

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

2022-2023



Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Dawn - 4/9/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***HE LIVES!***

Life is full of either/or moments where you face an unavoidable choice between two alternatives. Some of those moments are relatively insignificant. Either I have the chicken, or I have the fish. Other times, they shape the course of your life. Either I accept this new job offer, or I keep my current job for the remainder of my career. Either I accept his marriage proposal, or.... Some either/or moments are bigger than others.

Here is the biggest either/or of them all. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. One might ask, "How does that either/or affect me?" Because Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and Savior from sin. He said the proof is that he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things ... be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). Thus, if Jesus remains dead, he is both failure and fraud. However, if Jesus rose from the dead, he proves he is who he claimed to be—the Messiah. And he did what he came to do—save us.

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. That means, either Jesus is a complete waste of your time, or he is your only hope for salvation. If Jesus is still dead, it is completely logical that you should want nothing to do with him. If Jesus rose, it is only logical that he becomes the center and greatest priority of your life. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. This season of Easter is a 50-day-long celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered that either/or for us. We believe this life-changing truth. Christ is risen! He lives! Throughout this season, we explore what that means. Our worship follows this path:

Easter Dawn – He Lives to Dry Tears and Remove Fears  
Festival of the Resurrection – He Lives to Take Me from Death to Life  
Second Sunday of Easter – He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace  
Third Sunday of Easter – He Lives to Restore My Hope  
Fourth Sunday of Easter – He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd  
Fifth Sunday of Easter – He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven  
Sixth Sunday of Easter – He Lives and Calls Me to Live for Him  
Festival of Ascension – He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church  
Seventh Sunday of Easter – He Lives to Give Me Eager Expectation of Glory

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO DRY TEARS AND REMOVE FEARS***

Walk through a cemetery at dusk. What do you feel? Is it sadness as you think of loved ones now gone? Is it fear as you sense that it will not be long before you too are buried deep in the ground? Those are natural emotions. For in the normal realm of human existence, dead is dead. Someone dies, and all you have are pictures and memories. Every day that goes by only brings you one step closer to the end of your story. So, it is natural that mortals would walk through a cemetery with tears and fears.

But Jesus lives. That changes things. Jesus is the resurrection first fruits for the harvest of humanity. Dead is not dead forever. Death is not final at all! The one brought low by his mortality will be raised immortal! So, your deceased Christian loved ones are not gone. You will see them again, hug them again. When you walk through the doorway of death, that is not the end. It is the beginning. When we face death knowing that Christ is risen, we experience a completely different set of emotions—for he lives to dry tears and remove fears.

#### **FIRST READING**

\*\*\*Isaiah 12:1-6 – We rightly cried and feared at what our sins had done. But when Jesus rose, he proved the payment for sins is complete. The time for crying is over. Now it is time to rejoice.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 – In response to the forgiveness won by our Passover Lamb, we repent of all wickedness and make our entire Christian life into an Easter celebration.

## GOSPEL

John 20:1-18 – The living Lord appears to Mary to dry her tears and take away her fears.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### Conservative:

Setting 3

or

local adaptation of communion service if service length is a consideration

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### Ambitious:

### Opening Hymn:

442 - Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

or

451 - See, What a Morning

### Psalm of the Day:

30A, B, or C

30D would need cantor/choir help

### Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

### Gospel Acclamation setting:

Set 1

### Hymn of the Day:

443 - Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

### Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

\*675 - At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

### Closing Hymn:

810 - The First Song of Isaiah (if First Reading is sermon text)

### Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

451 - See, What a Morning

### Notes for the conservative service:

810 can only be sung from the hymnal; builder will be permanently blocked due to copyright holder

### Notes for the ambitious service:

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Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Day - 4/9/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO TAKE ME FROM DEATH TO LIFE***

A dead Jesus would do no one any good. But a resurrected Jesus? That would change everything; that would make Easter the most important event that has ever happened. Today God wants us to know with certainty that Jesus lives. Because if Jesus lives, then so will his believers. God had told his Church what was going to happen. Jesus told his disciples what would transpire in Jerusalem. The disciples were slow to believe the Easter truth. But God ensured that his people had witnesses to proclaim that Jesus lives again. He suffered and died according to Scripture (Second Reading), he fulfilled the sign of Jonah (First Reading), and it was attested to by angels (Gospel).

Christ is risen indeed! Mankind is redeemed! Jesus has removed the fear of eternal death. Jesus has transformed physical death. It is not punitive. For the believer, it is the pathway into Paradise. Jesus has made us spiritually alive by giving us faith in his resurrection. Jesus lives! So, in every possible way, Jesus takes us from death to life.

