

The 4th Sunday of Easter: Sun., April 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

321 North 10th St., Beatrice, NE 68310 | 402-228-1540

www.stpaulbeatrice.org | stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com

Rev. Daryn Bahn, Pastor | 715-305-8667 | reverend.bahn@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran School & Childcare Center

930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310 | 402-223-3414

Mrs. Amy Duever, Principal | aduever@diodecom.net | Cassie Rhoden, Childcare Director

Hymns: 686, 709, 711, 809, 692, 710, 537; Liturgy: 152, 155, 156, 161, 163

He Cares



One of the small but interesting features of many cathedral and monastery churches in Europe and other places is presence of misericords. A misericord is a small wooden shelf attached to the underside of a folding seat in a church, often in the choir area. Misericords physically supported people at worship during long periods of standing during extended prayer and other services when sitting was not permitted. The term “misericord” means “pity of the heart.” That word is part of the church phrase *Misericordia Domini*, a Latin term for describing the acts of mercy of God to His people. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, constantly and consistently shows acts of mercy to us as His people. His care comes straight from the heart!

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *sts. 1-2*



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **O Lord God Almighty, we confess that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not put You first at all times. We have not followed in the ways You have set forth for us. We have not always been thoughtful caretakers of Your creation and have not shared its bounty on all occasions. We have not kept our thoughts, words, and deeds fully pure and honorable. We have sinned in ways we know and in ways we do not even recognize. We have not honored those in authority and have not without reservation encouraged them. We have not completely put the best construction on all things and on all people. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us all our sins, and finally by Your grace, bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit *Psalm 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

P I am the good shepherd.

C **I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul.

C **He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;


C **your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
C and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was
 in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** I am the good shepherd.
C I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the
 sheep.

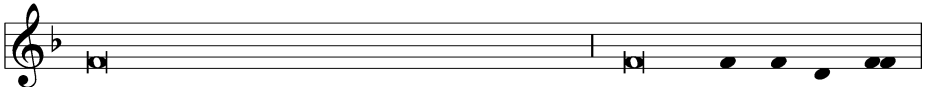
Kyrie *LSB 152*



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



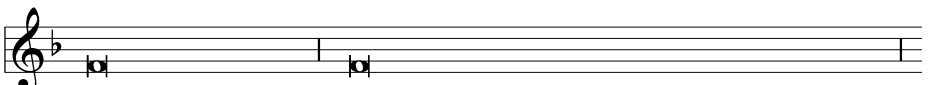
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



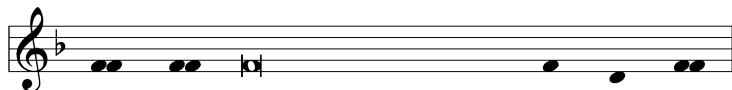
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



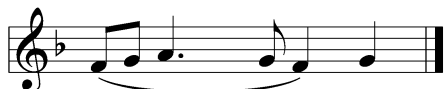
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*



Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

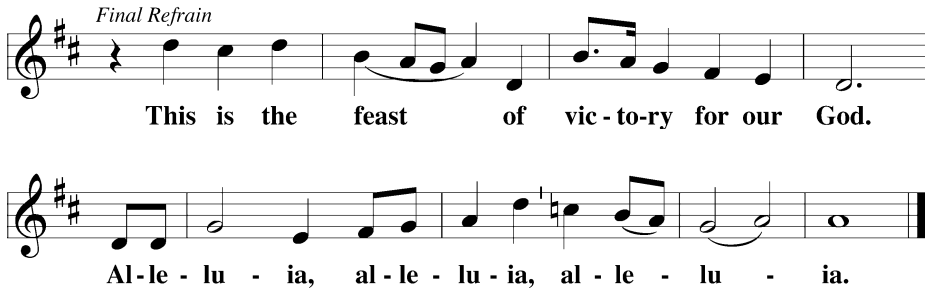


blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray... Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

First Reading *Acts 4:1-12*

¹As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 John 3:16-24*

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of text. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Holy Gospel *John 10:11-18*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I

know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may 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 I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

Sermon

Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
- And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Trusting in God's loving response, we pray for the church and all who are called to lives of service to God's people, asking that the Lord will bless His undershepherds and all who care for His flock.
- C** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit guide us into gracious ways and instill in us a holy confidence in the goodness of our God, aiding us in our prayers. With thanks for the faithful examples set by those whose earthly journeys are complete and whose witness to Christ yet inspires us, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for the blessing of God upon our nation and its leaders that we may lead peaceable lives, and we pray for the needs of ourselves and others for healing and restoration, for solace and comfort
- C** Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- P** These things and all else that we should have asked grant us according to Your gracious will, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** Amen.

