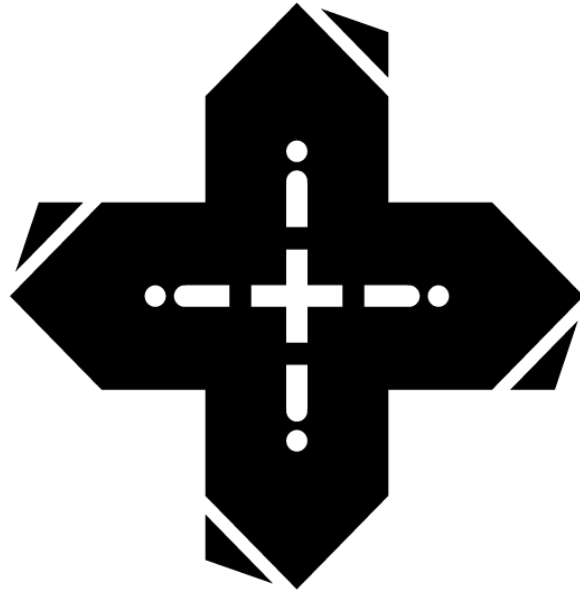


Connecting Christ. Creating Community.



HUNTERSVILLE
Lutheran Church

SUNDAYS OF EASTER
04.25.21



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Seven Oaks 19725 Oak St. Cornelius, NC

Worship @ 9:30am

Pastor@huntersvillelc.com | huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located in the hallway at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes

~Sundays of Easter~

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is the beating heart of the gospel and the linchpin of your faith. The Apostle Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:14, 20-22). Jesus' resurrection is what gives your faith meaning, what brings comfort amid sorrows, and what offers you hope for the life to come.

Easter is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious savior. For the early Christians, and for us, Easter is not merely one day. It is a whole season that also includes the celebration of Jesus' ascension. As one author put it, "Easter is not only the focal point of our faith (the intellectual side), but this is really when the church parties (the emotional side)." The season of Easter, known as "The Great Fifty Days," was the first liturgical season of the church year to be celebrated in the first three centuries of the early church. For fifty days, the church rightfully continues the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and what it means.

Throughout the Season of Easter, each Sunday has a special emphasis. Several Sundays recount Jesus' miraculous and mysterious post-Easter appearances. In ancient times, the Second Sunday of Easter was known as White Sunday. The men, women, and children who were baptized at the Easter Vigil wore white robes as a sign of their baptismal renewal. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, recalls the manifold references in John's Gospel to Jesus being our Good Shepherd. The final Sunday in the Season of Easter is reserved for the celebration of the Ascension and also sets the scene for the sending of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

As we journey together through The Great Fifty Days, God grant us hearts of joy as we continue to celebrate the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Amen!

About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is a church that is waiting for you. We are supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For more information, check out www.huntersvillelc.com.



ORDER OF SERVICE

From beginning to end, the Gospel—the good news of what Jesus did for sinners—is the central focus in our worship. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. This is because the Gospel is the very thing that God uses to transform hearts and eternities, creating saving faith in the heart of the believer. God bless our worship this morning.

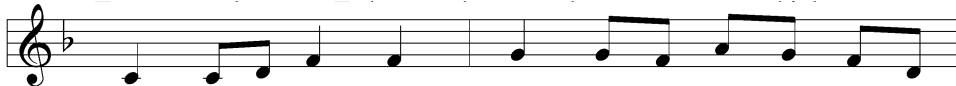
Opening Hymn | *Christ, the Word of God Incarnate* |



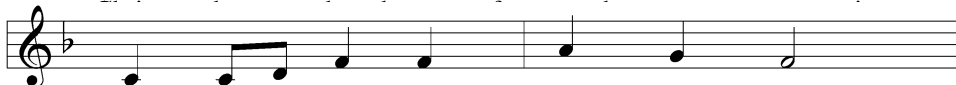
1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate,
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en,
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful Shep - herd,



Lord and Son of A - bra - ham;
Food for bod - y, food for soul;
From the stump of Jes - se's tree;
Watch - ing all your lambs and sheep;



Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
Christ, the man - na, dai - ly giv - en,
Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es
Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I Am;
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole.
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly.
Nev - er - fail - ing, vi - gil keep.



Christ, the Light, you shine un - van - quished,
Feed us with the food of heav - en,
Graft us in - to you, O Sav - ior;
When we stray, Good Shep - herd, seek us,



Light and life you bring to all;
Fore - taste of the feast to be;
Prune our hearts so we re - main
Find us, lift us, bear us home;



Light our path with your own pres - ence,
Quench our thirst with liv - ing wa - ter
Fruit - ful branch - es in your vine - yard
Lamb of God, our Shep - herd, keep us;



Grant us grace to heed your call.
Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
Let us hear your voice a - lone.