#### **FIRST READING**

Jonah 2:2-9 – Jesus compared himself to only one Old Testament prophet, the one who escaped certain death after three days in the belly of a fish.

#### **SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 – For God to take us from death to life, Jesus needed to be resurrected. Anything else would mean our faith was in vain.

#### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 28:1-10 – The women go to Jesus' tomb, hearts full of disappointment. A dead Jesus does no one any good. But they would learn from the angel that Jesus had crossed over from death to life.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

438 - Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

### **Psalm of the Day:**

OP

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Set 1

### **Hymn of the Day:**

439/440 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (selected stanzas?)

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

460 - Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

### **Closing Hymn:**

441 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

447 - Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed

453 - The Tomb Is Empty

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

453 - The Tomb Is Empty

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

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Second Sunday of Easter - 4/16/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO GIVE ME PROOF AND PEACE***

Thomas had been taught and trained by Christ himself. He heard Jesus predict his death and resurrection. Yet, even after hearing the eyewitness testimony of friends, who all saw the resurrected Jesus, Thomas had doubts: "Rising from the dead. That can't be possible!"

Today is a day of great comfort for any follower of Jesus who wrestles with doubt concerning Christ's promises or doubts about God's Word. Jesus does not come to rebuke Thomas' weak faith. Jesus comes to strengthen Thomas' faith, giving him proof of the mind-bending reality of the resurrection—to let him feel it, touch it, explore it. Jesus didn't reject Thomas. Jesus engaged Thomas and gave him peace.

Still today, Jesus comes to his disciples in Word and sacrament. The living Lord speaks to us. He lets us partake of his true body and blood. When we show weakness of faith, he does not reject us. Just as he did with Thomas, Jesus engages us, giving us proof and peace.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 2:14a,22-32 – The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so that they might testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Through their testimony, God gives his Church proof and peace.

#### **SECOND READING**

\*\*\*1 Peter 1:3-9 – St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have regardless of the outward circumstances of our life.

#### **GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31 – Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas, peace that could only be found in his Lord and God.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

448 - Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful

### **Psalm of the Day:**

16

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Set 1 or 2

or Setting 3

### **Hymn of the Day:**

456/457 O Sons and Daughters of the King

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

511 - Crown Him with Many Crowns

### **Closing Hymn:**

800:1,4,5 - How Firm a Foundation

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

448 - Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful

or

453 - The Tomb Is Empty

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

453 - The Tomb Is Empty

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

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Third Sunday of Easter - 4/23/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE***

Imagine someone you love is near death. Their only hope of survival is a risky brain surgery, one so complicated only one surgeon in the state will attempt it. The surgery is scheduled. But as that doctor drives to the hospital, he is killed in a car accident. Any hope you had for your loved one's salvation died along with that surgeon.

That is how Jesus' disciples felt after his death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel," they said (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life died along with Jesus. They had let their personal wants and expectations cloud their view of Scripture which said that the Messiah's death and resurrection were actually the source of all hope! So, the living Lord appeared to his disciples. He explained. He opened their minds to the truth of God's Word. And in doing so, he restored their hope.

There is little worse than a feeling of hopelessness. Christ's disciples have victory over that feeling. He died, but he is dead no longer. The one who can heal us and give us life to the full lives! He lives to restore our hope.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 2:14a,32-41 – The message of Christ crucified and Christ risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.

#### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 1:17-21 – Our hope is to one day join our Savior in the glory of heaven. Until that day, we live in this world as strangers who are focused on going to our true home.

#### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Luke 24:13-35 – For two disciples Jesus explained that all the Scriptures showed that the Christ had to die and rise. Jesus restored their hope.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

452 - The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

### **Psalm of the Day:**

116

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us? Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Set 1 or 2

or Setting 3

### **Hymn of the Day:**

459 - Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*512 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

### **Closing Hymn:**

454:1,2,5 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

454:1,2,5 - Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

454 is a CW 93 tune but maybe still a little unfamiliar

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**



## Worship Plan - Church Year A

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Fourth Sunday of Easter - 4/30/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD***

Every culture has the concept of an ideal citizen, someone who typifies its values. For much of the United States' history, the ideal citizen was the American farmer: hardworking, innovative, vital to our collective well-being. Even some of our first presidents were farmers.

