

# PRaise

LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ Day of Public Dedication +



On the Feast of Pentecost  
The 19<sup>th</sup> of May in the Year of Our Lord 2024

Open House 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Dedication Service 3:30 p.m.  
Celebration meal 5:00 p.m.





Thank you for joining us for the public dedication of our new sanctuary and expanded ministry. With every dedication of a church, a story emerges of a people who came together to pray, plan, interview, consult, dream, draw, calculate, lock-in decisions, trust God, forgive and be forgiven, and by the Spirit bring glory to the name Christ Jesus. Our story is perhaps unique only to us, but it is story full of hope for good things to come, sacrifice, and perseverance—and it is worth celebrating today. We have certainly seen **God the Father's help** from Day 1, without which there would be nothing to celebrate. (*Soli Deo Gloria.*)



As we begin, we pause to remember those worshipping with us from afar, those valiant men and women who went to the other side of the Jordan so they could see the beauty of the Lord's church in a far better land: **Lila Reuer, Kathleen Lane, Myrna Frazier, Carolyn Dickie, Wanda Jenkins, Jeanne Lindenfelser, Dolora Roth, Emery Strege, Clayton Narveson, Dick Mohr, Herb Kalkitis, Tamra DeHaven, Pat & Jean Wright, and Julia & John Ernst.** They were with us when we endeavored to build and looked forward to this celebration. Their faith in Christ, love for the people, and bold encouragement inspired us to carry on with or without their earthly presence knowing they could join us still with songs of Alleluias without end.

Next, we offer our manifold thanks to the Build Team (headed by **Paul Ruble**), our Capital Campaign Team (directed by **Ed Hannah** and coordinated by **Barbara Morsch**), our Interior Design Team (led by design director **Sonja Ratliff**), the steadfast leadership of President **Tom Wittkopp**, our tireless Treasurer **Tammy Clemmer**, and our Financial Secretary **Kris Smith** (along with weekly help from **Tom Schering, Phyllis Bembas, and Maureen Roberts**).

We owe our financial partners in the build our gratitude: The Lutheran Church Extension Fund's Pres. **Bart Day** and Vice Pres. **Paul Reaves** encouraged and provided us LCEF's financial resources. They also brought us **Pastor Tom Eggebrecht** and **Pastor Phil Robarge** to help consult, organize, and cheer on the capital campaign.



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

> where investments build ministry



Our builders and architects were amazing throughout. Our General Contractor **Tyler Slack** and site manager **John Murney** of **Creative Structures**, plus their supporting staff (**Terra Porter** et al.) and their chosen teams of subcontractors, translated from paper the beautiful worship space that we behold today. The architectural team of **Stacy Cox**, **Macy Rudell**, and **Corey Boss** of **Studio Four Design** developed our concepts into something truly praise-worthy. Architect Corey Boss combed through many minutiae and answered many questions and achieved design and engineering approval from the City of Maryville. Both Creative Structures and Studio Four Designs showed integrity, generosity, patience, and great attention to detail. Site manager John Murney arrived early in the day, made hundreds of phone calls, and did a yeoman's job to make things the way he'd want it done if it were his own church or home. He and Tyler Slack with help from our Property Team persevered through inspections and the typical challenges of supply delays and work arounds to achieve occupancy by Easter and delivered a beautiful and welcome place to worship and feast on forgiveness and Life. To all our professional build team partners and construction trade workers who answered the call to help, we are eternally grateful.



