

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 7, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

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LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule
Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing. As a baptized Christian:

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



As We Gather

A new season in the Church Year begins today. Following Advent hope and Christmas joy in the Savior born for us, we enter Epiphany, which can be summed up with words such as revealing, shining forth, and manifestation. The Word we hear today is fitting as epiphanies are things the Lord has done since the beginning of time. The first creation was light shining forth on the first day. From that day of creation to the fall into sin to the first promise of the Savior, God has shone His light and enabled His people to see and know what is needed. As the time was right for Jesus to begin His earthly ministry, it began with His Baptism. With John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Lord reveals and shines forth the manifestation of the Word made flesh for us when He says: "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

Key:

- △ – Stand
- Ⓟ – Pastor
- Ⓐ – Assistant/Reader
- Ⓤ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

397 As with Gladness Men of Old

sts. 1-4



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to Thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At Thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be - fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er - more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.
 Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872
 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Affirmation of Our Baptism

- P** We remember our Baptism with the trinitarian invocation, recalling and confessing before heaven, earth, and hell all that God has given us in our Baptism: victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts. How do we rightly use our Baptism?
- C** **We rightly use our Baptism when we live in repentance and faith in the triune God, who has made us His beloved children. (*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* [2017] Question 324).**

P When Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan River, the Father declared Jesus as His Son with whom He is well pleased. In our Baptism, Paul wrote, we were joined to our Lord's death and resurrection, enabling us to walk in newness of life. We also learn in the Small Catechism, all centered on God's Word, the lasting gifts received in Baptism including the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal life to all who believe this. Let us reaffirm our faith in what God has done for us through Holy Baptism.

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

C **I do renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C **Yes, I believe.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

C **Yes, I believe.**

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

C **Yes, I believe.**

Confession & Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; [John 20:19-23]

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

- P** Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
C **my chosen, in whom my soul delights.**
P I will tell of the decree:
C **The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**
P Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
C **and the ends of the earth your possession.**
P You shall break them with a rod of iron
C **and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**
P Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
C **be warned, O rulers of the earth.**
P Serve the LORD with fear,
C **and rejoice with trembling,**
P for his wrath is quickly kindled.
C **Blessèd are all who take refuge in him.**
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
C **my chosen, in whom my soul delights.**

Kyrie

Lord, Have Mercy

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

sts. 1-4



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
 2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
 3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-merged and drowned for-
 4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
 cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
 ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
 cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
 out-ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
 gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-stroyed And
 for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
 in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
 all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
 makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. Jon D. Vieser, 1961
 Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
 Text: © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005347
 Tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Baptism of Our Lord

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1–5

The beginning of creation.

A The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 1.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 6:1–11

Baptism into Christ gives new life.

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 6.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- P** Praise the LORD, all nations!
- C** **Extol him, all peoples!**
- P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,
- C** **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**
- P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
- C** **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4–11

The Baptism of Jesus.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

407 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

sts. 1-4



1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do His Fa - ther's
 2 O hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God Him - self has
 3 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y word and
 4 There stood the Son of God in love, His grace to us ex -



plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell
 won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down,
 tend - ing; The Ho - ly Spir - it like a dove



Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n - ly wash - ing
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with His
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is My be -
 Up - on the scene de - scend - ing; The tri - une God as -



now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter, free - ly flow - ing.
 lov - ed Son, In whom My heart has plea - sure.
 sur - ing us, With prom - is - es com - pel - ling,



And by His blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's op -
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while be -
 Him you must hear, and Him a - lone, And trust in full - est
 That in our Bap - tism He will thus A - mong us find a



pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 stow - ing The Bap - tism of His bless - ing.
 mea - sure The word that He has spo - ken."
 dwell - ing To com - fort and sus - tain us.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Elizabeth Quimeyer, 1911-88, alt. Tune: David Lee, 1956

Text: © 1976 Elizabeth Quimeyer. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005347 Tune: © 2004 David Lee. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005347

Sermon - Romans 6:1-11, "United with Christ"

*"For the death he died he died to sin,
once for all,
but the life he lives he lives to God.
So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.."*

