

Ascension of Our Lord

Sunday, May 16, 2021

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316**

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Festive Prelude"

L. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PEACE

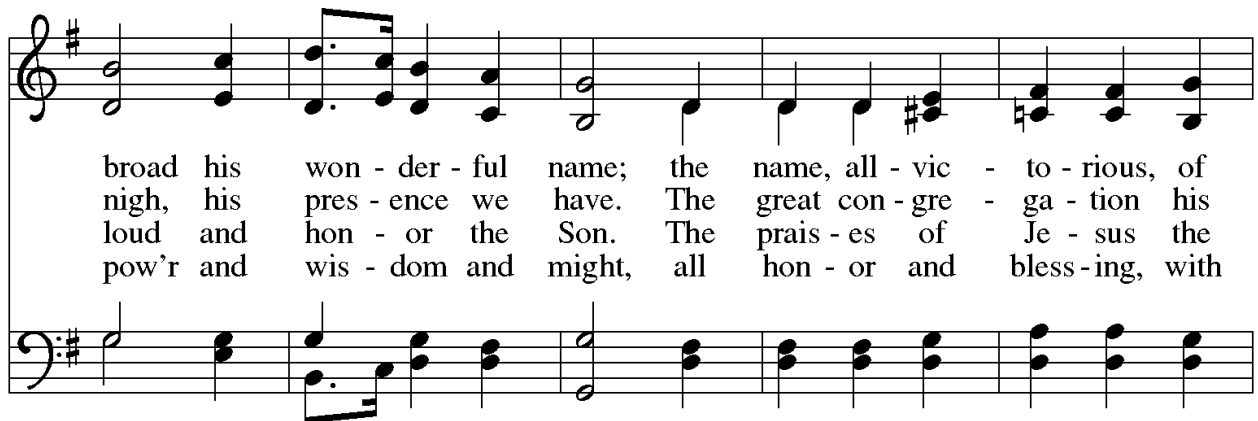
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

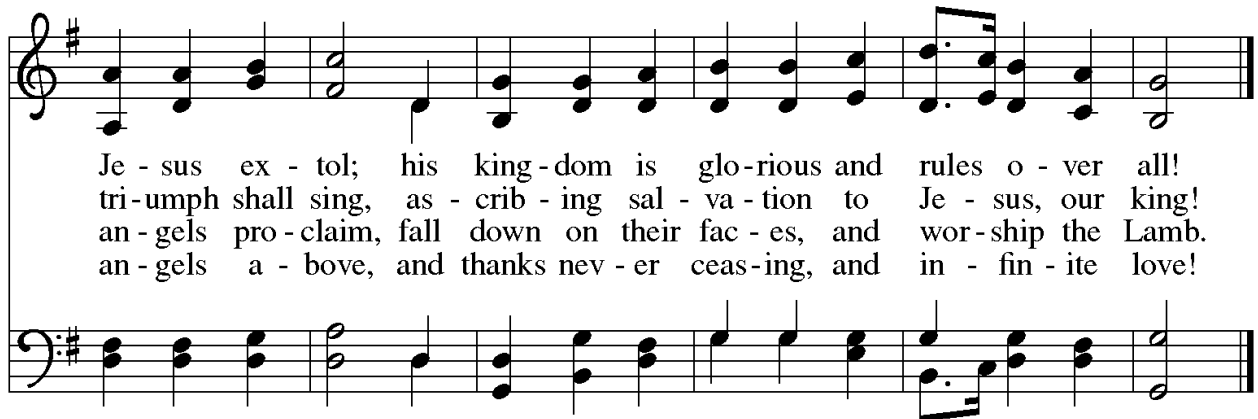
“You Servants of God”



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“He Is Lord” (Sing twice.)

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is".

Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. It starts with a measure rest marked with a '4'. The lyrics are: "Lord! Ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con - fess".

That Je - sus Christ is Lord.

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "That Je - sus Christ is Lord.".

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Acts

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:1-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47 (Read responsively)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the LORD Most High is to be feared;
he is the great king over all the earth.**

He subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.

