happy that you are here! In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

## THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

### The Ascension of our Lord — May 25th, 2017

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord" goes the old American hymn "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The hopeful and spirited hymn by Julia Ward Howe was written at a time when God's blessing was urgently sought for the nation. So it was for the disciples just before Christ was about to ascend to heaven. "Lord," they said, "will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" But God had a greater blessing in mind. Christ's ascension means His triumph over all humankind, all nations, kingdoms, and powers. He who was crucified, died, and risen, now takes His humanity with Him to sit at God's right hand in power and majesty to return again in glory. We too, lift up our eyes in celebration: "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!"

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the Scripture readings, the service notes, and pray this prayer:*

> Lord Jesus, King of glory, on this day you ascended far above the heavens and at God's right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that at your command and by your power we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Music: Mr. Brent Nolte

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz
Church Office: (205) 677-8642
Cell: (205) 478-6843
Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

# INFORMATION

**Bathrooms** are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

**Looking for more information?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.

- ***OurSaviorBirmingham.com*** **|** *Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!*
- ***@OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** **|** *Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews*
- ***Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com*** **|** *Pastor Kratz's email*

**Free WIFI** is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the "OSLC_Guest" connection to get online!

**Our Savior Lutheran Church** is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated as part of this evenings worship service. Here at Our Savior Lutheran Church, we practice "membership communion" and ask that only members come forward to receive the sacrament. On page 156 in the front of the hymnal, there is a "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" you can use to prepare to receive Christ's true body and blood.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

~ ***Cover Art*** *by*
~ ***Artwork*** *by Ian M. Welch. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved.*
~ ***Scripture*** *is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION ® NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

***Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:***
~ ***Morning Praise*** *music and settings by Michael Schultz; © 2010 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