A special debt of gratitude to an all-too-familiar group of men and women from Praise who dove in time and time again to save us significant funds and do the things we endeavored to construct or break ourselves: **Bryan Baer** (landscaping help), **Jeff Baerns** (trailers, storage space, lunches), **Larry Bembas** (property help), **Chris Broyles** (landscape company), **Steve Kaiser** (property help), **Matthew Flaska** (tree removal), **Steven Lee** (plumbing), **Amy Mohr** (landscaping), **Larry Moore** (drone flying), **Sam Nunnink** (tree removal), **Tim Nunnink** (property help), **Chuck Pettyjohn** (property help), **John Pettyjohn** (tree removal), **Mark & Sonja Ratliff** (landscaping and property help), **Jim Roberts** (property help, communion rail), **Jonathan Roberts** (landscaping help), **Paul Ruble** (property help), **Jim Vesper** (landscaping help), and **Mike Wales** (property help; communion rail). We saved well over \$100,000 just from their help and expertise alone!

*Thanks especially to Tim, Paul, Jim, Chuck, and Larry for the many hours and labor of love!*



Our internal Project Manager, **Al Collver**, a former GE Customer Service and Operations Manager (and logistics specialist), kept many balls in the air and even prepared meals (with Sally's help) for the property and landscaping crews. He signed and scanned hundreds of contracts on our behalf and sat through many a meeting to ensure everything was cohesive as possible. We couldn't have done it without him (plus we'd still be waiting for a steeple).

**Shelli Haynes** blessed our ministry during the build, offering her vocation as our Director of Christian Education and brought a joyful spirit wherever we needed someone to serve and strengthen the support of families. **Vicky Gorman** pioneered the way as our first ever office administrator, followed by **Jack Nunnink**, and now **Tina Pierce** who not only cares for the people of Praise but brings great experience and instinct how to administer and organize a church office.

Special thanks today to our friend in Christ who visited us at important moments during the build and never doubted that the hand of the Lord was at work: **Pastor David Graves**, Visitor of the Knoxville Circuit of the LCMS. It is our joy to invite him to preach at our dedication. Likewise, we thank District Vice President and **Pastor Michael Miller** (Redeemer Lutheran in Harriman), and **Pastor Danny Anderson** (Grace Lutheran in Knoxville), and **Pastor Chase Lefort** (Faith Lutheran in Oak Ridge), who vested and represented the Knoxville Circuit at our ground-breaking. Last but not least, thank you to **District President Roger Paavola** and the entire **Board of Directors of the LCMS Mid-South District** for their vote of approval for the loan and the prayers for the build and ministry expansion.

There are many others who deserve special thanks. We'll list them later in this booklet, but to all who gave of themselves for this church build, God bless you and thank you. In the beginning, we started with the belief that Christ is worthy of a bigger and more beautiful house of praise.

We dedicate this church to Jesus in the same humble faith that Solomon confessed long ago when he said: "will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard ... toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' ... And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive." (1 Kings 8:27-30).



Pastor Derek Roberts

## Congregational Build Fund

Special thanks to donors and friends:

- Rev. Robert and Gerda Portier (formerly of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sevierville, now serving Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, Louisiana)
- Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge: endowment gift for more worship chairs
- Thomas & Kathleen Lane (Kathleen now in paradise): matching grant for the wooden beams
- Three families who gave special gifts for the new wooden corpus—hand carved by Demetz Art Studios in Italy
- Everyone who gave prayerfully and sacrificially for the sake of the build.

### Our Build Fund Status and Future Phases

We are 38% funded. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Every gift is valued and helps us be good stewards of the things of God entrusted to our care.

**Phase 1:** Achieve our Living Stones Capital Campaign goal of \$1,065,270. We achieved our additional goal of \$30,000 for wooden beams thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match. According to schedule, there remains \$94,593 to be collected in 2024, but only \$5,629 in total receipts remain. This is due to early and increased gifts submitted in 2023 and new gifts from new members and friends. Thanks be to God! Help us conclude the capital campaign early.

**Special Opportunity to give as we transition from Construction Funding to Mortgage Loan:** help us pay down the construction loan before it becomes a monthly mortgage. Contact our office and your financial advisor about planned gifts and tax-advantaged qualified distributions from retirement accounts. Our aim is to reduce debt and keep funds free for ministry and mission in Jesus' name.