Hymn Sequence

P The image of the loving Shepherd featured in Psalm 23 reminds us that our Lord is always with us, ready to guide us and to support us. The image is one that resonates with young children and has been featured in hymns texts used in Sunday School hymnals. The hymn “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” first appeared in a volume *Hymns for the Young, selected for the purpose of being committed to memory* in England in 1832. We might well follow the directive of the hymnbook’s title and commit this special hymn to memory. We sing the first stanza of “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us.”

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us st. 1

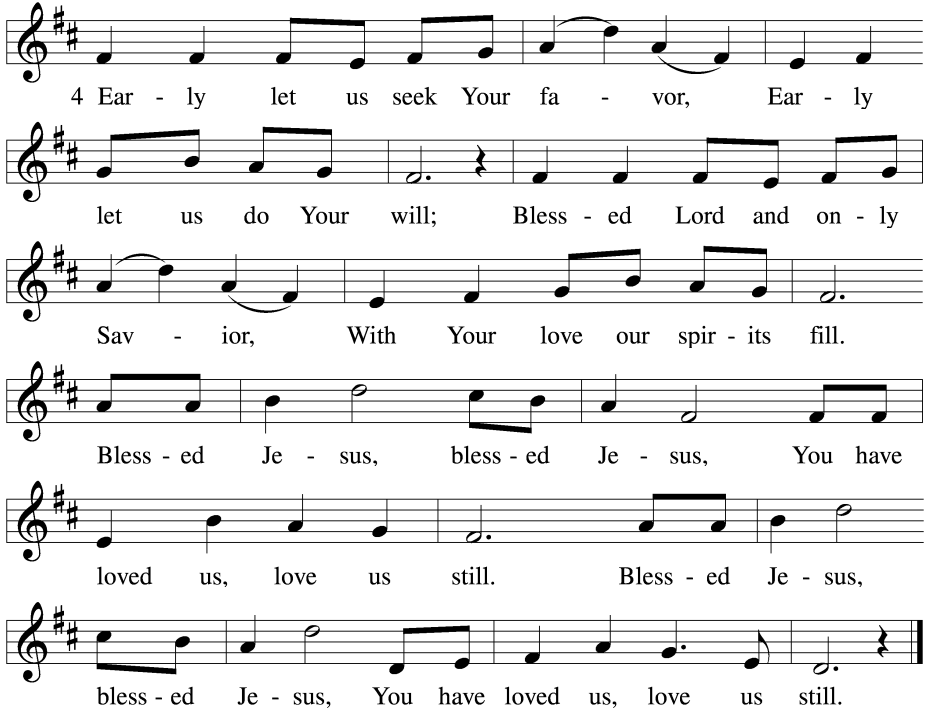


1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68; Text and tune: Public domain.

P Originally framed as a hymn for children, “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” contains solid biblical truths. We rejoice that our Lord has bought us and that He defends us in many ways, even though we are sinful. His caring mercy is experienced in all our days. As faithful followers of the Good Shepherd, we seek to do His will in our lives as we experience His divine love. We sing stanza four of the hymn.

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us *st. 4*



4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly
Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,
bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.; Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68; Text and tune: Public domain.

Offering

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, heavenly Father, for in Jesus Christ You have shown Your saving power and Your great compassion. In amazing love, He sacrificed Himself and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His unending love leads Him to intercede for us as, aided by the Holy Spirit, He brings our cares to Your throne of grace. Grant that we may live in humility, honoring our Savior in all that we do and rejoicing that we are granted a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us

that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and praise You with thankful hearts.

C Amen.

Sanctus *LSB 161*



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord eternal, and blessed be Your name. In Your great love, You sent Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be the promised Savior, whose power was shown in humble care and whose life of service fulfilled Your will and completed the work of our salvation. With thankfulness we receive the blessings He has obtained for us. Gather into one, we pray You, all Your people who now join at Your Holy Table. Bless and nourish us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and blood may be strengthened to serve You and our neighbor, as You would have us do. To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in Your holy church, forever and ever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*



C 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 peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain
Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Tune: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

692 Praise to You and Adoration



1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
 2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
 pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with



share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
 me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,



From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
 And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your



joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
 life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; (st. 1): tr. Kristen Kvamme, 1866-1938, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Christian Worship, 1993
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want



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



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
 walk doth make With - in the paths of
 fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
 of my foes; My head Thou dost with
 fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
 righ - teous - 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.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh

Tune: William Gardiner, 1770-1853

Text and tune: Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray... Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works which You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

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

C Amen.

537 Beautiful Savior *sts. 1-2*



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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