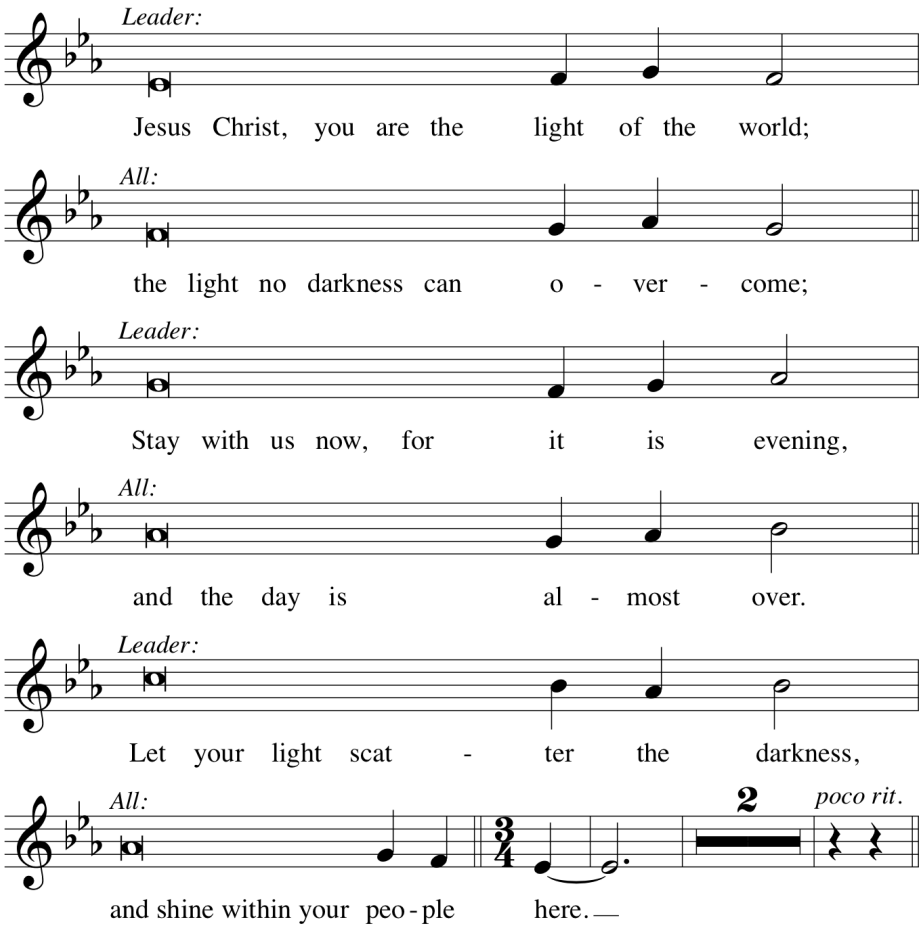
**Worship Notes**

***Today's Worship:***

*Compline is a version of the historic rite that served as the final service of the day before one retires for the night. The congregation gathers in silence. Preservice music is omitted, and the lighting is subdued. This is a time for prayer and meditation. The believer finds peace in God's forgiveness and security under the shadow of his wings.*

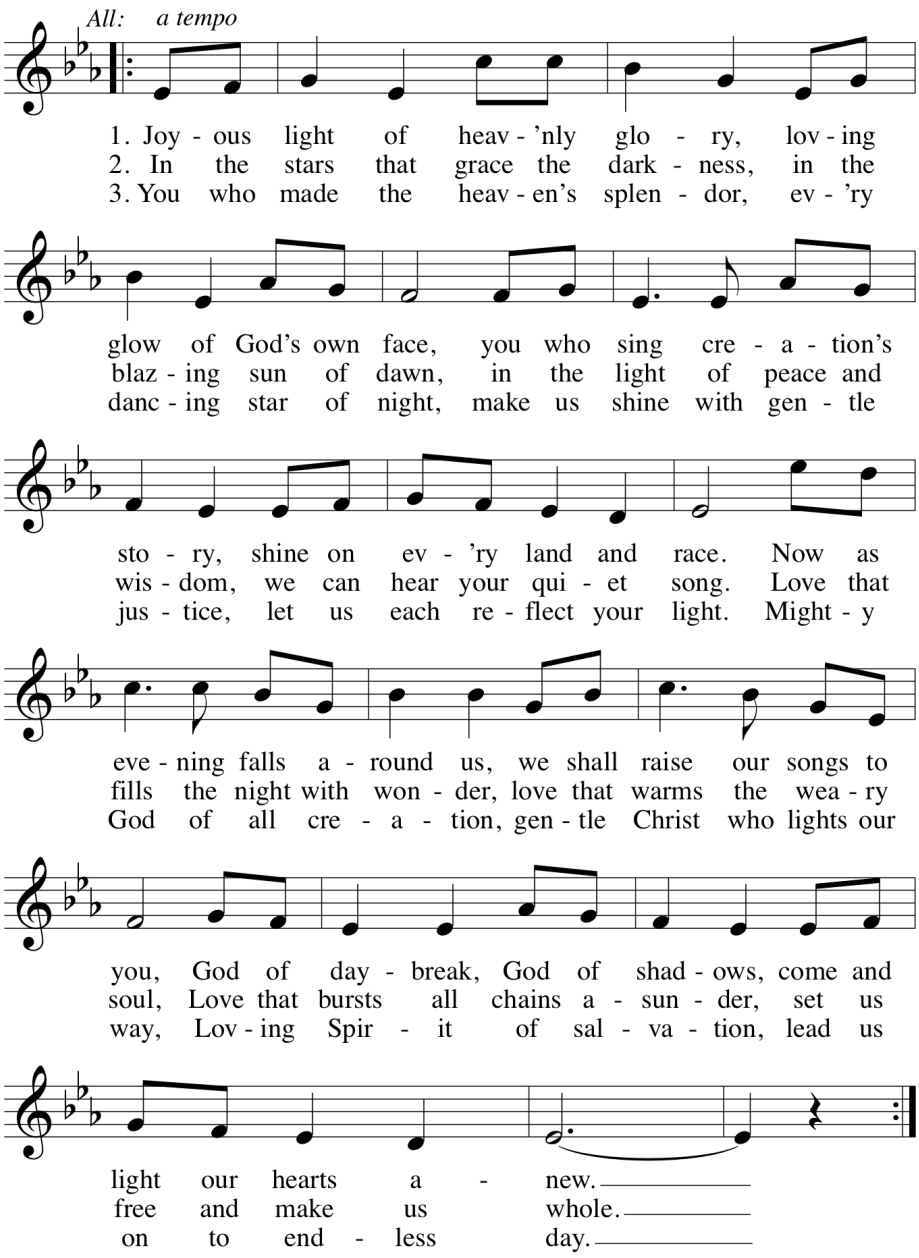
# THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

