

# Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

Hymnal Supplement, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

April 28, 2024

10:00 AM

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### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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PRELUDE

Melody in D

Carl Busch

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GATHERING SONG

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW 382

### \*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
And also with you.

### \*KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

## \*NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Song of Devotion

Mary McDonald

Bryce Sandoval, Lakewood High School, cello

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## WORD

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God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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### FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

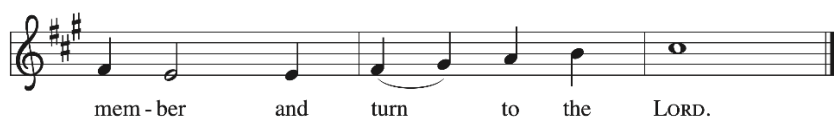
*The reading may be concluded:* The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

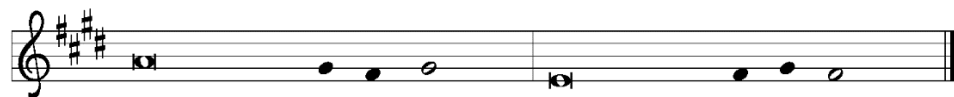
## PSALM

Psalm 22:25-31

### Refrain:



### Tone:



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

## SECOND READING

I John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We

love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*The reading may be concluded:* The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

*Congregation:*

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

### \*GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

*The gospel is announced*

The holy gospel according to St. John

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

*The gospel concludes:* The gospel of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### REFLECTION

The Rev. Angela Freeman

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

**P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.**

*A brief silence.*

A: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters (*local bodies of water may be named*). Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*). God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

A: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet one another as you are comfortable sharing God's peace.*



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## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

### OFFERING SONG

*As the offering is brought forward to the altar, the congregation sings.*

**Refrain** *Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

**Verses**



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
to Refrain  
may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,  
**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**  
**May the gifts that we offer here**  
**be signs of your abiding love.**  
**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**  
**Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

Presider: Congregation:  
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Presider: Congregation:  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Congregation:  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

*The presiding minister continues.*

It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

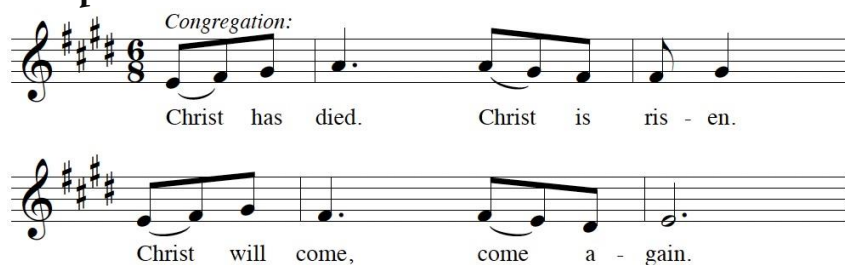
## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.*

Presider sings: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

### Congregation Responds:

*Congregation:*



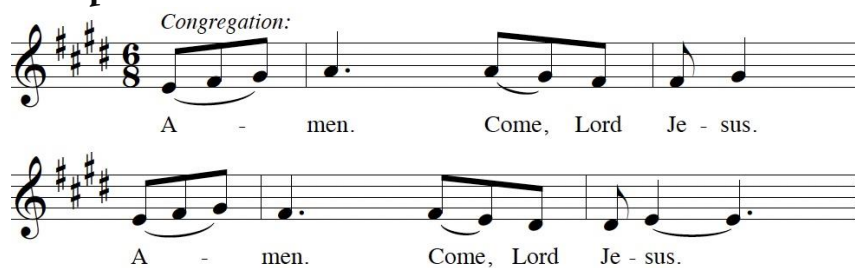
Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.  
Christ will come, come a - gain.

The musical notation is in treble clef, 6/8 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with lyrics underneath.

Presider sings: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### Congregation Responds:

*Congregation:*



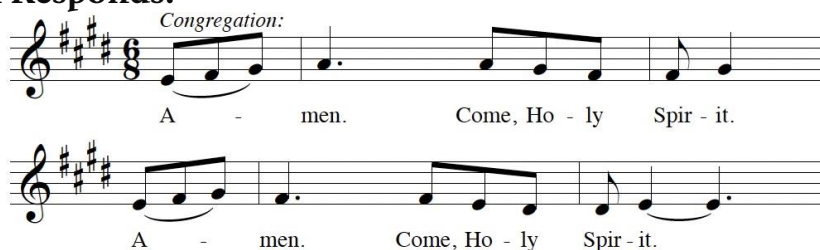
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.  
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

The musical notation is in treble clef, 6/8 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with lyrics underneath.

Presider sings: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

### Congregation Responds:

*Congregation:*



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.  
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

The musical notation is in treble clef, 6/8 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with lyrics underneath.