#### Phases 2 and onward: projects needing extra funds

- Sunday School classrooms (frame and drywall the library and copier rooms)
- Wittenberg Social Hall (add a passthrough serving window, relocate lights, add network cabling for security, phone, and access points, etc.)
- Picnic Pavilion with an outdoor kitchen
- Expanded parking
- Education wing on the west side of the new building

### Bless our Build Fund



Use the above QR code with your smartphone's camera app to be directed to a safe and secure online portal where you can give a gift today. Thank you!

Preaching for the dedication service:



**The Rev. David Graves** was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri. Having grown up first in the Methodist church and later the American Evangelical movement, he came to the historic Faith of the apostolic Church and was confirmed as a Lutheran in 2006. After he received his bachelor's degree from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, his exploration of his newly discovered confession led him to pastoral studies and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. Graves was ordained in 2013 on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Today, he serves as pastor to his beloved flock of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, Tennessee, where his parish work also involves bringing Word and Sacrament ministry to the nearby prison. He also serves as Circuit Visitor to the Knoxville circuit of the Mid-South District in addition to his role as pastor. As a

former evangelical, he is a passionate advocate for the Lutheran confessions and liturgy and their role in shaping biblical Christian life.

Rev. Graves has been published in Lutheran Forum and has contributed to various online theology platforms. He is an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and splits interest between the Missouri Tigers and the Tennessee Vols. He and his beloved dog Trip Francis—named for St. Francis—may often be found walking the hilly streets of Wartburg.

The good Reverend has no relation to the Justice League supervillain who is also named David Graves.

Pictured below: the Circuit Pastors and attendants with the District President (Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola) at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg in 2023



## Nearly a Quarter Century of Praise

On April 23, Easter Sunday in the Year of our Lord 2000, Praise Lutheran Church held its inaugural Divine Service and Sunday School in a 1,400-square foot storefront at 536 East Broadway Avenue near Washington Street.

In June of 2001, a small group of faithful people gathered together to sign the charter for a new LCMS church in Maryville, Tennessee. Praise Lutheran Church was born.

We met in storefronts and borrowed basements, but the true Word of God was preached purely and the Sacraments were administered rightly. Early help and direction from **Pastor John Schulz**, emeritus of First Lutheran, and from **Ray & Lyla Krieg** (who moved to Maryville from Arizona and helped abundantly in the forming years.)

The first pastor to serve was retired **Pastor Robert (Bob) Kerekes**. His wife and current member, **Emma Lu Kerekes** (an alumnus of First Lutheran in Knoxville), played the piano for services.

**Pastor Timothy Rake** was the first called and installed pastor, serving from 2001 until 2011. During his pastorate, the church building on Big Springs Road was purchased and dedicated in 2007. Members **Bob McDermott, Larry Bembas, Chuck Pettyjohn, Gus Schuck, and + Dick Mohr +** helped lead efforts to modify the building for worship, study, and life together.

**Pastor Derek Roberts**, former campus Pastor at the Univ. of Tenn. and associate pastor of First Lutheran in Knoxville, was filling in as a guest during the church's vacancy. He was called and installed in February 2012 and continues serving to this day. A series of capital improvements began in 2014. The Lord blessed us with expansion, renovation, and growth. Today, our church family has over 270 members and welcomes young and old to know Christ's blood bought forgiveness, steadfast love, mercy, comfort, joy, and peace.