**He chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

For God is King of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and he is highly exalted.**

A Reading from Ephesians

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:15-23)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,

beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:44-53)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Beautiful Savior”
[See back of bulletin]

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He 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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers
before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

You call the whole church on earth to worship and bless you. Empower your church
to bear joyful witness to your love made known in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have fashioned a place for all your creatures and you fill the earth with your
glory. Mend what we have torn in the fabric of creation and replenish and nourish
your world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the majesty of your love, you rule the world with justice and mercy. Give those
in authority the spirit of your love, so that all people may flourish and live in peace.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You heal those who are sick and bind up the brokenhearted. Attend to the needs of
those in our congregation, community, workplaces, schools, and families (*and we
pray especially for everyone on our prayer list*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have gathered us as one in this congregation. Help us love one another, be
reconciled where we are divided, and share the riches of your grace with our
neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you have raised Christ from the dead, in your love and mercy, raise all who have
died in the faith. We give you thanks for all your saints and for their gifts among us.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(The Pastor concludes): In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

Know that God’s only begotten Son has ascended into heaven to prepare a place for you, so that you might be lifted up, found blameless, and welcomed into the joys of God's eternal kingdom when Christ returns. And now, may almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Psalm XIX"

B. Marcello

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Introduction to the day: In today's readings, the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We, too, long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (5/16/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Ron Rozansky; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Sue Petresky;

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long;

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Pat Davis, and Gloria Dierwechter

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (5/23/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; GREETER: Ron Rozansky

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Jim Spotts; GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Joanne Emerich;

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Jean Premich;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

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Altar flowers are presented in honor of my cousin Lois M. Reibie on her birthday by Sue Schenck.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of my brothers, Frank (Army-Korean War), Donald and John (USMC), and in honor of James and Robert (US Air Force) by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

WELCA

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod 31st Annual Convention will be held on June 12, 2021 at Hope Lutheran Church, Tatamy, Pa. (Short distance north of Nazareth). Detailed information regarding this event is available on the WELCA bulletin board in the gathering room. Deadline to register is 5/22/21. Please let our group know if you do plan to attend.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, May 16	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, May 17	6:00 PM	Worship & Music
Wednesday, May 19	6:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 20	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
Friday, May 21	1:30 PM	STiC Sojourn in Landingville, PA
Saturday, May 22	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, May 23	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

WHY DO WE GIVE?

As Christians, we give because we have received (and continue to receive) good gifts in abundance -- from a loving God! The Estimate of Giving Form shown below appeared in our May newsletter. If you have not done so before, please prayerfully consider what you give to the ministry of our congregation and the greater church. Help us to grow in our ability to serve others -- with the love of Christ.

**ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM
2021**

_____ **Option one:** I/we/our family prayerfully estimate(s) our giving to be:

\$_____ for St. Paul's Current Expenses.

\$_____ for the greater church through Mission Support (Benevolence).

\$_____ for special ministry or needs (list here) _____.

I/we/our family will contribute:

_____ weekly _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ as we are able.

_____ **Option two:** I/we/our family will continue to give to St. Paul's as we are able, however we cannot estimate what our giving will be at this time.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please deposit this form in the offering plate or mail it to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Planned Giving Program, P.O. Box 156, Orwigsburg, PA. 17961 by Monday, May 31, 2021.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Beautiful Savior”

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

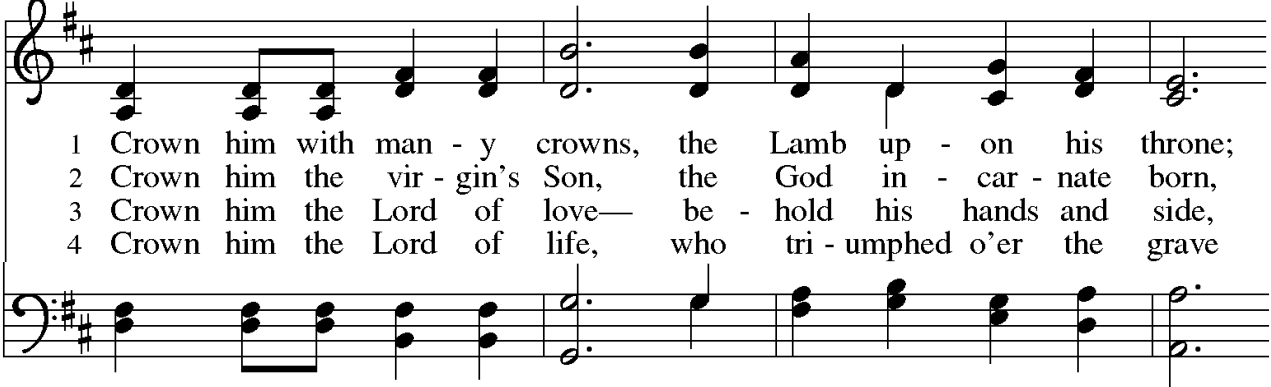
Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