For the people of Israel, the farmer wasn't their ideal citizen. It was the shepherd. Sheep were an invaluable source of clothing and food. But they were hard to keep in the Judean countryside. Its sparse grasslands are intermixed with desert. For sheep, food is sparse, but predators are plentiful. The survival of sheep was dependent on their shepherd. There he is. Weather-beaten. Sleepless. Armed. In the dusk, he scans the land, counting his sheep, making sure they are all accounted for, every one of them on his heart. You see why Jesus chose the shepherd to illustrate how he cares for us. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from that roaring lion, Satan. Jesus is leading us into the green pasture of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that he lives to be our Good Shepherd.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 2:42-47 – The early Church was marked by devotion to apostolic teaching and genuine love for one another. And the Good Shepherd's flock grew.

#### **SECOND READING**

\*\*\*1 Peter 2:19-25 – St. Peter calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good.

#### **GOSPEL**

John 10:1-10 – Jesus is not only our Good Shepherd. He is the gate through which we enter into the green pastures of salvation.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

471 - Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

### **Psalm of the Day:**

23

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Set 1 or 2

or Setting 3

### **Hymn of the Day:**

552 - The King of Love My Shepherd Is

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

554 - The Lord's My Shepherd

### **Closing Hymn:**

625 - Splendor and Honor

or

793 - Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

554 - The Lord's My Shepherd

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

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Fifth Sunday of Easter - 5/7/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO BE THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN***

The gospel is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are meant for every man, woman, and child who ever lived. The gospel is also the most exclusive message in the world, for it maintains that salvation can only be found in one place—the person of Jesus Christ. Just listen to how Jesus speaks: "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus doesn't say, "I will show you the true way to eternal life." The prophets and apostles could say that. But Jesus says, "*I am* the way. *I am* the truth. *I am* the life you crave." And note that definite article: "the," not "a"! Jesus is not *a* way into heaven. He is *the* way. There is no other way than through faith in the One who died and rose again.

The unbelieving world finds this claim—that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven—to be the most offensive teaching in all of Scripture. Yet this is the very truth upon which Christ builds his Church.

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 4:8-12 – St. Peter told the Jewish leaders that the man they had crucified was raised to life and therefore is the only man in whom salvation is found.

### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 2:4-10 – The claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven is like a stone over which unbelievers stumble. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*John 14:1-11 – Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 3

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

516 - Christ Be the Way in Whom We Walk

or

521:1,4,5 - Christ the Eternal Lord

### **Psalm of the Day:**

118

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Set 1 or 2

or Setting 3

### **Hymn of the Day:**

469 - Welcome, Happy Morning

or

809 - Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*466 - Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

### **Closing Hymn:**

924:1,3,6 - Abide, O Dearest Jesus

or

461 - He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

or

470:4 - Like the Golden Sun Ascending

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

516 - Christ Be the Way in Whom We Walk

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

516 - Repton is a new tune, three times in the new hymnal, needs introduction

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

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Sixth Sunday of Easter - 5/14/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### **HE LIVES AND CALLS ME TO LIVE FOR HIM**

"The LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die'" (Genesis 2:16,17). In giving that command, God showed love to man by making it clear that it is lethal to live contrary to God's will. In giving that command, God provided man with the ability to demonstrate love for God—through obedience. True love involves obedience. Jesus did not simply say he loved his heavenly Father. He proved it by obeying his Father, even when that obedience meant dying on a cross for our sake.

Love for God who lives in us leads us to a life of obedience. The God who lives in us calls us to live for him. It is as simple as that. Love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands.

#### **FIRST READING**

\*\*\*Acts 17:22-31 – To the people of Athens St. Paul proclaims that living as the offspring of the one true God means living a life of repentance and obedience.

#### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 3:13-22 – St. Peter teaches that love for God means obedience to his commands even if that obedience brings suffering into our lives.

#### **GOSPEL**

John 14:15-21 – Jesus explains that those who love him will obey his teaching. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to live for Christ.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 1

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

449 - This Joyful Eastertide

or

539 - O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

### **Psalm of the Day:**

66

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you.  
Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 1

### **Hymn of the Day:**

557 - Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

606 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

### **Closing Hymn:**

617 - Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

451 - See, What a Morning

539 - O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

451 may require introduction if selected

539 would need introduction

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

# Worship Plan - Church Year A

## 2022-2023



Ascension of our Lord - 5/18/2023

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO RULE ALL THINGS FOR THE CHURCH***

We understand why God became man in the person of Christ. The Savior needed to be able to suffer and die to atone for mankind's sin. What is fascinating is that when the work of redemption was completed, the Son of God did not set aside his humanity. The God-man ascended into heaven. It is a human, our brother, who sits on heaven's throne.

The ascension marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission, but it does not signify the end of his work. While on earth, Jesus had set aside so much of his divine power. But Jesus now picks all that power back up again. He ascended to exercise his limitless authority for the Church as we carry out our mission to be Christ's ambassadors of grace to the world. He lives! And he is in absolute and perfect control, ruling over Creation for the eternal well-being of his friends. And that is what we are!

