

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Santa Clarita

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30am — April 28, 2024

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

Good works are to be understood as a response to salvation, not as a means to salvation. We are already saved by Christ's work on the cross, but what we do IS important. Our actions have consequences both for ourselves and for others. -Br. Robert L'Esperance

Prelude

Waltz in A Flat, Op. 39, No. 15

Johannes Brahms

THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Hymn #296

"We know that Christ was raised and dies no more"

Engelberg



1. We	know	that	Christ	is	raised	and	dies	no	more.
2. We	share	by	wa -	ter	in	his	sav -	ing	death.
3. The	Fa -	ther's	splen -	dor	clothes	the	Son	with	life.
4. A	new	cre -	a -	tion	comes	to	life	and	grows



Em -	braced	by	death	he	broke	its	fear -	ful	hold;
Re -	born	we	share	with	him	an	Eas -	ter	life.
The	Spi -	rit's	pow -	er	shakes	the	Church	of	God.
as	Christ's	new	bo -	dy	takes	on	flesh	and	blood.



and	our	des -	pair	he	turned	to	blaz -	ing	joy.	Al -	le -	lu -	ia!
as	liv -	ing	mem -	bers	of	a	liv -	ing	Christ.	Al -	le -	lu -	ia!
Bap -	tized	we	live	with	God	the	Three	in	One.	Al -	le -	lu -	ia!
The	u -	ni -	verse	re -	stored	and	whole	will	sing:				

Final Ending



Al - - le - lu - ia! A - - men.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen!
 People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Priest and People:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Acts 8:26-40

Reader: Marianne Zinkewicz

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Reader: Sally Drake

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: Sally Drake

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 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. 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #577 "God is love, and where true love is"

Ubi caritas (Murray)

Refrain



God is love, and where true love is God him-self is there.



1. Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.



2. When we Christians gather, members of one Body,



3. Grant us love's fulfillment, joy with all the blessed,



Christ, our love is with us, gladness be his greeting.
let there be in us no discord but one spirit.
when we see your face, O Savior, in its glory.



Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal.
Banished now be an angel, strife and every quarrel.
Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,

Repeat Refrain



Loving him, let each love Christ in one another.
Christ, our God, be always present here among us.
be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.

The Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Reader: James Webb

Friends, there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. So let us boldly pray to God, saying, "Loving God, put your words in our hearts."

Great vine-grower, remove anything in your Church that hinders our love. May we abide in your Son Jesus. May he abide in us. We want to bear much fruit; we want to be disciples of your Son.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

Ruler of the nations, under your reign the poor shall eat and be satisfied: make known your saving deeds to the ends of the earth.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

Creator God, you nourish our bodies and our spirits with the fruits of the vine. Give us eyes to see your presence in our world; give us words to witness to your goodness.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

Good Teacher, you sent Philip to the Ethiopian so that he would be transformed by understanding: bless our schools and universities. Give wisdom and understanding to all those who teach and all those who learn.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

O God, you are love. You love us so much. We pray for the whole human family, especially those in great need. Increase our love for them; teach us empathy. Bless them with your healing touch. We pray for all those on the prayer list, especially Dave, Kay and Melba.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

Almighty God, who truly to know is everlasting life: May your love be an eternal abode for all your saints.

Silence

Intercessor: Loving God,

People: Put your words in our hearts.

Priest

O Gracious God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Caroline Nold on May 1st, Derek Maldonado on May 2nd, Dave Morrow & Tracy Stapp on May 3rd.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

All Earth Rejoice with a Gladsome Voice
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Antonio Vivaldi

Please stand as you are able.

Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures,
here be - low. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n a -
bove; Praise God the Trin - i - ty of Love. A - men.

Priest: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Priest: Let us give thanks.

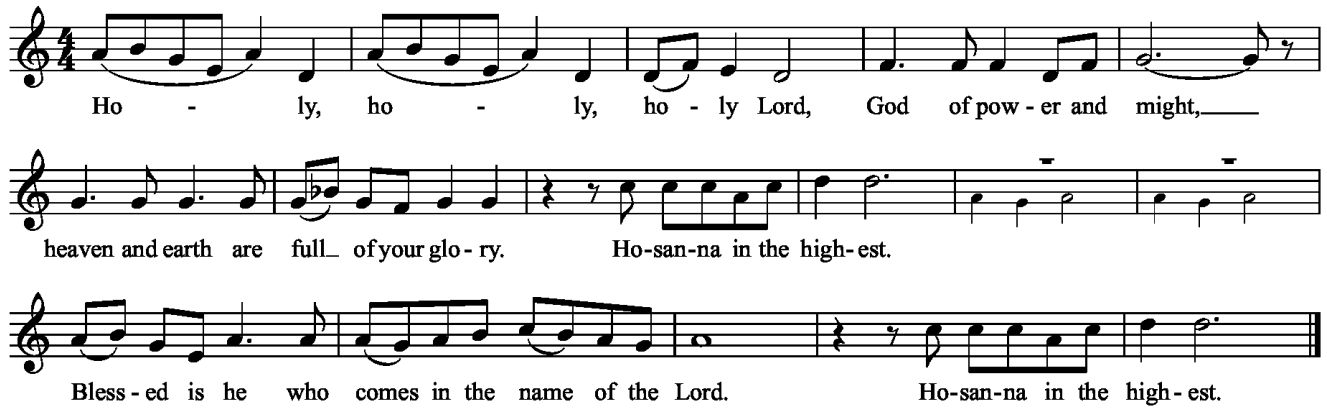
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus #S 128

Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, —
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Priest and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Stephen, and all your people, into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

A - men, a - men, a - men!

