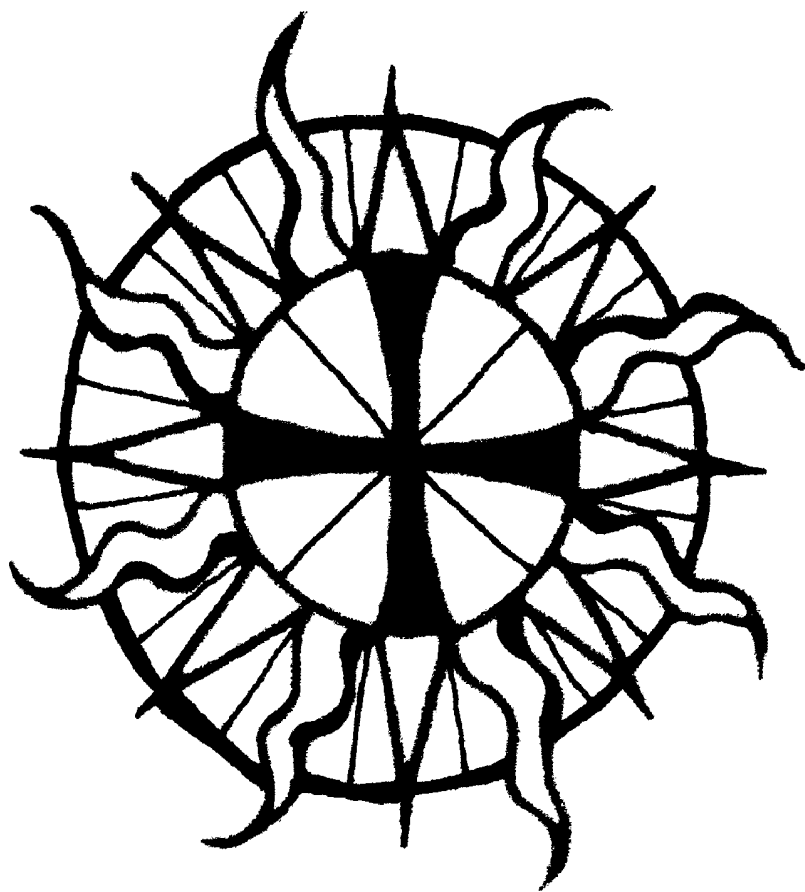


# *The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

## *10:30 am Worship, March 22, 2020*



### *Psalm 27:1*

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?*

#### *PREPARING FOR WORSHIP WHERE YOU ARE*

*Set up a simple worship area: find something purple for your space in this season of Lent. How about adding a candle? Do you have a Bible, hymnal, paper and pencil available? Play piano or another instrument, listen to 103.7, play a CD, hum a favorite hymn, sit in silence or in prayer, listen and watch Christian music videos on YouTube . . .)*

# ***Fourth Sunday in Lent***

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship with Holy Communion*

**March 22, 2020 10:30 am**

**Preaching:** Pastor Lisa Lewton, **Presiding:** Pastor Joe Natwick, Pastor Mike Pretzer, Pastor Colin Neuharth, Pastor Dorothy Williams, **Organist:** Barb Arneson

## ***Ideas to prepare for and wonder about in today's scripture readings:***

**1 Samuel 16: 1-13** David was the least likely candidate to be anointed by Samuel, but he was the one God chose. Who in our congregations might be among the "least likely"? Could you discover the story of someone from the family of God this week? Use your church directory as a contact resource.

**Ephesians 5: 8-14** In the second reading today, Paul encourages his listeners to "try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:10), but he doesn't really tell them how to do that. Why would followers of Jesus need to be told that? Paul knows we are human beings with limited vision. Can you think of an example or two of something that pleases God that is not immediately obvious?

**John 9: 1-41** In our gospel story today, a man blind from birth sees for the first time. He once "saw" only through his hands, fingertips, ears, and nose by touch, sound and smell. As the gospel lesson is read today, you are invited to close your eyes and to imagine the mud on your eyes and the cool water washing it away. Listen for the neighbors' gossip and the Pharisees' questioning and feel the man's happiness and elation at being able to see!

## **- Gathering -**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God—even when we are not physically together*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**L:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen**

**L:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**L:** Most merciful God,

**A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**L:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN #715 Christ Be Our Light vs 1, 2 & 5



\* 1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 \* 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 \* 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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## GREETING

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
 Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE Glory to God

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

**L:** The Lord be with you .

**A:** And also with you.

**L:** Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A:** Amen.

## – Word –

*God speaks to us in Scripture, reading, preaching and song.*

### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

### PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*Words you hold in your  
memory can be a great  
comfort. Consider  
memorizing Psalm 23  
to give you peace when  
you need it.*

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5: 8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