**Rev. Robert and Emma Lu Kerekes, Charter Members**





## Building Project Timeline

Prepared by Albert Collver, Praise Lutheran member and Build Project Manager

Summer of 2014	The purchase of two adjacent lots to the church with the help of a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). The congregation was convinced that, “if we don’t purchase now, then we may become land-locked later.”
Aug 2015	Under the Congregational Presidency of Chuck Pettyjohn, the congregation enlisted the help of LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee for a Site and Facility Analysis.
Feb 2019	<p>Praise’s Build Team formed under direction of Elder and Long Range Committee Chair, Paul Ruble, and Congregational President, Dr. Tom Wittkopp.</p> <p>The Build Team and Planning Council interviewed and selected a local architect and builder who presented the church with six possible configurations for a new building and expanded parking. Narrowing it down to one, various committees further developed the plans with the architect’s help and received the first project build estimate of \$1.45M (pre-pandemic). Color renderings were presented to the congregation and excitement grew. The congregation entered into an agreement with LCEF Ministry Solutions and anticipated the commencement of an Immeasurably More Campaign in the Spring of 2020.</p>
Mar 2020	The COVID pandemic delayed progress and made the need of the build uncertain. The Capital Campaign was put on hold. Prayers continued and the Word of the Lord never failed to bless and give hope of things to come.
Sep 2021	With the economy reemerging and many new members arriving in East Tennessee and making Praise Lutheran Church their church home, our facility was strained for space. The church renderings gave us hope to expand in order to fit all our people and welcome even more to know Christ’s Words and Sacraments. The Living Stones Capital Campaign commenced under the leadership of Ed Hannah and Barbara Morsch. “You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 2:5). The vision statement of the campaign: As living stones building upon the Rock, we wish to expand the worship, fellowship, and discipleship of Praise Lutheran Church. The Capital Campaign saw generous commitments totaling \$1,065,270 over 3 years.
Dec 2021	Building project resumed. Build Team had 15 committed members.
Jan 2022 – March 2022	Build Team interviewed three architectural firms and selected Studio Four Design of Knoxville.
Feb 2022	Soil tests conducted at future build site to ensure suitability.
May 2022	Build Team interviewed four general contractors and selected Tyler Slack, CEO of Creative Structures of Knoxville.

Jun 2022	Studio Four Design furthered the drawings and finalized the design. Several rounds of cost estimates with Creative Structures ensued. The post-pandemic estimate of costs increased to \$3.4M, which required value engineering and recommendations of eliminating the Sunday school classroom wing and reducing the Sanctuary size, among other adjustments until the cost decreased to \$2.8M.
Sep 2022	Congregation approved the plans and project budget.
Oct 2022	Praise Lutheran's Interior Design Committee formed under the directorship of Sonja Ratliff. They met with Studio Four's Interior designer to determine color schemes, Sanctuary light fixtures, steeple design and selection, flooring selections, wooden beams, and began a series of meetings with Lynchburg Glass Company of Virginia to develop the custom design of 8 stained glass windows.
Feb 2023	Applied for LCEF Construction loan for \$2,070,540.
Mar 2023	Rev. Bart Day, President and CEO of LCEF, along with Vice President Paul Reaves visited Praise Lutheran on site. President Day announced our loan approval on Mar 14. We celebrated by having a ceremonial groundbreaking and photo op.
Mar – Jun 2023	Finalizing all interior design work and getting subcontractors on board.
Jun 2023	Groundbreaking Ceremony, Sunday, June 11. Members and guests invited to turn over three shovels full of dirt and saying, "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen."  Site work commenced in the following weeks. The structure began to rise from the site.
Oct 2023	Members wrote passages from God's Word and select hymn stanzas on the interior side of plywood sheathing before the drywall was installed: October 8.
Jan 2024	Wording above the Sanctuary door was finalized: "How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven." (Genesis 28:17).
Feb 2024	Ordered the signage for Luther's Rose and the side emblems. (Installation took place in March 2024 by our Property Team and Creative Structure's project manager, John Murney.)  Steeple lighting ceremony held before the Ash Wednesday service, February 14.
Mar 2024	Mike Wales and Jim Roberts built and applied finishes to the chancel communion rail.  Landscaping was installed under the direction and help of Amy Mohr and Chris Broyles, two of Praise Lutheran Church's members. Many volunteers helped with landscaping March 11 - 14.  Certificate of Occupancy granted on March 22 from the City of Maryville.  Last services in old sanctuary were held on Good Friday, March 29.

