



# HOLY CROSS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

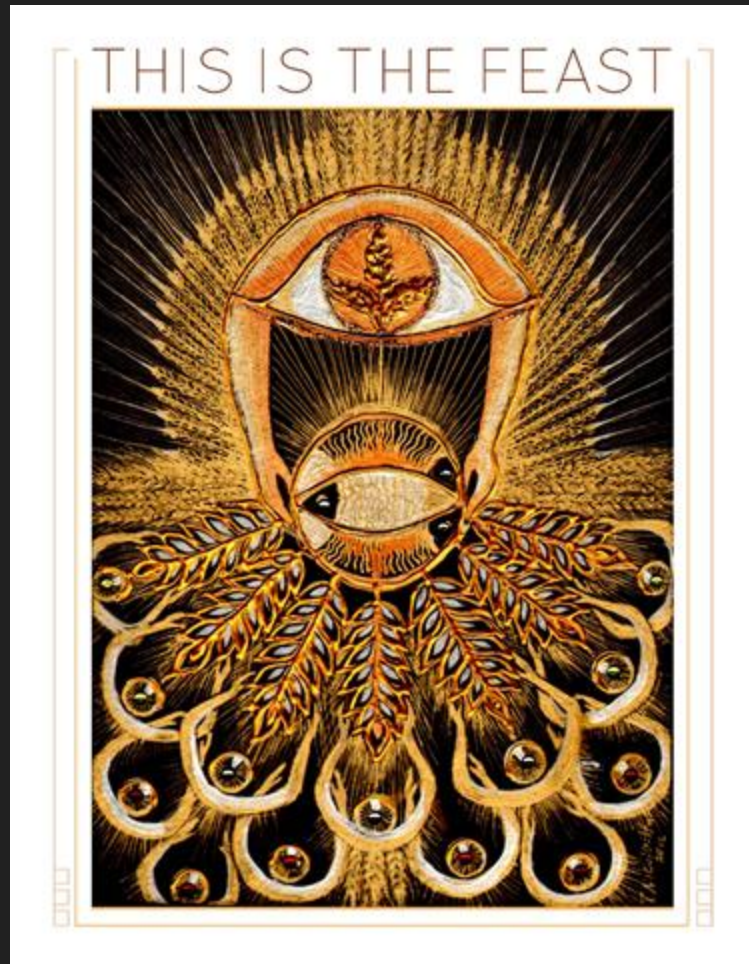
St. Louis, MO

Beauty and the Arts in Worship

# Project Summary

**Feast Services:** a series of liturgical services that weave together visual arts, graphic design, music, devotional practices, and sermon writing to create aesthetically rich worship experiences. These services are intended to be a “foretaste of the feast to come”, serving as a catalyst to:

- Understand the theology of beauty
- Explore the role of the arts in the church
- Foster connections with the community by inviting artists and musicians into worship
- Deepen our relationship with God by enriching the faith and devotional practices of our worshipping community
- Cultivate an ever-expanding understanding of the breadth and depth of the beauty and goodness of our Creator





# KYRIE



AGNUS DEI

LAMB OF GOD,  
YOU TAKE AWAY  
THE SIN OF THE  
WORLD;  
HAVE MERCY  
ON US.

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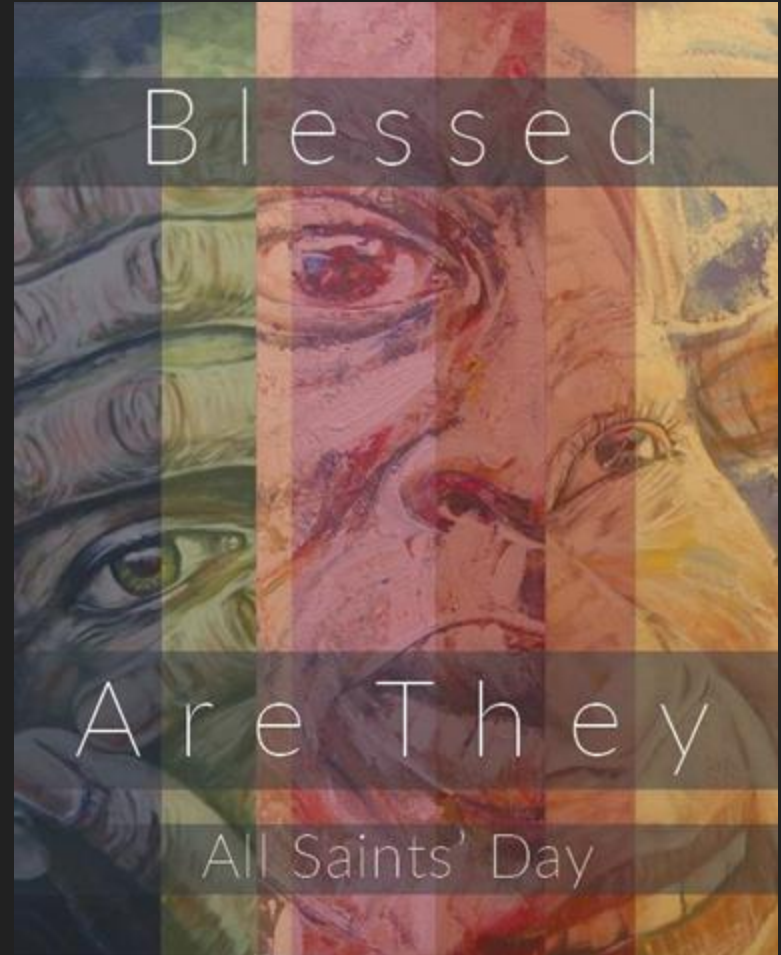
LAMB OF GOD,  
YOU TAKE AWAY  
THE SIN OF THE  
WORLD;  
GRANT US PEACE.