Invocation

L In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.¹

C Amen.

L Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

Confession of Sins

L Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

L Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I say to you what God says to you:

Your sins are all forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy | *Kyrie*² |

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in your, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

L For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

² The word *Kyrie* is a Greek word from the phrase *Kyrie elieson* which means, "Lord, have mercy!" This is the most heartfelt cry of a believer to his Lord. It is not a cry for forgiveness, but a cry for mercy that our Lord and King hear us and help us in our necessities and trouble. This morning, may it be our heartfelt cry to our Lord and King.

Glory be to God | *Gloria* |

- 1. All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**
- 2. Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**
- 3. O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.**
- 4. You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen



THE WORD

During the Sundays of Easter, the first reading is going to look a little different. Instead of being a selection from the Old Testament, the first reading is a selection from the book of Acts. This is to show how the Resurrection ultimately gave birth to the Christian Church and how God used the apostles to spread the message of the empty tomb.

Children's Message

First Reading | Acts 20:28-32 |

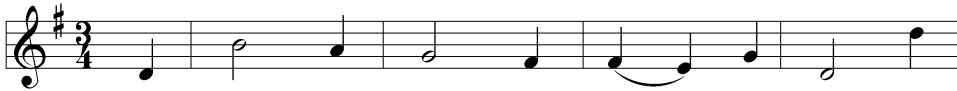
²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,^[a] which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 | *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* |



1 The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain And
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed In
5 Good - ness and mer - cy, all my life, Shall



makes me down to lie In pas - tures green; he
me to walk doth make With - in the paths of
will I fear no ill; For thou art with me,
pres - ence of my foes; My head thou dost with
sure - ly fol - low me, And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
right - eous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake.
and thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing - place shall be.

Second Reading | 1 John 4:1-6 |

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

The Gospel

L The Gospel according to John, chapter ten.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day | *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* |



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
 3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
 5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, A



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der
 you, dear Lord, be - side me; Your rod and staff my
 ban - quet here be - stow - ing; Your oil of wel - come,



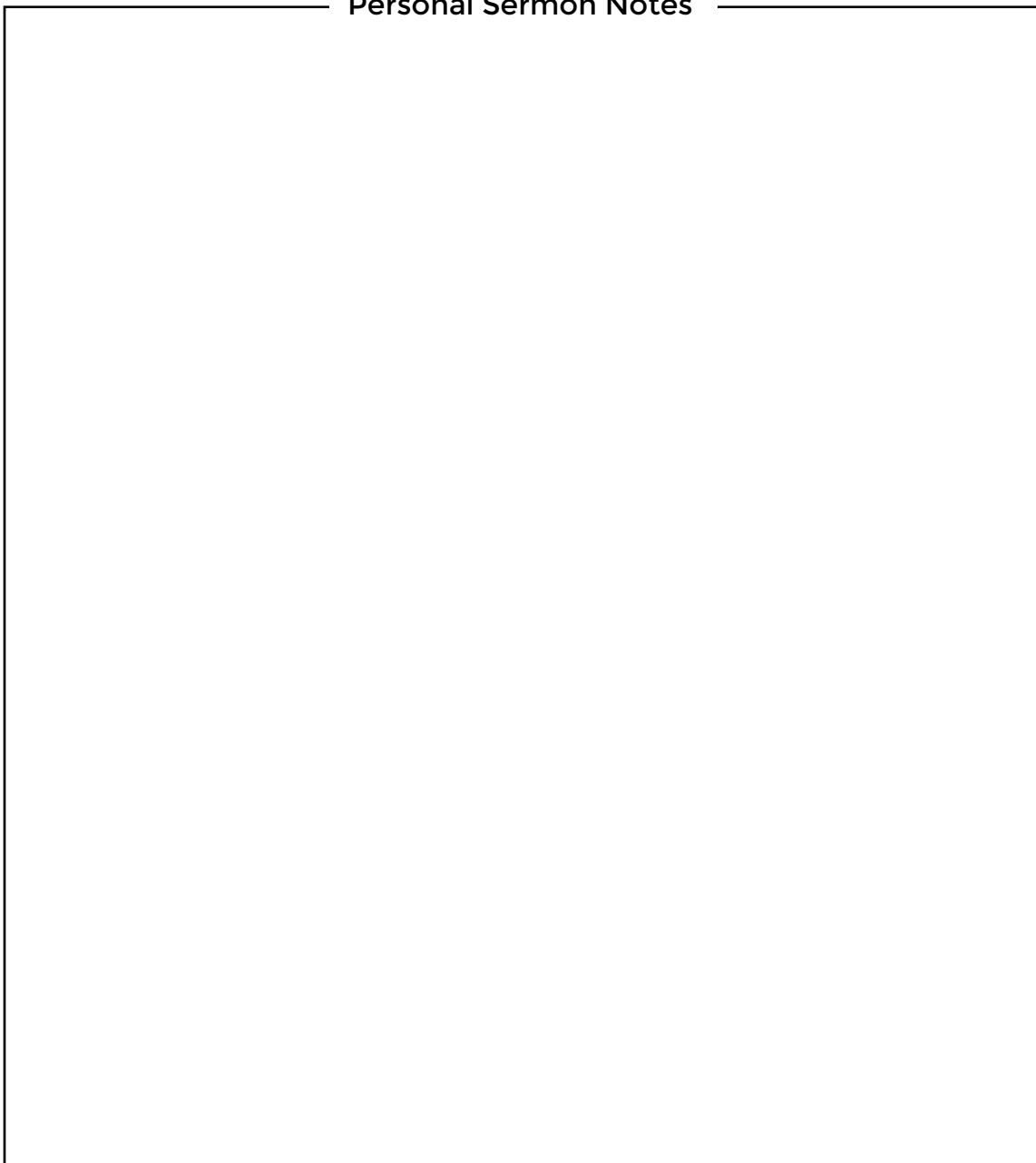
I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
 my de - light; My cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Your goodness fails me never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 Within your house forever!

