

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER*

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
(717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

**OFFICE EMAIL:** mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:** mlcmifflintown.org

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today’s gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples’ food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Jean Compton  
Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith  
Hope Miller  
Grace Miller

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Acolyte  
Offering Ushers

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER April 18, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES  
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### GATHERING

- \* GATHERING HYMN                      “Children of the Heavenly Father”                      bulletin, pg. 11
- \* GREETING
  - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
  - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
  - P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
  - C And also with you.**
- \* KYRIE (**C - sung**)
  - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P 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 mercy.**
  - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
  - C Lord, have mercy.**
  - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
  - C Amen.**

\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” -- In Unison)

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
 we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**WORD**

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

FIRST READING ..... Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: ..... Psalm 4 (*responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**<sup>2</sup>"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

**<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

**<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

**<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

SECOND READING..... 1 John 3:1-7

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.  
Alleluia.

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

\* GOSPEL .....Luke 24:36b-48

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vss. 1-2) bulletin, pg. 12

\* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

**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.**

**OFFERING PRESENTATION**

\* **SUNG OFFERTORY** ('vineyards')

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

\* **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

\* **BLESSING**

**P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.**

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

\* **SENDING HYMN** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vss. 3-4) bulletin, pg. 12

\* **HOLY COMMUNION**

**P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

**P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

**P With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to the entire world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

JUST A THOUGHT – Anthony Bloom, Writer and Broadcaster, Russian Orthodox Church (1914 – 2003): A miracle is not the breaking of the laws of the fallen world, it is the re-establishment of the laws of the kingdom.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in celebration of Caden's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by Don and Barb Geedy.

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

COPIES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

APRIL’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for our campers at Camp Mount Luther this summer. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Camp Mount Luther. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

April 11, 2021 Attendance – 41

Total Offering	\$2,632.00		
Other Funds	<u>750.00</u>		
General Fund	\$1,882.00		
		<u>Other Funds</u>	
		Summer Camp	\$ 425.00
		Building Fund	200.00
		Memorial Fund	50.00
		Benevolence	<u>75.00</u>
		Total	\$ 750.00

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.      Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SUMMER SERVICES WILL BEGIN on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members are no longer able to help. If you would like to serve or have any changes you would like to make, please contact Diana Wise. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.



THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Kate Swailes is serving as our congregation’s camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this summer! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail (additional brochures are available in the Adult Sunday School Room). For more information on Camp Mount Luther or to print the camp registration form, visit [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org). Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. Because Camp Mount Luther is accepting a lower number of campers this summer, Chad Hershberger recommends that families register their campers as soon as possible. Registration will not be accepted within the two weeks prior to each camp week.

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

### **COMMUNITY**

#### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL:**

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

#### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -6:00 p.m., Lions Club in Fellowship Hall.  
-7:00 p.m., AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -Church Office Closed.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Sunday:** -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