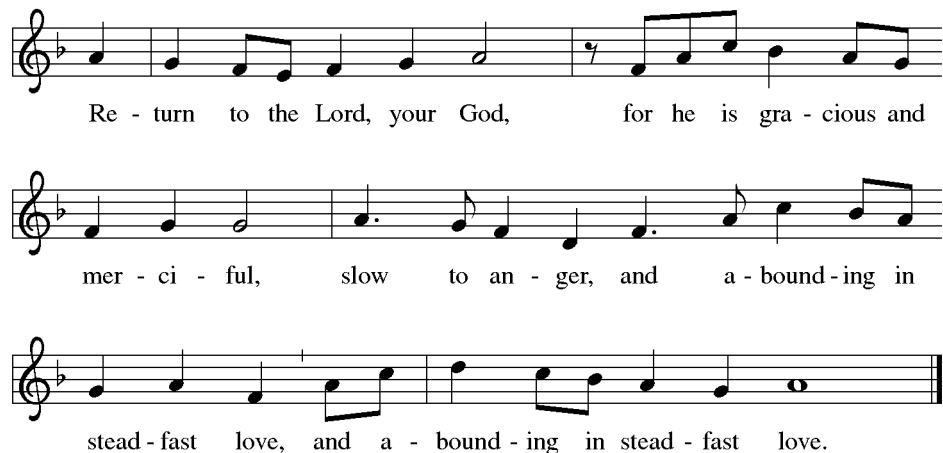
Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The word of the Lord

**A: Thanks be to God**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **LENTEN ACCLAMATION** (please stand)



## **GOSPEL READING: John 9: 1-41**

### **A: Glory to You, O Lord**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then

the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight<sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

## A: Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON Pastor Lisa Lewton

## HYMN OF THE DAY #768 Lead Me, Guide Me (continued on next pg)

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you  
lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each  
day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.



Verses



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to  
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous-ness, Be my  
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am



help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the  
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting  
 blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways



dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.  
 let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

D.C.

Text: Doris M. Akers, b.1922  
 Tune: Doris M. Akers, b.1922, harm. by Richard Smallwood  
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## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always.**

**We believe Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, is God's promise living among us. He experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God's forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit is God's promise touching our spirits, guiding us — even through the darkest and most difficult moments of our lives. We believe God is among us in community.**

**Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.**

\*taken from Dakota Road Music's Work of the People (1990)

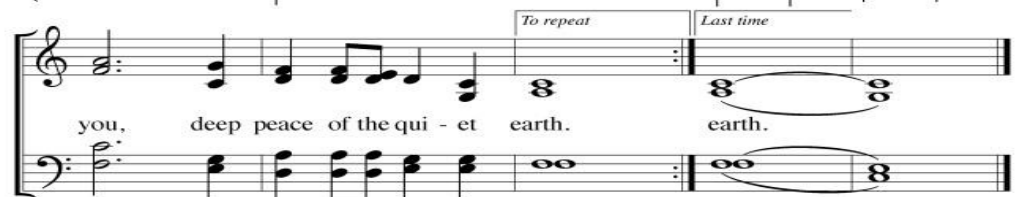
## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Prayer response: Deep Peace)



Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the



flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to



you, deep peace of the qui - et earth. earth.

Text: Celtic traditional, adapt. Ray Makeever  
 Music: Ray Makeever  
 Text and music © 2009 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## SHARING THE PEACE (Instrumental Music)

### **Ideas for how to do this at home:**

*Say you are sorry to whomever you need to.*

*Verbally offer forgiveness to the ones who thirst for your pardon.*

*Reach out to a neighbor or distant friend with a text or phone call.*

*Say a prayer for someone that has been on your mind.*

*Facetime someone!*

*Offer a blessing of peace to people outside or driving by.*

*Write a quick note to pop in the mail to someone.*

## **- Meal -**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING (Instrumental Music)

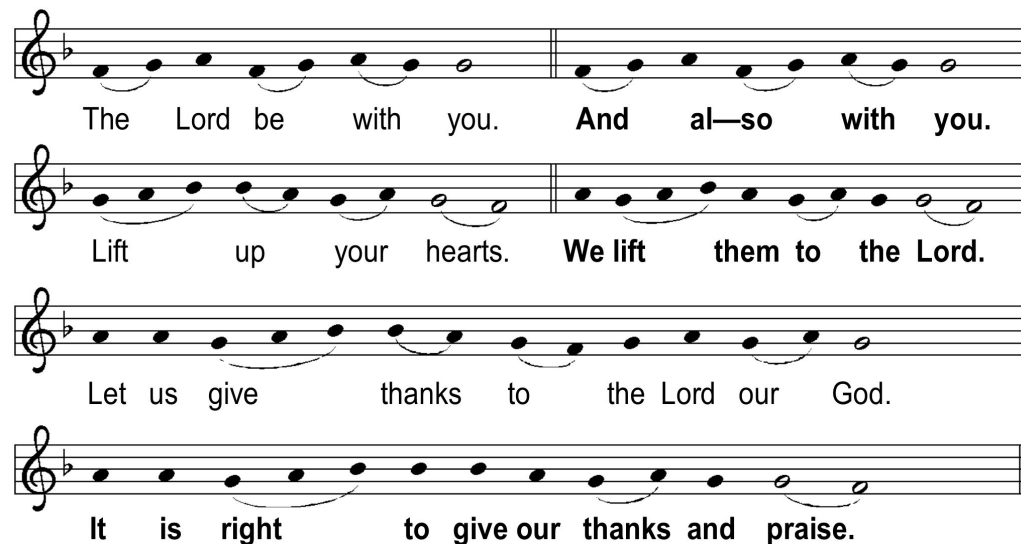
*Thank you to those of you contributing to the mission of your congregation by giving electronically and those who are mailing gifts in. Please consider what you have to offer to those in your immediate surroundings today and this week. Would you share stories of how people have shared Christ's presence with you or how you have chosen to serve as God's hands and feet to inspire others into action? Could you call and check on someone that may be alone? Do you have resources to share? Could you offer to assist someone with errands? Could you commit to ardent prayer? . . .*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L:** Let us pray. Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends. Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace, through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al—so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

