



“Seven Stanzas at Easter” - Stanza 5

the vast rock of
materiality

5th Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday
May 19, 2019

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

Sunday 8:00AM

Sunday 10:45AM

<i>Elders:</i>	Mike Bandman	Randy Gifford
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	Jeremy Little	Jack Warneke
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Emma Megerle / Holly Faitsch	Ruth Ziegler / Joseph Kaiser
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Sue Bandman, Jude Squires	Jack Warneke, Monte Stoltzman
<i>Ushers:</i>	Don Heidlauf, Tony Young	John Schultz, Karen Kailer
<i>Greeters:</i>	Rayos Family, Tom and Marilyn Robinson	Nuechterlein Family, Diane Perkins
<i>Fellowship:</i>	Fellowship Committee	
<i>May Altar Guild:</i>	Diane Mundrick	Debbie Wuethrick
<i>May Counters:</i>	Dave and Cheryl Ross	

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

The Confirmation Class

In Today's Prayers

*If you have something you'd like added,
please go to one of the Prayer Stands,
write down your request, & put in the plastic rack.*



In our weekly Worship Prayers, we lift up praises, thanksgivings, requests, and concerns to our Lord. In order to help us pray to God about the wholeness of our lives in the world, we have a schedule for when we will focus on specific areas for prayer. Any immediate needs will always take priority, but in general, we will follow this schedule. Please note that this means on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, Pastor will speak the names of everyone on our health concerns list, but on other Sundays, this will be lifted up only as a general prayer for health and healing.

3rd Sunday

Government & Safety

Local, State and Federal government and leaders
Local police and fire departments

Local concerns

Human trafficking, here locally and across the world
Marc & Pedro, men who burglarized Bethel, 30 months
probation/rehabilitation
The people around us who do not know Jesus and salvation in His Gospel

Congregation: Spiritual Conversation

Help us talk about spiritual things that are the source and foundation for life,
and build relationships and friendships that include these conversations

THE EXPLORE GOD LITURGY

Worship in a traditional order drawing on the themes of
the Explore God questions (underlined in the liturgy) and related passages from the Bible.

Opening Hymn

Let Me Be Thine Forever

LSB 689; tune: 644



1 Let me be Thine for - ev - er, My faith - ful God and Lord;
2 Lord Je - sus, my sal - va - tion, My light, my life di - vine,
3 And Thou, O Ho - ly Spir - it, My com - fort - er and guide,



Let me for - sake Thee nev - er Nor wan - der from Thy Word.
My on - ly con - so - la - tion, O make me whol - ly Thine!
Grant that in Je - sus' mer - it I al - ways may con - fide,



Lord, do not let me wa - ver, But give me stead - fast - ness,
For Thou hast dear - ly bought me With blood and bit - ter pain.
Him to the end con - fess - ing Whom I have known by faith.



And for such grace for - ev - er Thy ho - ly name I'll bless.
Let me, since Thou hast sought me, E - ter - nal life ob - tain.
Give me Thy con - stant bless - ing And grant a Chris - tian death.

Invocation – Our Purpose is Found in God

Ecclesiastes 2:11, 3:14

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: When we take a good look at everything we've done, looking at all the sweat and hard work, if we're honest, we see nothing but smoke. Smoke and spitting into the wind. There is nothing to any of it.

C: **Does life have a purpose?**

P: It may seem like life has no purpose when we're chasing after our own desires. But the works of God are wonderful.

C: They endure forever;

P: nothing can be added to them,

C: nothing can be taken away from His works.

P: God has done them, so we worship Him and find our purpose in Him.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution – In Our Despair, We Find That God is Real

James 1:6; Jude 20-25

P: When we see our own sinfulness, we actually might hope that there is no God, because we expect that a holy God would condemn our unworthiness. When we see the sinfulness of the world, we cannot believe there is a God, because how could a holy, loving God allow this world to continue to exist as it is?
In despair over this, we ask:

C: Is God real?

P: We doubt that God is real, and we are like waves of the sea that are driven and tossed by the wind.—But then we hear that the God of the Bible has compassion on our struggles of faith. He says:

C: “Have mercy on those who doubt.”

P: God the Father encourages us to build one another up in our most holy faith,

C: instead of pushing aside those who doubt.

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life,

C: instead of growing impatient with the endless troubles in the world.

P: God the Holy Spirit sends us out to save those caught in the fire of sin, and show mercy to others, being careful not to be trapped ourselves by their sin. And we know that we ourselves need this same rescue assistance from others.

C: Now to him who is able to keep us from stumbling in our faith and actions,

P: and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy,

C: to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

P: be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,

C: before all time and now and forever. Amen.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

My Sav - ior lives. My Sav - ior's al - ways there for me. My God He was. My God He is. My God is al - ways gon - na be. My Sav - ior lives. My Sav - ior loves. My Sav - ior lives. My Sav - ior loves. My Sav - ior lives.