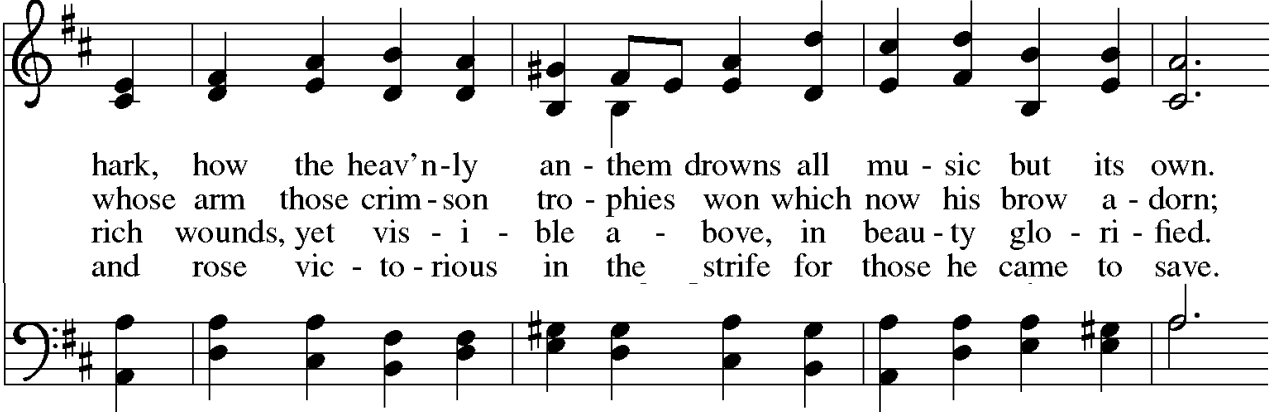
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

SENDING HYMN

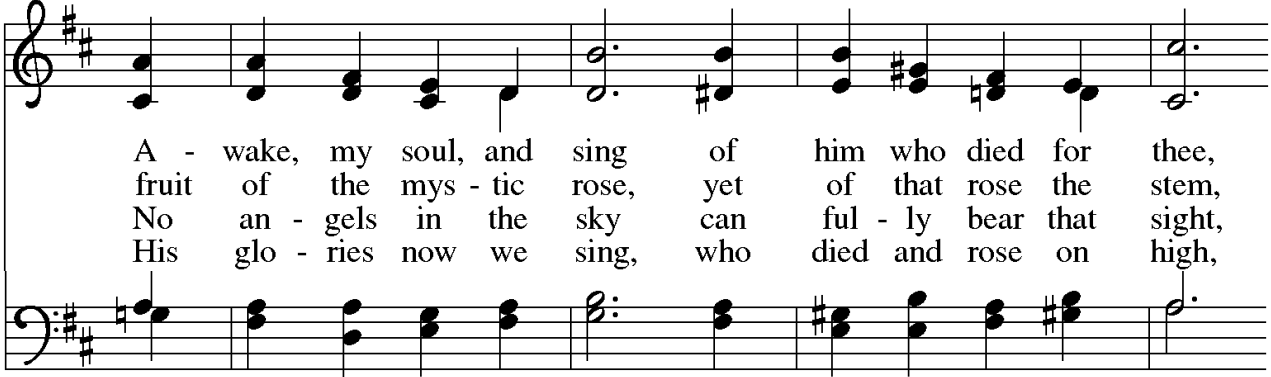
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"



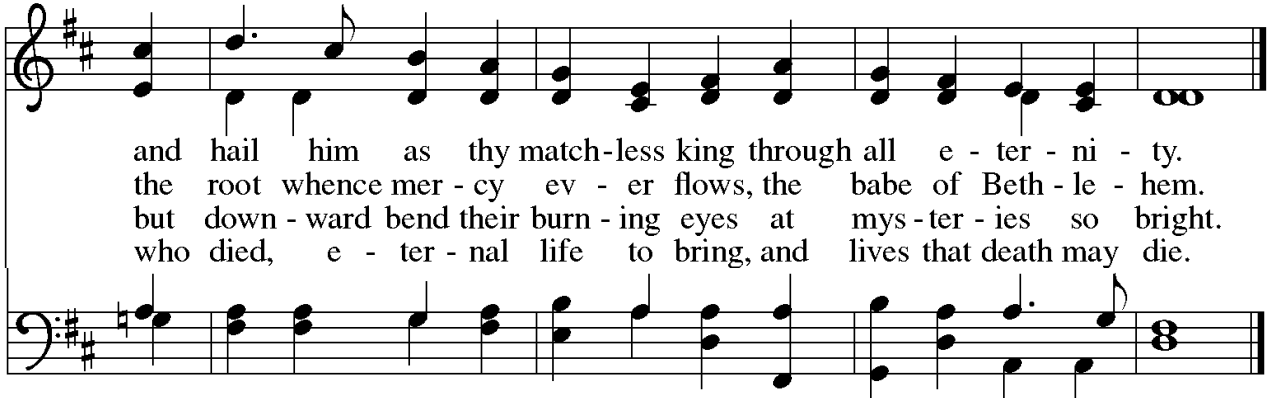
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim - son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.