Romans 6:11

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... Lord of all creation, You spoke all creation into being, beginning with light. In this Epiphany season and all our days, grant us faith to see the light of Your providing hand, the guidance of the light of Your Word, and our Savior as the light of the world. Help us to shine Your light of truth and grace to this dark world, that others may know You and rejoice in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all grace, though our many sins and shortcomings weigh heavy on our hearts, You come to us in Your means of grace and give new life. Help us to daily remember our Baptism and to daily rejoice in our identity as Your own children and part of Your family. With Christ as the head, bless this family of believers within Your Church that through worship and fellowship all may be blessed with encouragement, support, service, and a zeal for growing in and sharing Your Word. Bless all families and homes that parents and children may remain steadfast in faith, trusting in You above all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all comfort, following the Baptism of Jesus He would seek the lost, heal the sick, and show compassion to all. Enable us in boldness and confidence to proclaim the wonders of Him who has called us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Use our words and actions to be a blessing to others. For those who are sick and suffering, grant Your continued presence and healing according to Your will, *especially...* Grant patience in trials, peace in afflictions, and hope in Your promises now and eternally. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may follow.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Voluntary

Stand

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a triangle symbol (△) above the first note. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a final double bar line.

G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a final double bar line.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The musical notation is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, with a final double bar line.

G It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy Lord



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n 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.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

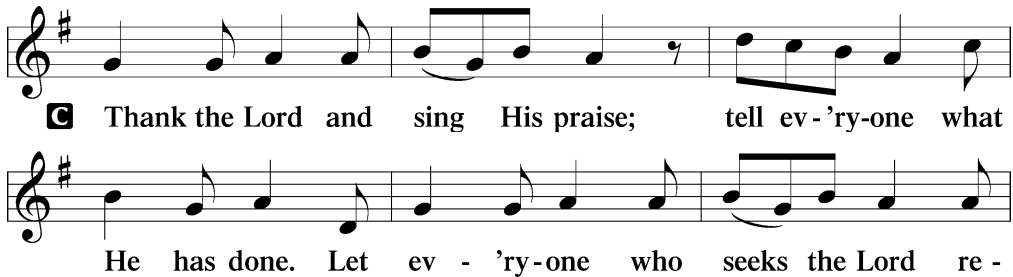
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

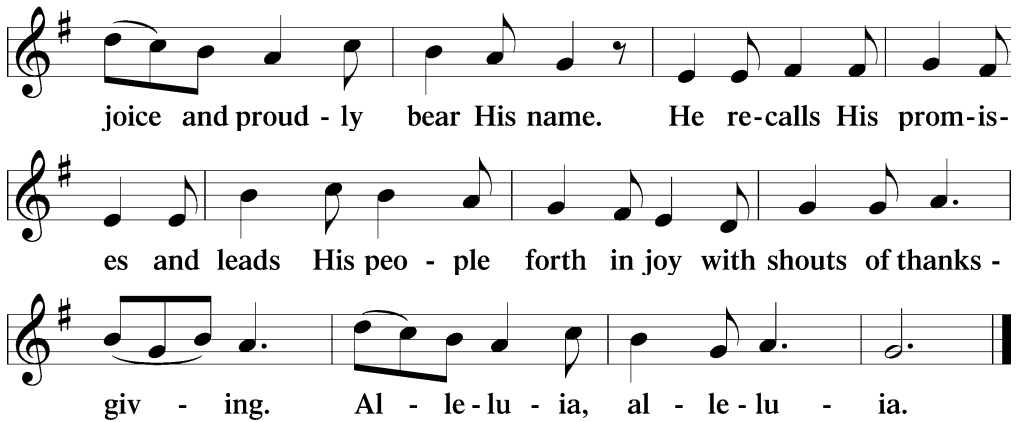
Amen.

Stand

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

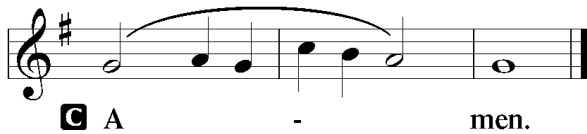


C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

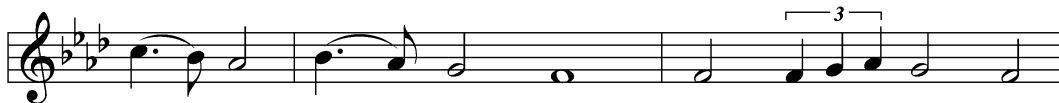
P Go in peace.
C Serve the Lord!

578 Thy Strong Word

sts. 1, 3, 5-6



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy
 Δ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the
 laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.
 Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with
 glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!
 now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.