Sermon | *Unblurring the Line* |

John 10:11-18

Personal Sermon Notes



Confession of Faith | *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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy Christian 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.

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Reception into Membership

Kathleen Shewmaker

Prayer of the Church

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**



THE SACRAMENT

Huntersville Lutheran practices close communion, which means biblical conversation and confession with our church beforehand. It is our desire to share in the eternal blessings of this Sacrament according to the instructions that God himself gives. If you are new to Huntersville Lutheran, please know that many of those around you were at one time new, too. And, as you can see by their presence, this preliminary discussion has only brought us closer together to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way he has prescribed. Contact our pastor at any time.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

- L** Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper. *1 Corinthians 11:28*
- C** **I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*
- L** Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper. *1 Corinthians 11:29*
- C** **The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.** *1 Corinthians 10:16*
- L** Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.
- C** **Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.** *1 Corinthians 10:17*

The 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.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** **Amen.**

Lamb of God | *Angus De³* |

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 your peace. A - men.

Distribution

³ John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God (*Angus Dei*), the sacrifice for sins, once for all. We join countless Christians in singing these words before receiving the very thing in this Supper that these words promise, sins taken away through the blood of Jesus.

The Lord's Blessing

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

Numbers 6:24

- Amen.

Song of Departure | *Jerusalem the Golden* |

Printed on the following page.





1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



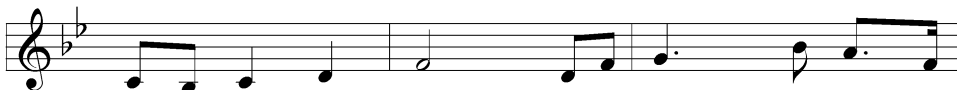
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in



end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
bring us To that dear land of rest Where
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The



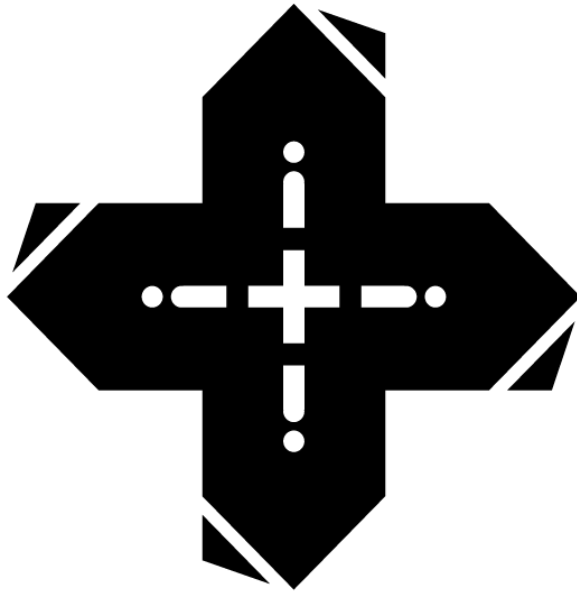
midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

Announcements

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning, we pray your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best way to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Congregational Meeting | Next Sunday, May 2nd, there will be a brief congregational meeting after worship. The Steering Committee will update you on the status and health of the congregation, future plans, and our search for a permanent home.



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