Saturday morning, Mar 30, nearly sixty volunteers worked to set up new sanctuary (moving all furnishings and setting up for Easter).

Saturday evening, Mar 30, 6:45 p.m., the first church service was held in new Sanctuary. Saturday Easter Vigil included Services of Light, Word, and Holy Baptism (with the first Rite of Holy Baptism in the new Sanctuary administered to August Johnson).

Apr 2024 Easter Sunday, Mar 31, the first two Divine Services held in the new Sanctuary. (Twenty-four years earlier, Praise Lutheran's first service was held Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000.)

May 2024 112 more chairs arrived on May 7 and custom stained glass windows were installed by Lynchburg Stained Glass on May 13.

Thanks to the Myriad of Servants and Friends from Praise Lutheran and the District

Build Team at Praise Paul Ruble (Chair), Dr. Tom Wittkopp (Cong. President), Larry Bembas, Andrew Hebar, J.D. (legal), Chuck Pettyjohn, Joel Morsch, Tim Nunnink (Vice President), Mark & Sonja Ratliff, Jim Roberts, Cathy Wacker, Mike Wales, Tammy Clemmer (Treasurer), Al Collver (Project Manager), Pastor Roberts (*ex officio*)

Capital Campaign Team Ed Hannah (Director), Barbara Morsch (Coordinator), Ed Bagley (Prayer Team), Lisa Gift (Prayer Team), Mike Gould (Prayer Team), Rhonda Heckman (Prayer Team), Daniel Hendricks (Youth team), Joel Morsch (gifts and follow-up director), Rev. Phil Robarge (LCEF consultant), Pastor Roberts (*ex officio*), Paul Ruble (Prayer Director), Shelby Hicks (Prayer Team and Youth Director), Alan & Lisa Stremsterfer, Cathy Wacker (Communications)

Interior Design Team Sonja Ratliff (Design Team Director), Phyllis Bembas, Tammy Clemmer, Al Collver (Build Project Manager), Andrew & Jennifer Hebar, Amy Mohr, Rosalyn Lee, Levi & Suzanne Nunnink, Pastor Roberts (*ex officio*)

Special help from: Shelli Haynes (ground-breaking event coordination and publicity), Larry Moore (drone videography), Mandy Haynes (photography), Susan Johnson (photography), Steve Lee (plumbing), Tina Pierce (dedication event), Jeff Baerns (trailers, storage, lunches), Amy Mohr (landscaping), and Chris Broyles (landscape company).

LCEF Services Vice President Paul Reaves, Rev. Tom Eggebrecht, Rev. Phil Robarge, Rev. Pres. Bart Day

Knoxville Circuit Visitor Rev. David Graves

Mid-South District Regional Vice Pres. Rev. Michael Miller

Mid-South District President of the LCMS Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



## Office of Vespers

with Rites of Blessing and Public Dedication of New Church Building

*Prelude on Praise to the Lord, The Almighty (starting at 3:25 p.m.)*

### + Outside Rite of Blessing +

*The pastors and congregational leaders and LCEF representatives along with the general contractor and architects (the builders) gather at or under the portico entrance of the new church building to hand over of the keys and to take pictures.*

### Opening of the Doors and Blessing of the Threshold

Paavola  
BU: Graves

- P** Let the doors of this church be opened for the preaching of the saving Word of God in accordance with the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for the administration of the holy Sacraments according to the institution of Christ, and for offering to God the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **G Amen.**

*The builder gives the keys to the presiding minister and congregational president. The presiding minister, using the base of the processional cross, marks the threshold with the sign of the cross as he says:*

Miller  
BU: Roberts

- P** Peace be to this house and to all who enter here in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **G Amen.**

### + The Processional Entrance Rite +

*The procession (including the congregational leaders and builders) moves into the church building. The presiding minister stands at the entrance of the Sanctuary for the address and collect. They process in order behind the cross towards the altar during the hymn.*

3:30 p.m.