The Festival of the Ascension is one of the oldest and most joyful celebrations in the Christian Church. It will be observed by Christians until Christ returns to take us to be with him.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 1:1-11 – Jesus tells his disciples that although he is going to ascend, they will not be left alone. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to them and to us.

#### **SECOND READING**

Ephesians 1:15-23 – St. Paul teaches that Jesus ascended so that he might fill all creation with his presence and his power. Nothing is outside his control.

#### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Luke 24:44-53 – Jesus ascends, and instead of being sad, his disciples are filled with joy. They understood that Christ's ascension marked his coronation as the King.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 1

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

549 - Across the Lands

### **Psalm of the Day:**

47

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 1

### **Hymn of the Day:**

472 - A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

476 - On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

### **Closing Hymn:**

700 - Draw Us to Thee

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

549 - Across the Lands

473 - Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

549 should be easy enough but may benefit from intro

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**



## Worship Plan - Church Year A

2022-2023



Seventh Sunday of Easter - 5/21/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO GIVE ME EAGER EXPECTATION OF GLORY***

The Church waits. The Church in Jerusalem waited for ten days between Christ's ascension and the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. The Church today waits through the millennia between Pentecost and Christ's second coming. We are waiting for the gifts that Jesus promised. We live in eager expectation of glory!

That glory is not dimmed by early suffering. Rather, our current sufferings only remind us of the glory that awaits us. We are simply following in Christ's footsteps. First comes the cross, and then comes the crown. Knowing what is coming lets us view our current troubles as light and momentary. They cannot mute the joy of living in eager expectation of glory.

While we wait in the time between Christ's ascension and return, we live knowing that we will suffer persecution for our faith in Christ, but God will work it for glory.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 1:12-26 – Matthias is chosen to join the apostles, who served as eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection. Through their testimony, God gave his Church the expectation of future glory.

#### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11 – The God of all grace has called us to future glory. Until that time, he encourages us to bring all our anxiety and cares to him.

#### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*John 17:1-11a – Just hours before he would be tortured and killed, Jesus says those events would lead to glory, both his and ours.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 1

This Is the Feast (938 or 963) may replace Gloria

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

597 - Now Thank We All Our God

### **Psalm of the Day:**

124

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 1

### **Hymn of the Day:**

446 - Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

721 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### **Closing Hymn:**

876 - Fight the Good Fight

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

## Worship Plan - Church Year A

2022-2023



Day of Pentecost - 5/28/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

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### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***HE LIVES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT***

Fifty days after the Passover, God's Old Testament people celebrated Pentecost (Greek for "fifty"). Pentecost commemorated the gathering of the harvest and was also used to remember the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, the start of the Church of Israel. Christ chose Pentecost to be the birthday of his New Testament Church too. By pouring out his Holy Spirit, Christ empowered the Church to gather in the great harvest of souls won by the Son.

Pentecost is the third great festival of the Church, along with the Nativity and the Resurrection. The early church fathers mention the Festival of Pentecost often enough to lead many to believe it was celebrated annually already at the time of the apostles. Pentecost closes the fifty-day period after Easter and ends the festival half of the church year. The Church dresses in red this day to remind us of the tongues of fire that marked the Spirit's gift, as well as the blood of the martyrs which was the seed of the Church.

#### **FIRST READING**

Acts 2:1-21 – In the Old Testament, God poured out his Spirit onto the prophets so they could reveal his will. On Pentecost, Jesus poured his Spirit onto the Church so they could proclaim his gospel to the world.

#### **SECOND READING**

\*\*\*1 Corinthians 12:3-11 – When God pours out his Spirit it is not only for the benefit of the individual believer. God gives his Spirit to us so that we might be of benefit to the entire Church.

#### **GOSPEL**

John 7:37-39 – Jesus promised that those who were spiritually thirsty would be filled with living water. Jesus kept this promise when he poured out his Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 2

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

479 - God's Holy Spirit Came

### **Psalm of the Day:**

104

consider 104B or 104D

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Day of Pentecost - Additional Settings - Set 1

### **Hymn of the Day:**

585 - Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*477 - O Day Full of Grace

### **Closing Hymn:**

596:1,4 - To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

587 - Come Down, O Love Divine

Psalm 104B or 104D

596 - melody slightly different than in the past

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

Acclamation Day of Pentecost Set 1 (Lawton/Moldenhauer) would be new; alternatively consider Fest Set 1 or 2, also in "Additional Settings" in builder

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

962 - Hail Thee, Festival Day replace Gloria?