# Learning

- The arts provide space to rest, celebrate, lament, wonder, and receive the spiritual gifts of forgiveness and grace
- Beauty is all around us in the mundane and the extraordinary, reminding us of God's continual presence and provision, not just for our bodies, but also for our souls
- More than ever, it has been important for our community to reflect on the beauty around us amidst these difficult circumstances
- Artists and musicians want to share their work with communities, but often need an invitation into those spaces. Bringing musicians and artists into your worship is a meaningful way to nurture relationships with those outside your church.





# BRASS PRELUDE

Eric Ewazen, A Western Fanfare

## WELCOME

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### OPENING HYMN

### O WONDROUS TYPE, O VISION FAIR

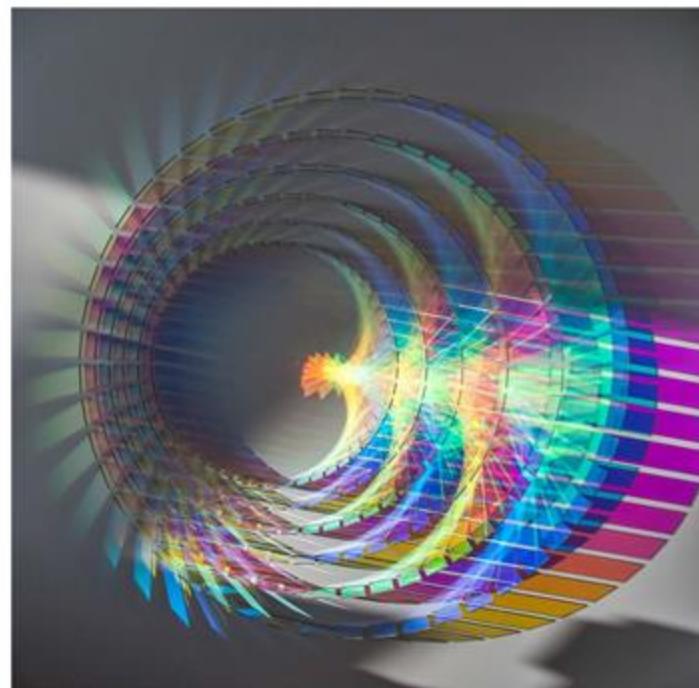
LSB 413

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high  
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son

Of glo - ry that the Church may share,  
 The in - car - na - tion Lord holds con - verse high;  
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day  
 By this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,  
 And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one,

Which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
 And from the cloud the Ho - ly One  
 What glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
 For which in joy - ful strains we raise  
 We pray Thee, bring us by Thy grace

Where bright - er than the sun He glows!  
 Bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.  
 Who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise,  
 To see Thy glo - ry face to face.



For now we see through a glass darkly; but then shall we see face to face.  
 Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known.

1 Corinthians 13:12



# STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR



Grace Carol Bortner, *Who For a Little While Was Made Lower Than the Angels*

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

Samuel Barber, *Adagio for Strings*

Stay a while. Do not hurry by the cross on your way to Easter joy, for we know the risen Lord only through Christ and him crucified. The philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said that the only simplicity to be trusted is the simplicity to be found on the far side of complexity. The only joy to be trusted is the joy on the far side of a broken heart; the only life to be trusted is the life on the far side of death. Stay a while, with Christ and him crucified.

Richard John Neuhaus, *Death on a Friday Afternoon*, p. 5



WE LEAVE IN SILENCE

18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.<sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"<sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.<sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.<sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."<sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)<sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

## INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

HYMN O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

LSB 459, verse 1

Oh dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?

## SILENCE

The title of this painting, *God Will Prepare a Sacrifice*, refers to the sacrifice of Isaac, where God tests Abraham's faith by commanding him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. While preparing the offering, Abraham tells his son, "God himself will provide the lamb." As Abraham is about to slay his own son, an angel of God calls out and Isaac is spared. In the Old Testament story, God provides the sacrifice, a ram that has been caught by its horns. On Good Friday, God provides another Lamb, the Paschal Lamb, His only Son. This lamb, the Lamb of God, is the final sacrifice that "takes away the sins of the world."

Grace Carol Bomer, *God Will Prepare a Sacrifice*





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LUTHERAN CHURCH

# EASTER

APRIL 4, 2021

*Christ is risen! (He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!)*

*With those words of joyous proclamation, we rejoice that Jesus Christ was reclaimed from the dead. As we celebrate this truth, and its impact on us today and still to come, we rejoice that much is reclaimed for us today.*

*It has been over a year, but the form of the liturgy, which we laid aside for good reason, is returned to us today.*

*It has been six weeks, but the word "Alleluia," which we laid aside for a season, is returned to us today.*

*Even the images that accent our service this morning have renewed and vibrant color.*

*Today is Easter. Much is reclaimed, restored, renewed—as we rejoice that Christ is risen! (He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!)*



*Grace Carol Turner, Seek Love, It is the Royal Wedding Feast*