*~Please remain seated*




Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

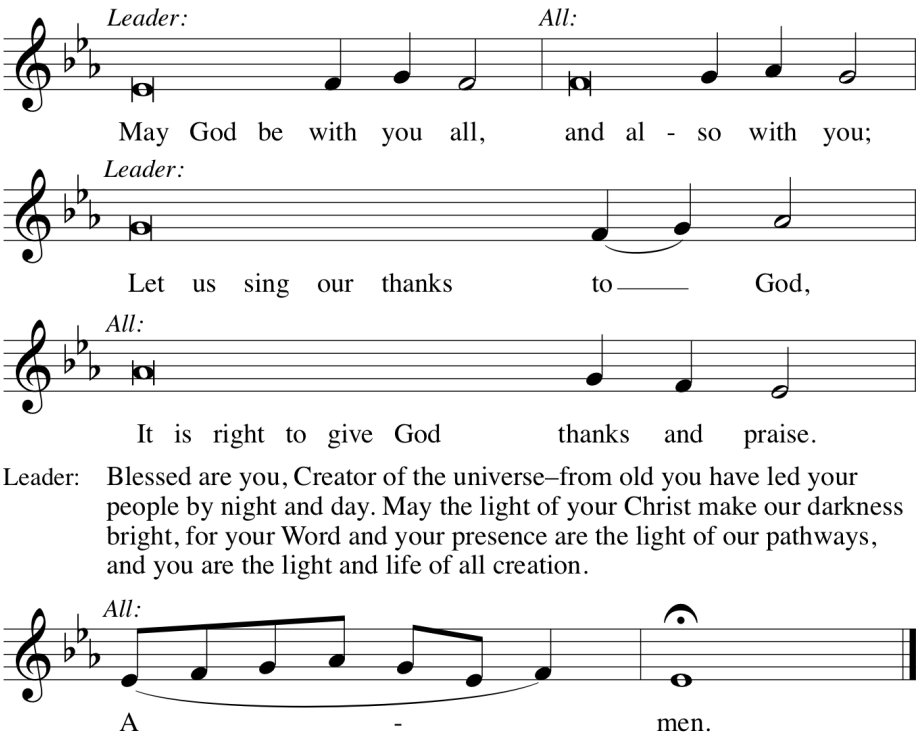
# EVENING HYMN




Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

**Worship Notes**

# EVENING THANKSGIVING




Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe–from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.