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

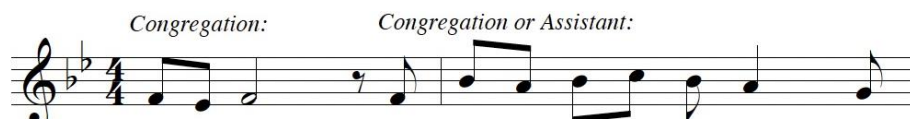
The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

*You are invited to either come forward to the altar or remain in your seats today to receive communion. You can decide your own comfort level. Pre-filled elements available at the ushers stand when you came in.*

*If you come forward, you are invited to stand or kneel at the altar railing. The pastor and assisting ministers will come to you and serve you the sacraments. If you need gluten free, indicate to the pastor.*

## \*LAMB OF GOD



The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It is divided into two parts: 'Congregation:' and 'Congregation or Assistant:'. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and



\*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

The Clarion Call

Lani Smith

**Leading Worship Today**

The Rev. Angela Freeman	Senior Pastor
Deacon Marla Wood Kay	Interim Minister of Christian Formation
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Dr. Matt Chiu	Organist
Laura English	Assisting Minister
John Menzies	Lector
Anna Gregory	Acolyte
Todd Semroc, Norm Resko, Mark Richardson	Ushers
Marianne Schmidt	Altar Guild
Eric & Teresa Peace	Tech Team
Emerson Emser	Sound

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**Next week’s readings:** First Reading: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31; Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21; Gospel: John 15:1-8.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.**

### **SPRING FUNDRAISER WALK IN SALE**

**May 1 - June 15<sup>th</sup> at Dean's Greenhouse in Westlake**

It's time to start thinking spring! Dean's Greenhouse, 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, will be offering a Walk-in Fundraiser this summer. Shop at Dean's for all your spring and summer gardening supplies; flowers, vegetables, pots, mulch, soil, decorative items. Just mention Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church at check out, and 30% of your order total will come back to support the Youth Ministries of Bethesda. Shop any time between May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>!

**PROJECT ISAIAH 43** Bethesda hosting our synod friends!

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2:00 PM**

Project Isaiah 43 events are occurring throughout the Northeastern Ohio Synod and include a brief presentation time but will be heavily focused on conversations as we think together about the future of Lutheran Christianity. Each congregation is invited to send at least four people who may or may not include a rostered staff person - in fact, we are especially desiring the insights of congregation members! Bethesda is hosting an event on Sunday, May 5 at 2pm. If you can attend on behalf of Bethesda or if you can help with hospitality needs for that day, please contact Pastor.

### **LORAIN COOPERATIVE MINISTRY FUNDRAISER**

Explore your community. Love your neighbor. Lorain Cooperative Ministry is holding a Spring Destination Raffle on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran Church. Check out our great prize packages. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. All money raised will support our programs. Tickets are available online on the website [loraincoopministry.com](http://loraincoopministry.com), or after worship April 21 and 28. Contact Michele Gillum at [michelegillum@gmail.com](mailto:michelegillum@gmail.com) or 440-864-4156 with questions. You do not need to be present to win.

### **WOMEN'S MISSION GROUP**

The Women's Mission Group would like to invite the women of the congregation to our next meeting scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 7pm. We will gather in the lounge for fellowship and project planning. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather and learn more about your fellow sisters in Christ at Bethesda.

### **PEANUT BUTTER COLLECTION**

Redeemer Crisis Center is in immediate need of jars of peanut butter. This is a weekly staple for families in need and the prices at the food bank have become very high. A collection bin will be in the narthex through May 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for donating.

## **GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

This year we would like to continue the Bethesda tradition of recognizing all graduates in the display near the welcome desk outside the sanctuary. If you have a high school or college graduate, or a graduate of a vocational or certification program and would like to be featured in the showcase, please email the following information to Deacon Marla at [deaconessmarla@gmail.com](mailto:deaconessmarla@gmail.com):

- Name
- Where graduating from
- Degree, if applicable
- Future plans
- Any special honors they would like highlighted
- A current photo. 5x7 is preferred but we will use whatever they provide. Photo does not have to be a professional photo and it can be mailed or dropped at church, or emailed.

Please note emailed photos will be printed from church copy machine so will not be photo grade.

The display will begin in late May or early June, so please submit graduate information as soon as possible. Thank you! We hold in prayer all who are in these last days of Spring classes and finals!

## **BEATITUDES EXPLORATION**

Join a small group to explore the Beatitudes, or Jesus's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), which Luther once said creates an impossible standard though he later found good things to say. The program consists of six sessions which will take place May 12, May 19, June 2, June 9, June 16, and June 23 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. No session on May 26.

Each session lasts one hour and consists of viewing a video segment and discussing it. No homework, no quizzes and no attendance taken! The program gathers together scholars, activists and theologians, several of whom have written books about the Beatitudes. The content should provoke thought and discussion. Mark & Mary Beth Larsen will facilitate.

## **FIRST MUSIC CONCERT**

At First Lutheran Church, Lorain, on April 28 at 3 pm

Acclaimed pianist Peter Takacs performs the eight Impromptus by Schubert. Admission is free.

## **LUTHERAN WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT**

At Jochum Center at Lutheran West High School, Rocky River, April 28 at 2 pm

Lutheran Wind Ensemble presents "Marching to the Stars." Tickets are \$10 and proceeds benefit instrumental music in Lutheran schools. For more information, email [lutheranwinds@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranwinds@gmail.com).

## **WESTSHORE CHORALE & ORCHESTRA CONCERT**

Avon Lake High School Performing Arts Center, 175 Avon Belden Road, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm



Two revered Classical Masterpieces: Hayden's Theresa Mass and Vivaldi's Gloria, will be performed. Tickets are available online at [www.westshorechorale.org](http://www.westshorechorale.org) or at the door. Cost is \$20 for adults. Students are free. Handicap accessible.