

*Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.*

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**May 12, 2024**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Silent Prayer of Preparation**

*Loving creator, you called upon your servant Mary to bring your Son into the world. We give thanks for her, and for all mothers who bear witness to your love. Their generosity and strength have blessed generations. Please bless our mothers. Ease their worry for the families you entrust to them, guide them in times of doubt, and hold them close when they are overwhelmed by both joy and sorrow. May they know our deep gratitude for giving us life and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.*

## **Gathering Music**

### **The Gathering of God's People**

#### **Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship**

“Earth and All Stars”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

Pentecost Offering

Melissa Canney

### **Introit “God's Light”**

Jacquie D'Angelo, 2024

Always and forever  
God's Love is bestowed  
Timeless and bountiful  
God's Realm overflowed  
May we be inspired  
Strive to be our best  
Witness God's holy Grace  
Lovingly expressed

Miracles abound here  
Each and ev'ry day  
When our hearts are open  
God shows us the way  
Live life in gratitude  
And pray for true Sight  
Always and forever  
May we live in God's Light

## **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: On this day of celebrating mothers, we remember and lift up our mothers to the Lord. Mothers of young children, first-time mothers, working mothers, and single mothers.

**People: We see you and honor you today.**

Leader: Grieving mothers who have lost a child too soon, and those who desire to be mothers.

**People: We see you and honor you today.**

Leader: All those who are missing their mothers, and mothers who are missing their children.

**People: We see you and honor you today.**

Leader: Mothers who did not give birth to us biologically, but have raised us and brought life to us in countless other ways.

**People: We see you and honor you today.**

Leader: In times of full joy and abundance, in times of empty nests and empty cradles, in all these God tends his flock like a shepherd and carries the lambs close to his heart.

**People: As a mother comforts her child, so will God comfort us!  
Amen!**

## **\*Hymn**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#306

## **The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

### **\*Call to Confession**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Some of us are tempted by resentment and unforgiveness because of those who have let us down. Some of us are tempted to condemn ourselves for past failings, and all of us remember times when we have fallen short.**

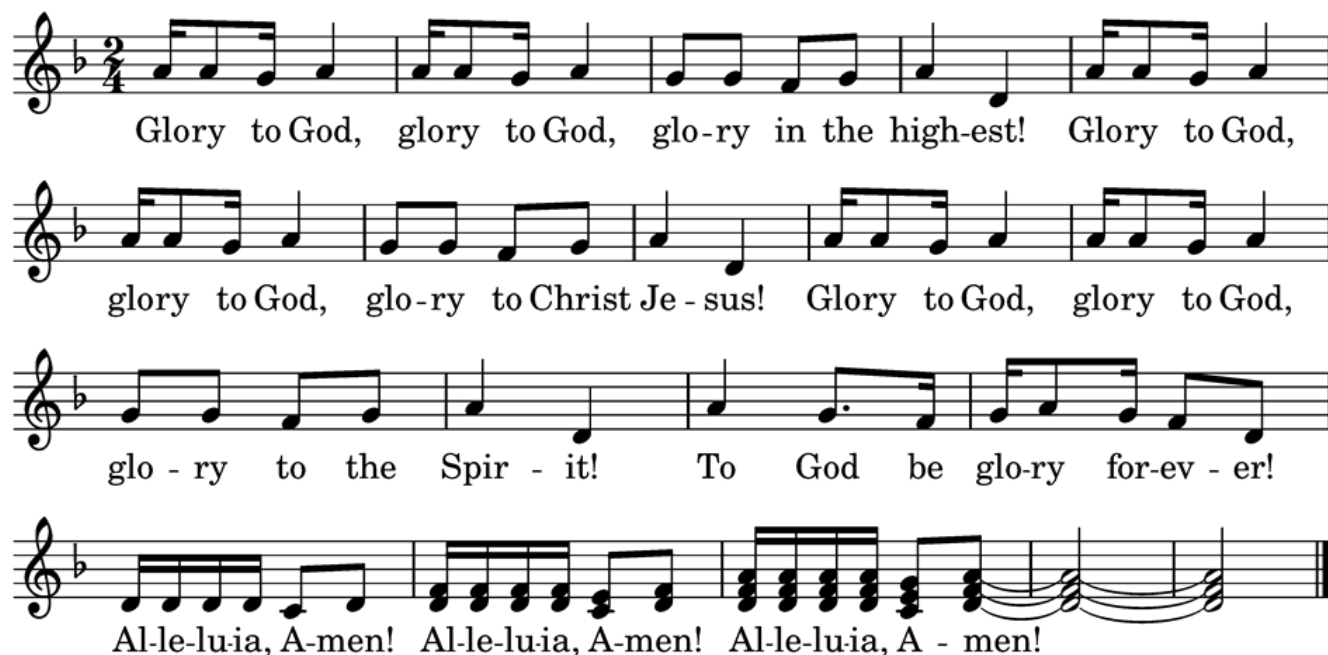
**Forgive us for doubt and resentment. Remind us of your forgiveness, always available in Jesus Christ. In spite of our failures and sin, we trust in your power to transform our lives. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus, so that our lives may bring joy to your world.  
Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)**

## \*Assurance of Pardon

## \*Response Hymn

“Glory to God”

#585



Glory to God, glory to God, glo-ry in the high-est! Glory to God,  
glory to God, glo-ry to Christ Je - sus! Glory to God, glory to God,  
glo - ry to the Spir - it! To God be glo-ry for-ev - er!  
Al-le-luia, A-men! Al-le-luia, A-men! Al-le-luia, A - men!