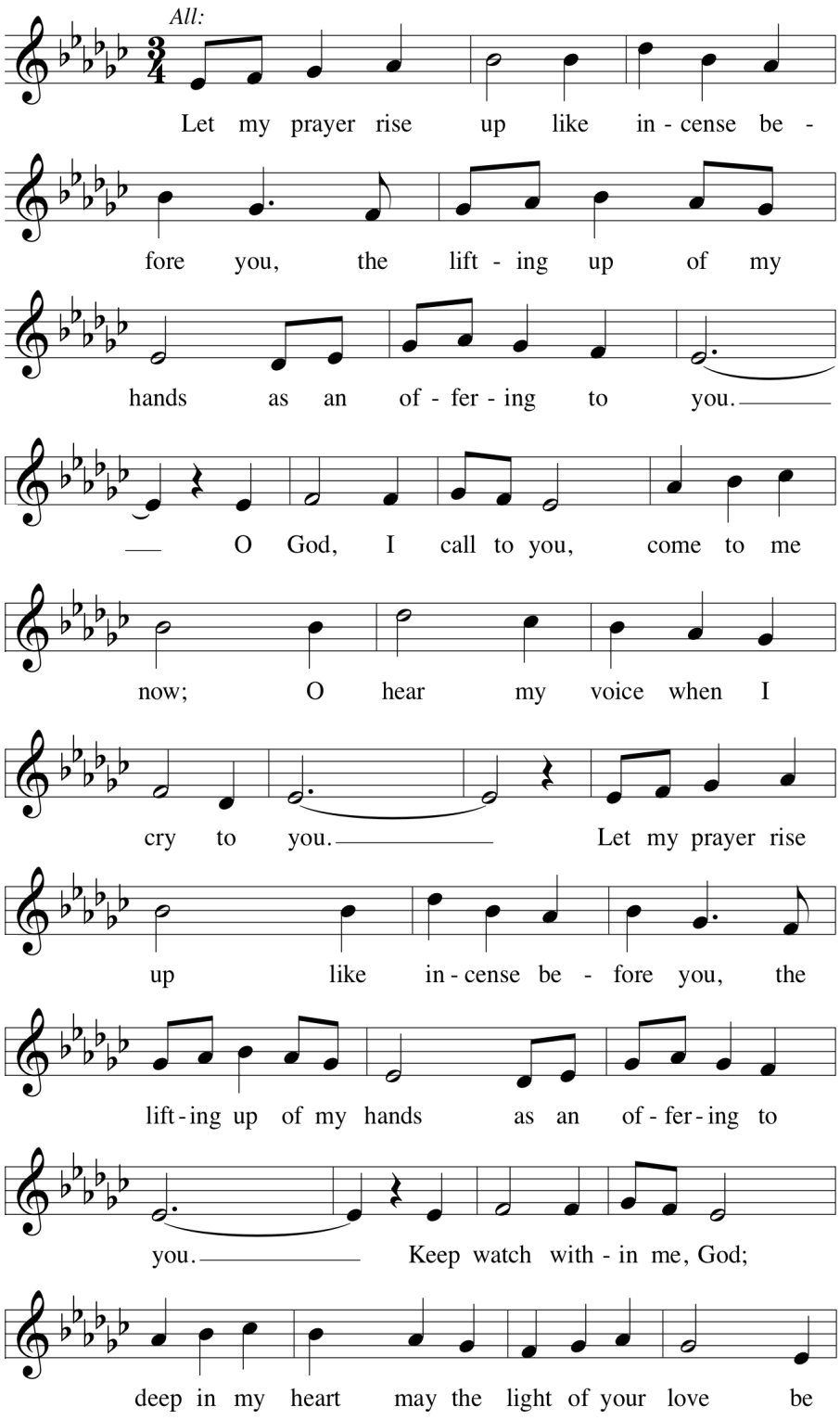

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

L Let us pray:

Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

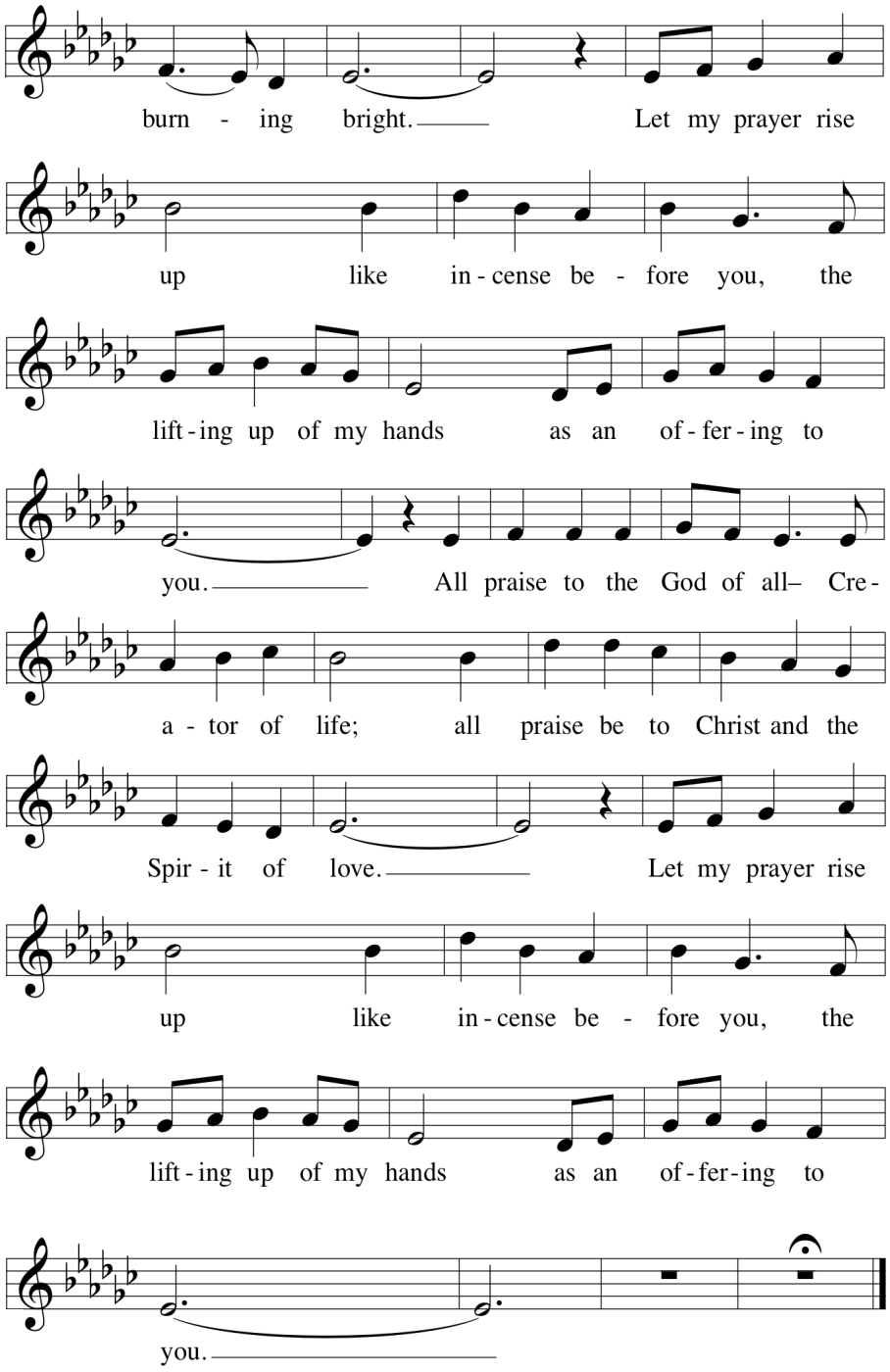
C **Amen.**

## EVENING PSALM | *Psalm 141*




**Worship Notes**

*Psalm 141 is a traditional evening psalm. Incense symbolizes the prayers of the faithful ascending from earth to heaven. A more ancient Christian understanding is that clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification (Numbers 16:46-47) and the covering over of sin with the sweetness of Christ's self-sacrifice.*




***Silence for meditation***

L Let us pray:

Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## READING | *Acts 1:1-11 (pg.1690)*

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach [2] until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. [3] After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. [4] On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. [5] For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

[6] So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

[7] He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

[9] After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

[10] They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. [11] "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

## READING | *Ephesians 1:15-23 (pg. 1817)*

[15] For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, [16] I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. [17] I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. [18] I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, [20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. [22] And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

***Silence for meditation***

L The Light shines in the darkness

**C and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**Worship Notes**

*We sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary did, to hear The Word (Luke 10:42). Here is time for meditating, reflecting, strengthening, forgiveness, instruction, and response.*

**Worship Notes**

## HYMN | #171 *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

## DEVOTION | Luke 24:44-53

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled
that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is
what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and
forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are wit-
nesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city
until you have been clothed with power from on high."