### Address and Collect

*Exodus 20:24b*

Paavola  
BU: Miller

- P** Beloved in the Lord, Christ Jesus is present wherever His holy Word is taught purely and the holy Sacraments are administered according to His institution. As the Lord said through Moses, "In every place where I cause My name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you."

Miller  
BU: Graves

- P** Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, though You are not contained in houses built by human hands, we pray that You will be pleased to dwell with us here and to make known to us Your glory. Be present in this place where we are gathered to receive Your forgiveness, hear Your holy Word, and praise Your holy name. Graciously hear the prayers we will offer to You; bless the marriages to be solemnized; comfort those who will mourn; and let harmony and peace rest upon all in this place. Bring us at last to the heavenly Jerusalem, where the Lamb is the temple, that we may unite with all the saints and angels in His praise; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

*While saying the following blessing, the presiding minister makes the sign of the cross toward each of the four corners of the church building.*

### Blessing of the Building

Graves  
BU: Roberts

- P** The Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this church building, the corpus of Christ on the cross, and the stained glass windows. **G Amen.**

**Processional Hymn: 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**  
*(congregation only on 5<sup>th</sup> stanza)*

- Congregation: *with trumpet*      1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!
- Congregation:      2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- Congregation:      3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- Congregation: *with trumpet*      4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.
- Choir only stanza:*      5 *Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!*  
*All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!*  
*Let the Amen*  
*Sound from His people again;*  
*Gladly forever adore Him!*

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

**Common Versicles**

*Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1*

Roberts

- L** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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.  
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

## + Psalmody +

Roberts

Psalm 84



- L** How lovely is your dwelling place,\*  
O LORD of hosts!
- C** My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;\*  
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- L** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,\*  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- C** Blessed are those who dwell in your house,\*  
ever singing your praise!
- L** Blessed are those whose strength is in you,\*  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
- C** As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;\*  
the early rain also covers it with pools.
- L** They go from strength to strength,\*  
each one appears before God in Zion.
- C** O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;\*  
give ear, O God of Jacob!
- L** Behold our shield, O God;\*  
look on the face of your anointed!
- C** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.\*  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell  
in the tents of wickedness.
- L** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.\*  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- C** O LORD of hosts,\*  
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Sit

**Choral and Congregational Anthem: Holy, Holy, Holy**

*arr. John B. Dykes  
setting by John A. Behnke*

*Choir sings Holy... holy... holy... holy...*

**Cong. sings 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

*Choir only Holy... holy... holy... holy...*

*Choir only 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,*

*Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.*

*Choir only*     3 *Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.*

*Choir*     *Holy... holy... holy... holy...*  
**Cong.**     **4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
*with choral*     **All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.**  
*descant*     **Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!**  
                  **God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826 Text: Public domain



## + Readings +

*1 Kings 8:22–30*


**Anderson**  A reading from 1 Kings, chapter 8.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.


“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

 O Lord, have mercy on us.  **Thanks be to God.**

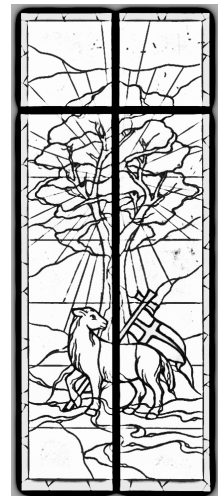
### Gradual

 **O LORD, I love the habitation of your house,  
and the place where your glory dwells.  
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise.**

*Revelation 21:1–5*

**Lefort**  A reading from Revelation, chapter 21.

Then I 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. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with







**Hymn: 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken**

*Congregation  
sings all  
stanzas.*



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y  
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -  
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and  
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you  
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all  
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing  
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,  
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er  
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner  
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's  
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the  
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -  
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.  
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.  
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.  
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809 Text and tune: Public domain