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

### Children's Sermon

### First Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:11

### Choir Anthem “O Sing Ye To the Lord”

Giuseppe Pitoni, 1657-1743

O sing ye to the Lord,  
Sing ye a new song,  
O praise him in the company of his saints.  
Let all of Israel rejoice now,  
Rejoice in him who made all,  
The sons of all Zion, and daughters of Zion,  
Be joyful and praise God on high.

### Second Scripture Reading

John 9:26-27

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

“The Imperfectly Perfect Mother!”

Pastor Steve Watters

## The Response to the Word

### \*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

### \*Hymn

“For Everyone Born”

#769

### Litany for Mother's Day

Leader: Like a mother eagle ... protecting us from evil.

**People: We thank you, God, for your love.**

Leader: Like a mother bear ... justice on those who oppress the young.

**People: We thank you, God, for your love.**

Leader: Holy Spirit ... mothers through whom you give us life.

**People: We thank you for their willingness to nurture life, for their trust in you to guide them through the labor of childbirth, the uncertainties of youth, the go of young adulthood.**

Leader: We thank you for all ... whom you give us abundant life:

**People: We thank you for schoolteachers, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, pastors, elders, Sunday School teachers, supervisors, and friends who share wisdom.**

Leader: We ask your tender mercies ... whose tears are not yet dry.

**People: Grant them your peace, which passes understanding.**

Leader: We ask your comforting ... buried sons and daughters.

**People: Grant them the grace to trust their loved ones to your never-ending care.**

Leader: We pray for those who are alienated from their mothers by harsh words, distance, misunderstanding.

**People: Grant them your grace to forgive and to love again.**

Leader: We pray for ... through war or family conflict.

**People: Deliver them from anguish.**

Leader: We pray ... clothe and educate their children.

**People: Wake us to our responsibility for common welfare.**

Leader: We pray for mothers ... unable or unwilling to care.

**People: Grant them courage and strength and patience for the living of each day.**

Leader: We pray for mothers ... emotional, or physical ability.

**People: Deliver them from hovering; grant them wisdom to encourage each child's full potential with you.**

Leader: We pray for mothers ... and in the military.

**People: Grant them confidence in your presence with their children in life, in death, in life beyond death.**

Leader: We especially lift up ... had great Love for his Mother:

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Offering**

**\*Response**                    "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (refrain)                    #240

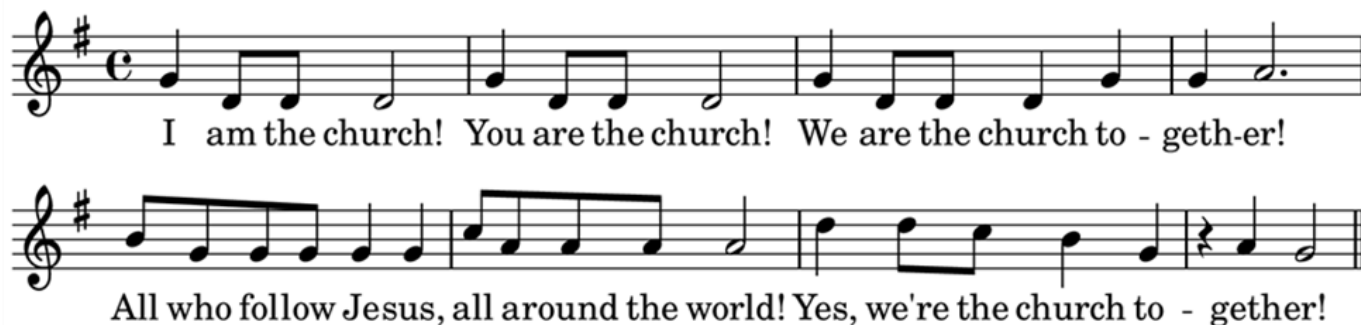
## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **The Sending of God's People**

**\*Closing Hymn**                    "God of the Sparrow"                    #22

## **\*Charge and Blessing**

## \*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff contains the accompaniment for the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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## \*Postlude

### “Trumpet Tune in C”

Jacob B. Weber

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**Pastor:** Steven A. Watters

**Liturgist:** Melissa Canney

**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd

**Organist:** Carol Welk

Our liturgist, Melissa, grew up in the village of Hamburg, New York just south of Buffalo, where she has fond memories of attending Hamburg Presbyterian Church with her family. She came to Ohio to attend Wittenberg University to study Psychology. She had a muy buena Spanish Professor at Witt named Senora Blayney!

Melissa has been married to Jim for 24 years and they have a large blended family where they love spending time together at sporting events, pool parties and beach vacations. Outside of gardening, running, and reading, Melissa loves walking Rusty, her big red dog. After 36 years working full time in the field of social services in Madison County, Melissa will join Jim in retirement this summer. She is grateful for all the opportunities God has provided, allowing her to use her gifts and serve.