CCLI Song # 4592255
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Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem **“Praise the Lord, Ye Congregation”** **Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem’s music and words to help you to meditate on God’s Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

*Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in His sanctuary at the holy hour;
 Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in the lovely firmament of His wondrous power!
 Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, With the harp His praises ring;
 Praise Him with the clashing timbrel Every voice proclaim Him King:*

*Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in His sanctuary at the holy hour;
 Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in the lovely firmament of His wondrous power!
 Praise Him with the stringed instruments, Let the mighty organ play;
 Praise Him with high sounding cymbals Everything with breath now say:*

*Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in His sanctuary at the holy hour;
 Praise the Lord, ye congregation, in the lovely firmament of His wondrous power!
 Praise the Lord, he congregation Praise he the Lord!*

The Word of God – His Uniquely, Reliable Word

Psalm 1:2-3

P: We often may struggle to believe that we have the true words of God. We ask:

C: *Is the Bible reliable?*

P: We acknowledge this struggle, and we admit that we'll never find an adequate answer to all of our questions. Yet, the Bible reveals a unique God who brings salvation to us by grace—as a pure gift. No other spiritual book in the world teaches about divine mysteries like this. The hope and love and comfort that come from knowing salvation is a gift from God leads us to say:

C: *My delight is in the Word of the LORD.*

***I am like a tree planted by streams of water,
bearing fresh fruit every month,
Never dropping a leaf,
always in blossom.***

P: Hear now this life-giving Word of God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 148 (ESV)

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD!

For he commanded and they were created.

⁶And he established them forever and ever;

he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints,

for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

Revelation 21:1–7 (ESV)

¹Then I, [John the apostle], 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, 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, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Word of God – God’s Mission for Whole Wide World

Isaiah 49:6

P: When we hear that Jesus said He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to God the Father except through Him, we find ourselves asking:

C: **Is Christianity too narrow?**

P: But in the Scriptures, we see that God always had in mind to save the whole wide world, His entire Creation. He said to His Son, the Messiah, the Christ: “That’s too small a thing for You, just to recover and round up the people of Israel.”

C: **God the Father said to our Savior Jesus:**

***“I will make you as a light for the nations,
so that my salvation becomes global!”***

P: Hear now the wide-reaching Gospel of God.

Holy Gospel

John 16:12–22 (ESV)

¹²[Jesus said:] “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Earth and All Stars

LSB 817 sts. 1, ref, 2-5



1 Earth and all stars!	Loud rush - ing plan - ets!	Sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud blow - ing snow - storm!	Sing to the
3 Trum - pet and pipes!	Loud clash - ing cym - bals!	Sing to the
4 En - gines and steel!	Loud pound - ing ham - mers!	Sing to the
5 Class - rooms and labs!	Loud boil - ing test tubes!	Sing to the

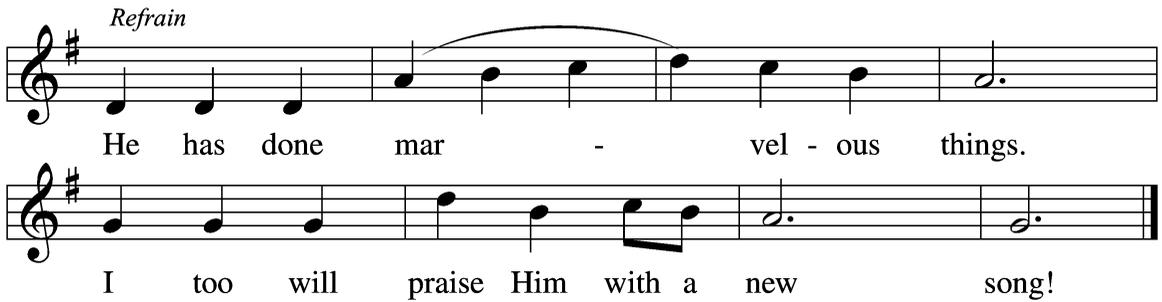


Lord	a new song!	Oh, vic - to - ry!	Loud shout - ing
Lord	a new song!	Flow - ers and trees!	Loud rus - tling
Lord	a new song!	Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud hum - ming
Lord	a new song!	Lime - stone and beams!	Loud build - ing
Lord	a new song!	Ath - lete and band!	Loud cheer - ing



ar - my!	Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
dry leaves!	Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
cel - los!	Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
work - ers!	Sing to the	Lord	a new song!
peo - ple!	Sing to the	Lord	a new song!

Refrain



He has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

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Sermon “Seven Stanzas at Easter: Stanza 5 – the vast rock of materiality”

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
 not a stone in a story,
 but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
 grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
 the wide light of day.

Full poem on pages 19–20

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

***(10:45AM) Offertory (“Earth and All Stars” – page 13)
 followed by the Prayers of the Church***

Rite of Confirmation (8AM)

We celebrate Confirmation—

our students publicly confirming that they indeed believe in Jesus.

They are His disciples through the grace of God granting them faith in Jesus.