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.
51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped
him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising
God.

## RESPONSE

L The Lord will come again in glory.

C The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

## HYMN | #173 *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*

***Offering:***

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.*

## OFFERING

*This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Our Savior Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**Worship Notes**

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**G who made heaven and earth.**

L Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

***Silence for self-examination***

L I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed
by my fault,
by my own fault,
by my own grievous fault;
wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.

**G The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.**

L Amen.

**G I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters,**
**that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed**
**by my fault,**
**by my own fault,**
**by my own grievous fault;**
**wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,**
**forgive me all my sins,**
**and bring me to everlasting life.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**G Amen.**

**Worship Notes**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:***

*Jesus took bread and "gave thanks."*

*See Matthew 26:26*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L Blessed are you, O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his victory over the grave, our Savior declared death's reign ended, the door to heaven open, and the payment for sin complete.

We celebrate with joy the glorious resurrection of your Son.
We marvel at the depth of your love.
We stand in awe of your power.
We are humbled by the compassion you have shown our fallen race.

Lead us to rejoice in the pardon offered and sealed in this Sacrament and to live a life worthy of your name. The Lord Jesus lives! Alleluia.

C **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer:***

*The Lord's Prayer was given by our Savior to his Church in response to the disciples' request to be taught to pray.*

*See Matthew 6:9-13.*

*The conclusion to the prayer, also known as the Doxology, was a common conclusion to ancient prayers.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

***Words of Institution:***

*As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.*

*See Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

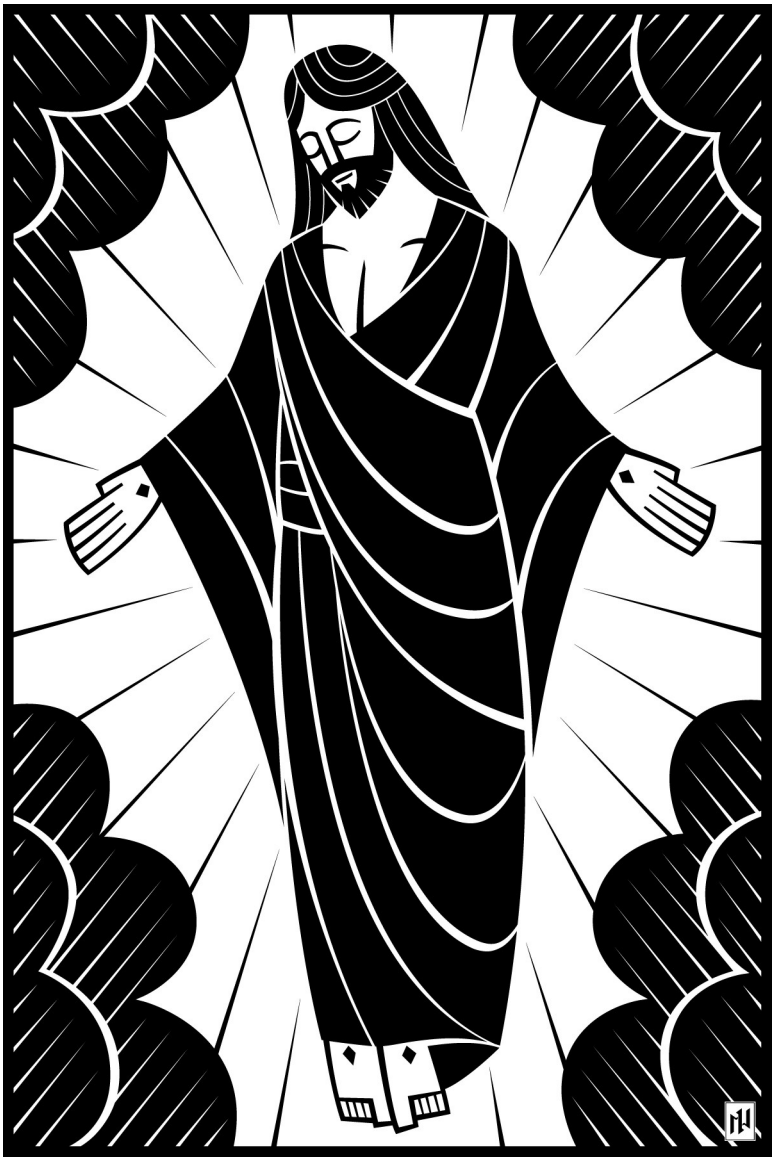
L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