**+ Sermon +**

*The Reverend David Graves  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wartburg  
Circuit Visitor for the Knoxville Circuit*

**+ Canticle +**

*Stand*

**Antiphon (Common)**

*Psalms 141:2*

**Korte**  
BU: Graves

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

## Magnificat: 933 My Soul Rejoices

Congregation  
sings all  
stanzas



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622 Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110020024 Tune: Public domain

*Sit*



**Mission Offering for Always Mercy** gifts given during this service will help fund a recently opened palliative care center in Kenya. Always Mercy's director is LCMS Deaconess Pamela Boehle-Silva and Praise Lutheran's office administrator, Tina Pierce, serves as the mission's treasurer. If your congregation would like a visit from Deaconess Pamela or for more information about the mission and to donate online, visit [alwaysmercy.org](http://alwaysmercy.org)

## + Prayer +

Kyrie

Stand

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### 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.

### Introduction to Collects

Psalm 102:1



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

### Collect of the Day

Lefort  
BU: Roberts

**P** (sung) Almighty God, You have promised to be with Your Church forever. We praise You for Your presence in this place of worship and ask Your ongoing blessing upon those who gather here. Dwell continually among us with Your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

Roberts

### Collect for Peace

**L** (sung) O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

**Benedicamus**

*Psalm 103:1*

Roberts



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

Paavola

at Lectern  
Seminarian  
Wade stands  
near him as  
attendant  
BU: Roberts



**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God

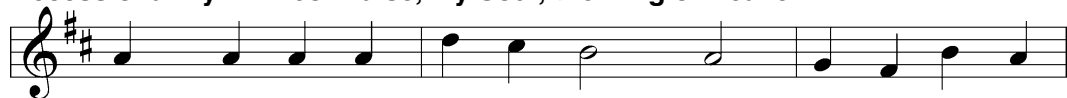


and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

**Recessional Hymn: 793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven**



*Congregation  
remains  
standing and  
sings all  
stanzas.*

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your  
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple  
3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



*Please turn  
and face the  
processional  
cross as it  
passes and  
remain facing  
the cross  
throughout the  
recession.*

trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,  
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,  
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