Lily Freehling

Jeremy Leicht

Jake Kruse

Griffin Pavletic

*Assisting with the Rite of Confirmation: **Stephanie Bunnell**, Lay Coach*

*Thank you also for our other Lay Coaches from this year, **Jose Rayos & Don Wuethrick***

CONFIRMATION VOW & BLESSING

Do you understand the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Do you reject the devil and his works and all his ways?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty...Jesus Christ, His only Son...
the Holy Spirit?

Do you intend to continue in the Christian faith, to be committed to the
Church throughout your life?

Will you suffer, even to the point of death, rather than denying Christ?

Do you believe the Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and do you believe that the
Small Catechism accurately teaches what the Scriptures say?

Do you desire to be a member of the Lutheran Church and of this congregation?

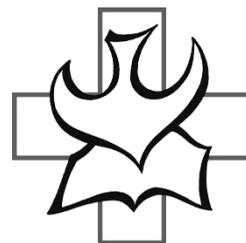
Do you intend faithfully to live your life according to God's Word, to hear God's Word and
receive the Lord's Supper and to remain true to God in your faith, your words and your
actions?

Are you asking to be shepherded (cared for) in your faith
and committing to encourage others in their faith in Jesus?

Will you serve in and support the work of this congregation in the mission of God?

Do you confess that you are a disciple, a follower of Jesus?

May you grow in the wisdom of God, seek the Lord in prayer, receive His strength
and always have the hope of eternal life, in the Name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



(8AM) Response Verse

Earth and All Stars

LSB 817 sts. 6-7

(10:45) Offertory (we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



6 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound-ing wis - dom! Sing to the
7 Chil - dren of God, Dy - ing and ris - ing, Sing to the



Lord a new song! Daugh-ter and son! Loud pray-ing
Lord a new song! Heav - en and earth, Hosts ev - er-



mem - bers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
last - ing, Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

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Prayers of the Church – Praying to God Who Knows Our Suffering

Psalm 13:1-2,5; 1 Peter 5:7

P: We come before God with our prayers—thanksgivings, rejoicing, and praises, but also our pains and sufferings. Our God is big enough for us to ask:

C: Why does God allow pain and suffering?

P: The Psalmist prayed: “How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?”

C: How long will You hide Your face from me?”

P: But God also invites you to cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

**C: We have trusted in His steadfast love;
Our hearts shall rejoice in His salvation.**

P: Let us pray.

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

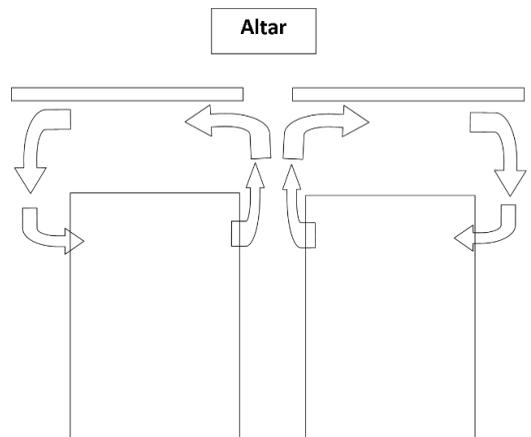
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.



Preface – Our Questions Find Their Answer in Christ Genesis 45:5; Psalm 103:3-4,8,11-12

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ***And also with you.***

P: This Supper, Holy Communion, is a declaration that God sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. But we have all asked at times:

C: ***Is Jesus really God?***

P: Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you at times have rejected Jesus or questioned whether He is God, because God the Father sent Him for this very reason: to preserve your life.

C: *Why would Jesus become human and die?*

P: Jesus, the divine, eternal Son of God, humbled Himself by obeying His Father's will to the point of dying on the cross. He made Himself nothing, becoming our servant, to rescue us through His body and blood.

C: *Can I know God personally? Can I know that this Lord's Supper is for me?*

P: Yes, this Word is true for you. Here in Word and Sacrament we meet the Lord.

He forgives all your iniquity,
redeems your life from the pit,
crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does He remove your transgressions from you.

**C: *May we always declare with our mouths and hearts:
Jesus Christ is my Lord. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers, pray for your brothers & sisters in Christ, and maintain this as meditative time.

First Distribution**Christ Be My Leader**

LSB 861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
 doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
 hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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Second Distribution**Children of the Heavenly Father**

LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You invite all who are burdened with sin, doubts, and struggles to come to You for rest. We have come at Your invitation to the heavenly feast, which You have provided for Your children on earth. Preserve us in this true faith, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us a place at Your heavenly table, where we will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear us, Jesus, for Your own sake.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing)

Psalm 103:1-2

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

**C: *and all that is within me,
bless His holy Name!***

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul,

**C: *don't forget a single blessing,
don't forget His answers to all of my heart's desires.***

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Acknowledgements

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Closing Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

LSB 411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

“Seven Stanzas at Easter” by John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.



This poem was written by John Updike (1932-2009) for a religious arts festival sponsored by the Clifton Lutheran Church, of Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1960. It can be found in Updike's poetry collection titled *Telephone Poles and Other Poems* (New York: Alfred A Knopp).