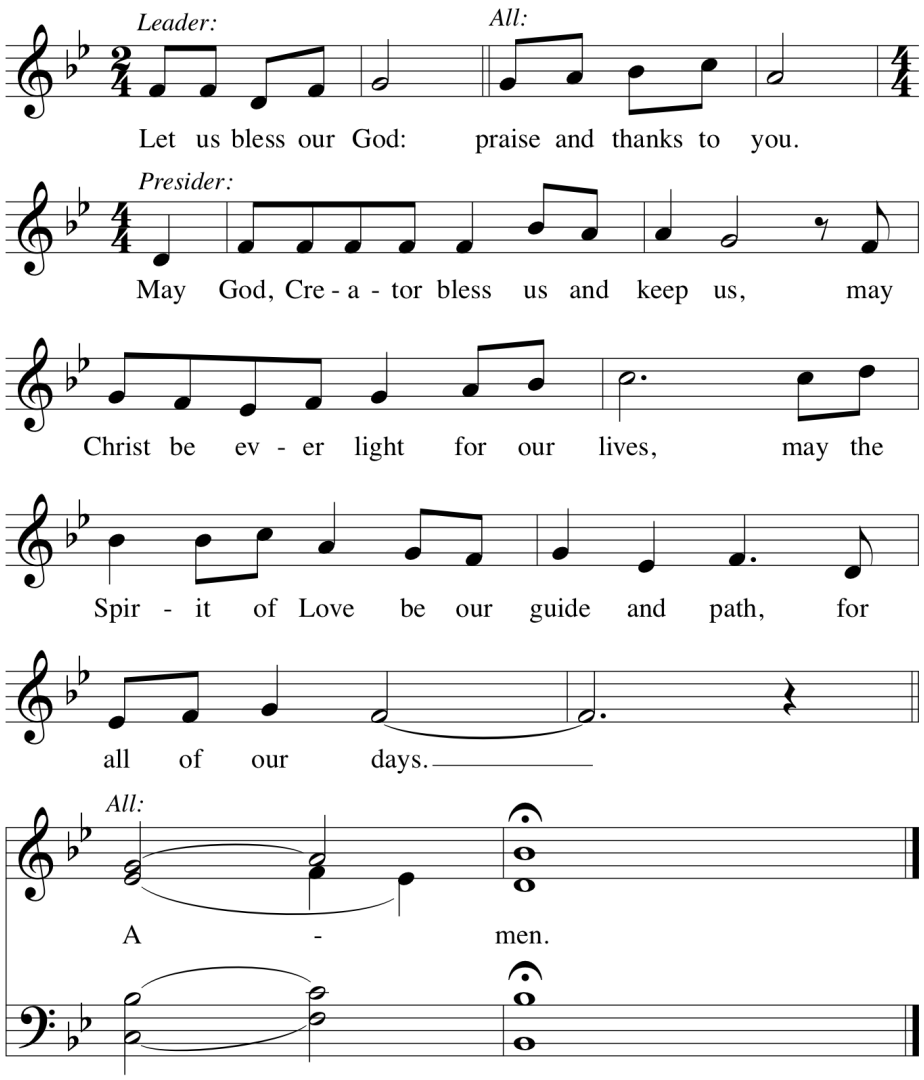
*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.*