A - men, a - men, a - men!

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hymn #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.

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

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
 Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
 and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please be seated.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey
you are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine made holy.*

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.

Communion Music

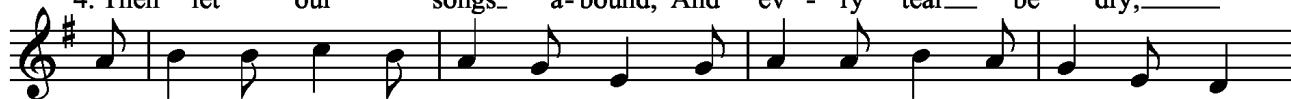
They'll Know we are Christians

Peter Scholtes

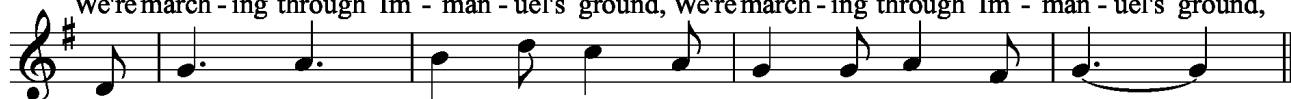
1. We are one in the Spi-rit; we are one in the Lord. We are one in the
2. We will walk with each oth-er; we will walk hand in hand. We will walk with each
3. We will work with each oth-er; we will work side by side. We will work with each
4. All—praise to the Fa-ther, from—whom all things come. And all praise to Christ
Spi - rit; we are one in the Lord. And we
oth - er; we will walk hand in hand. And to -
oth - er; we will work side by side. And we'll
Je - sus, His—on - ly—Son. And all
pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save—each one's pride.
praise to the Spi - rit, who—makes—us—one.
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our
love. Yes, they'll know— we are Chris-tians by our love.



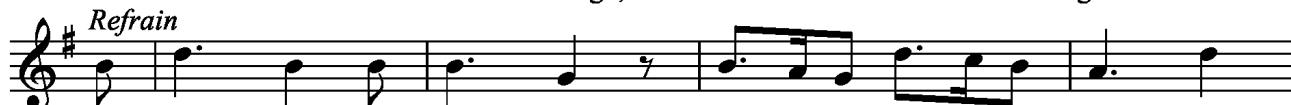
1. Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;—
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing Who ne - ver knew our God;—
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields A thou - sand sa - cred sweets—
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, And ev - 'ry tear be dry;—



Join in a song with sweet ac - cord, Join in a song with sweet ac - cord,
 But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King,
 Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields,
 We're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, We're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground,



And thus sur - round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.—
 May speak their joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.—
 Or walk the gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.—
 To fair - er worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on;



We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, The beau - ti - ful ci - ty of God.—

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
 whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
 grant us to walk in his way,
 to rejoice in his truth,
 and to share his risen life;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
 give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony.

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
 fill you with his new life; so that with one voice you may glorify God.

May the Spirit give to you and to all you love
 comfort and peace, light and joy, safety and wisdom.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the one,
 holy and undivided Trinity be among you
 and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #379

“God is Love, let heaven adore him”

Abbot's Leigh

1. God is Love, let hea - ven a - dore him; God is
 2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the
 3. God is Love; and though with blind - ness sin af -

Love, let earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion
 world in one em - brace: with un - fail - ing
 flicts all hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal

sing be - fore him and ex - alt him with one
 grasp God holds us, ev - ery child of ev - ery
 lov - ing kind - ness guides us through our earth - ly

voice. God who laid the earth's foun - da - tion, God who
 race. And when hu - man hearts are break - ing un - der
 strife. Sin and death and hell shall nev - er o'er us

spread the heav'n's a - bove, God who breathes through all cre -
 sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that self - same
 fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so Love for

a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

The Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
 People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.
Spiritual Communion Prayer, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787
 From *The Hymnal 1982* #296 "We know that Christ was raised and dies no more", Words: John Brownlow Geyer (b. 1932), alt. Music: Engelberg Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) Copyright: Words Used by permission of the author. #S-128 Title: The Holy Eucharist II.
 Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sacetus* Music: William Mathias (b. 1934) Copyright: © 1976, Oxford University Press, Inc. #S 154 Title: The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover Music: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981, G.L.A. Publications, Inc. #577 "God is love and where true love is", Words: Latin; tr. James Quinn (b. 1919), alt. Music: *Ubi caritas* (Murray), A. Gregory Murray (1905-1992) Copyright: Words: © 1969, James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music by permission of A. Gregory Murray. #379 "God is love, let heaven adore him", Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)
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 They'll Know we are Christians, by Peter Scholtes, © Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation; Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation
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 Doxology - Music Old 100%, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).