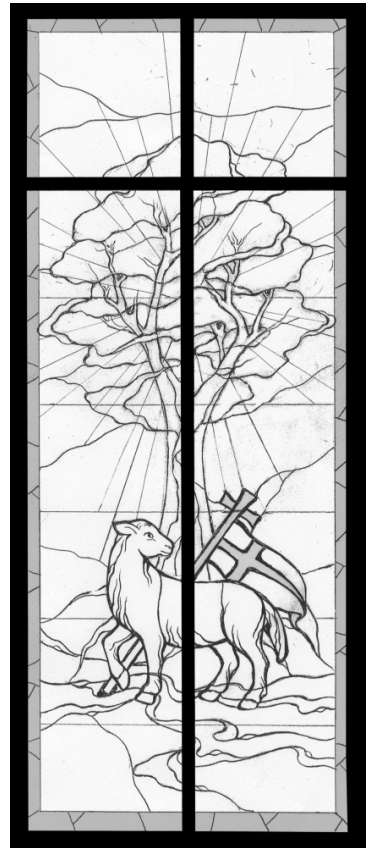
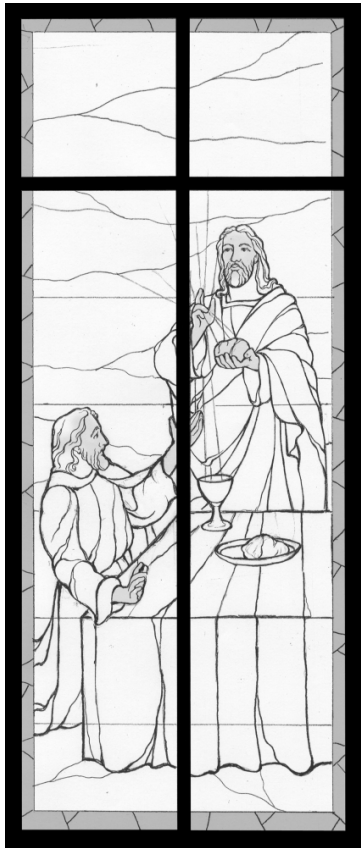
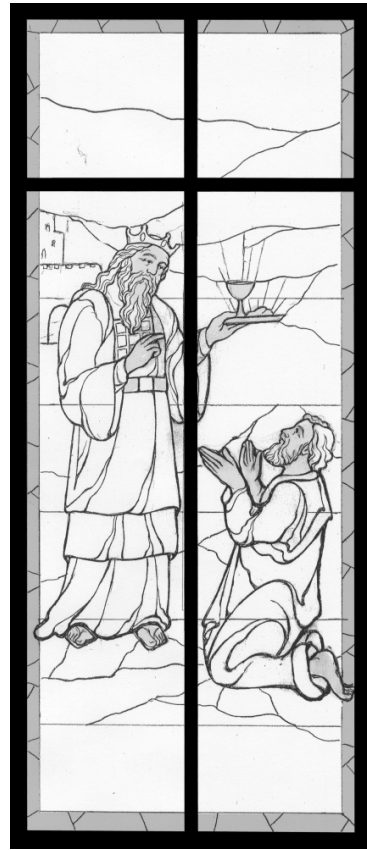
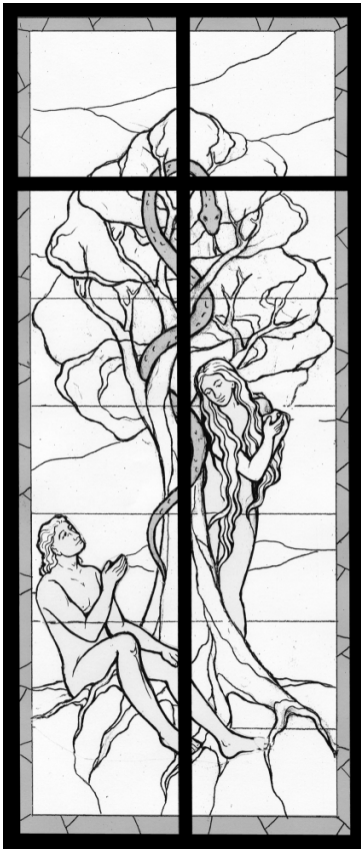
Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,  
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,  
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.  
al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.  
al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows.  
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847 Tune: John Goss, 1800-80 Text and tune: Public domain

Lynchburg Stained Glass custom artistry for Praise Lutheran Church, Maryville





### **Acknowledgments**

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### **Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

We are a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Knoxville Circuit of the Mid-South District of the LCMS with Dr. Roger Paavola serving as District President.

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801

Phone: (865) 977-5810

Website: [praiselutheran.com](http://praiselutheran.com)

Online giving: [praiselutheran.com](http://praiselutheran.com) (click the blue “Give” button)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/>

Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Office Administration: Tina Pierce, [tina@praiselutheran.com](mailto:tina@praiselutheran.com)

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, [pastor@praiselutheran.com](mailto:pastor@praiselutheran.com)

DCE: Shelli Haynes, [shelli@praiselutheran.com](mailto:shelli@praiselutheran.com)

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

**Organist** for today’s service: Gary Schauerman, member of Praise Lutheran Church and former member and organist for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Beaumont, Texas.

**Pianists:** Janice Kaiser and Susan Johnson. **Trumpet** accompaniment played by Caleb Pierce.

**Choir Director:** Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson. Thank you to all who served in today’s service and helped with this celebration. **Special thanks** to Tina Pierce who helped organize today’s events and meal.