*There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.*



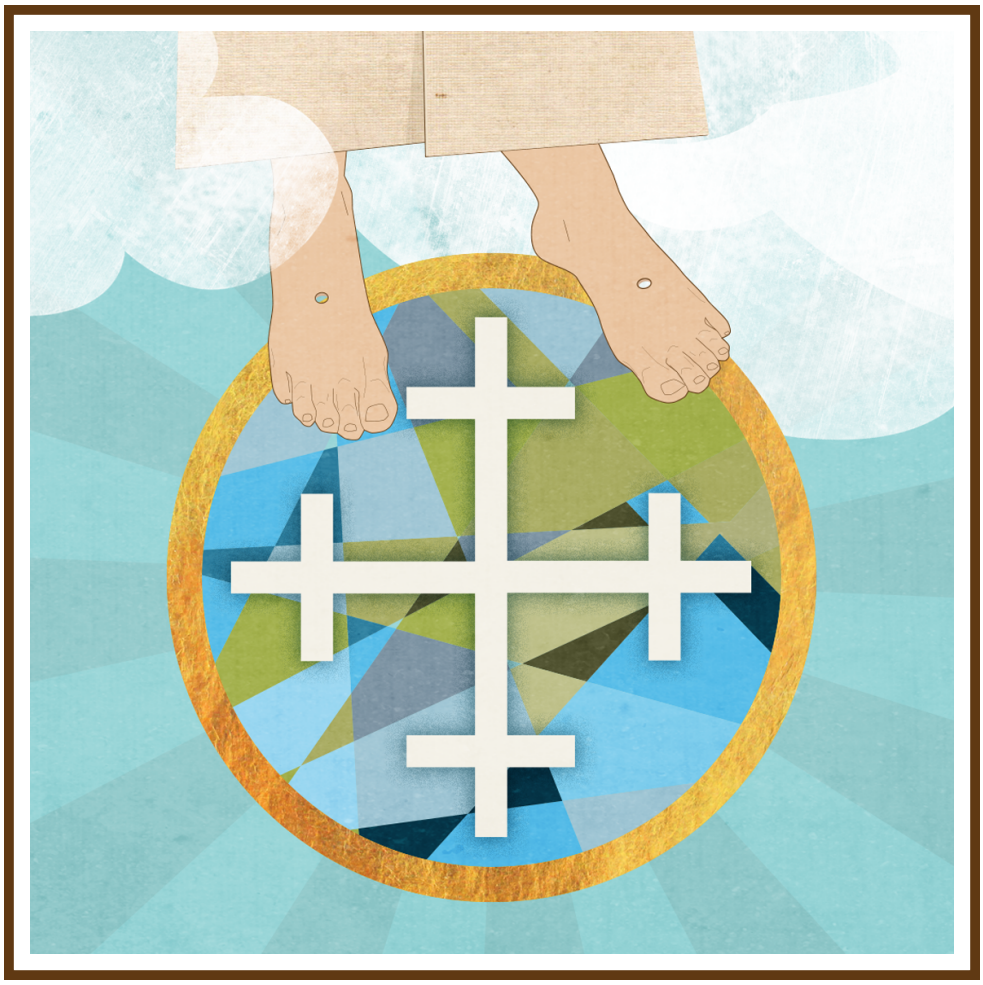
**Worship Notes**

## BLESSING




L Go in peace.

**Worship Notes**



*OurSaviorBirmingham.com*

1074 Dunnavant Valley Rd. | 205-677-8642 | Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com