## PRAYER LIST

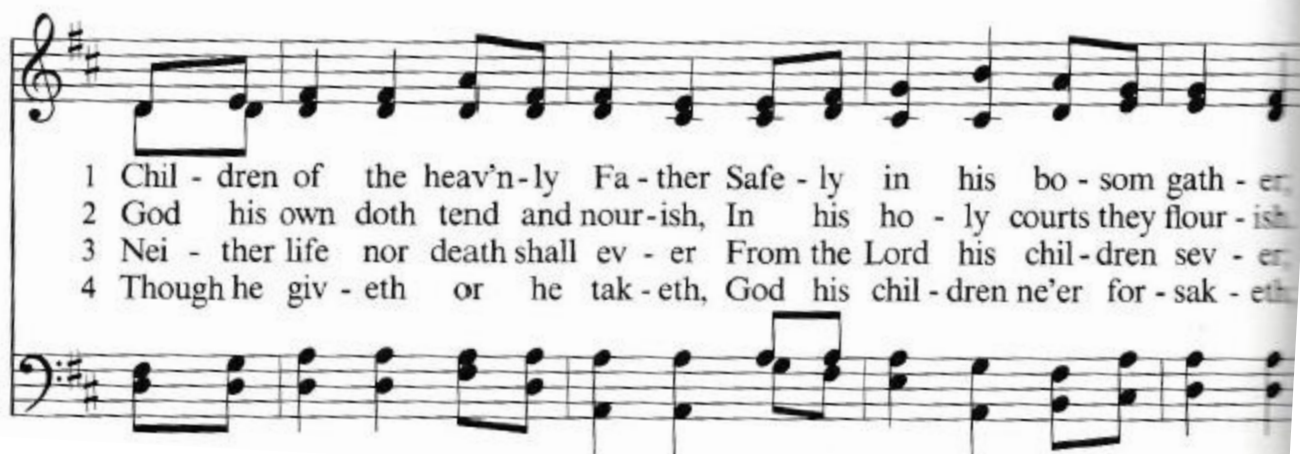
Shirley Aumiller	Terri Gayer	Shirley Miller
Tyson Aurand	Ken Geede	Jim Minick
Carole Baker	Eddi Kay Gill	Claire Mummah
Donna Barton	Sam & Diane Goshorn	Landon Musser
Lindsey Barton	Paul Goss	Darve Nace
Donna Bell	Amy Hart	Austin Parker
Julie Berryman & Gary Bechtold	Beth Harris	Noel Peachey
Andy Berrier	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Rick & Audrey Peters
Nick Beward	Sue Henderson	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Roxanne Boyer	Ken Henry	Dave Phelan
Wanda Boyer	Nox Hepburn	Butch & Sandy Pines
Charlotte Burd	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Betty Ranck
Andrea Cameron	Curt & Judy Houtz	Keith Ranck
Pam Campbell	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Mackenzie Shearer
Dan Carlin	Brenda Imes	Ronald Shearer
Ruth Cisney	Annie Ingle	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Curtis Clark	Doc Johnston	Mike Sparks
Randy Clark	Guy Kerstetter	Donald Speece
Terry Coder	Denny King	Andy Spigelmyer
Leann Crimmel	Darvin Krouse	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Will DeLancy	Pam Lawson	Charles Stump
Guy Dillman	Michael Lozano	Alice Swartz
Fred & Dot Dowling	Carol Lyter	Dorothy Towsey
Renee Dzikowski	Zaden Mabey	Rich Walters
Tom Ernest	Anthony Martin	Dr. Glen Webb
Neil & Pat Fisher	Carlen McClure	Erma Williamson
Janie Fogleman	Alice McClure	Jim Woltman
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Isabel Meinsler	Mackenzie Wray
Bentley Fulkroad	Messiah Mutual Ministry	George Zimmerman
Joan Fulkroad	Cecilia Miller	Linda Zimmerman
Michal Gayer	Ellwood Miller	
	Larry Miller	

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

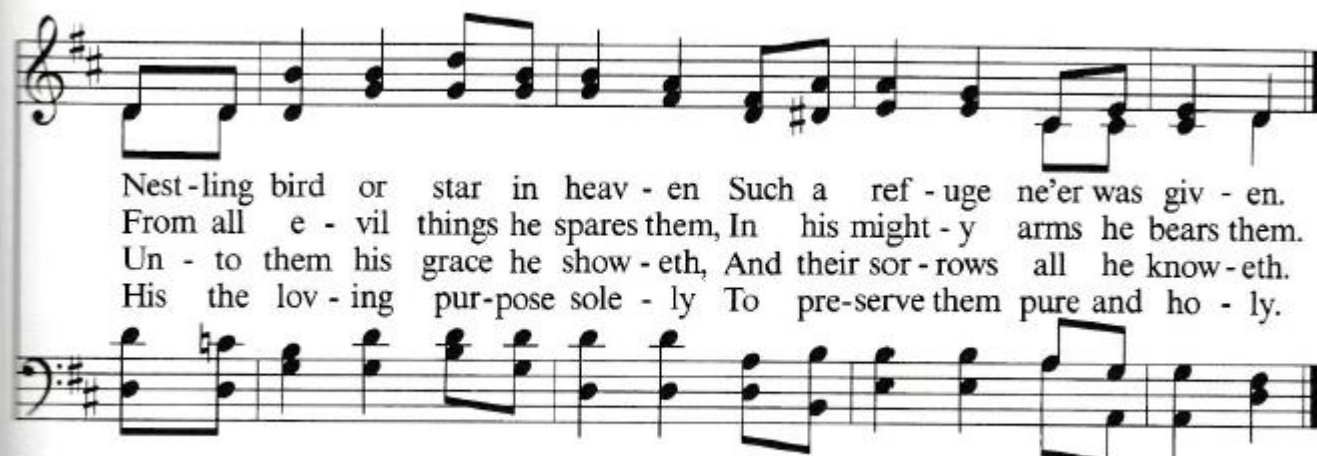
Ray Bramm	Minnie Minick
Ruth Cisney	Edith Nipple
Max Ernest	Carol Simonton
Margaret Guss	Sieber & Ona Stoner
Gail Henderson	Ken Stuck
Mona Lawson	
Jane Marhefka	

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## Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther Safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er,  
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, In his ho - ly courts they flour - ish,  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the Lord his chil - dren sev - er,  
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth.



Nest - ling bird or star in heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.  
 From all e - vil things he spares them, In his might - y arms he bears them.  
 Un - to them his grace he show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
 His the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

© Text: Caroline V. Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958  
 Tune: Swedish folk tune

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA  
 L.M.

315

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful  
 breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy  
 ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy  
 be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee  
 Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

HYFRYDOL  
 87 87 D