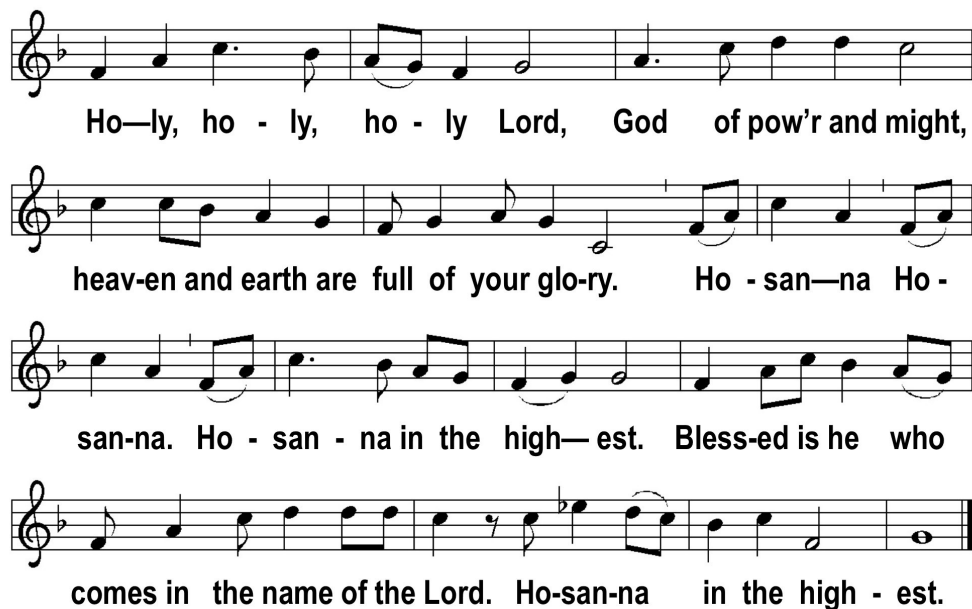
*Why Communion when we cannot commune together?*

*May these familiar words assure you we are one body together, even when we are not physically together.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . .

. . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho—ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san—na Ho -  
san-na. 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.

In the night in which he was betrayed . . .

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

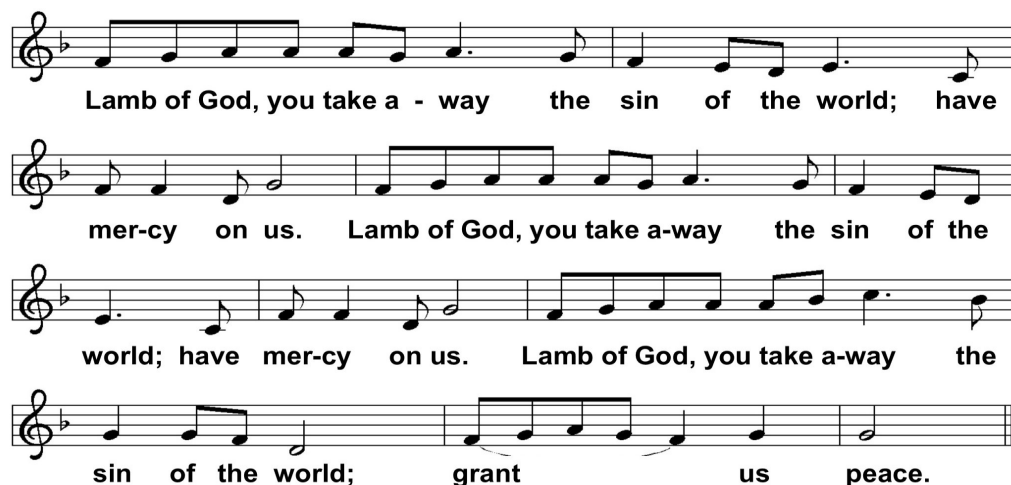
*This version  
of the Lord's Prayer  
may not be familiar.  
Pray any Lord's Prayer  
you love.*

**A: 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**

### - Distribution of Bread & Wine -



### COMMUNION HYMN Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## HYMN #779 Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**L:** Let us pray. We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray.

**A: Amen.**

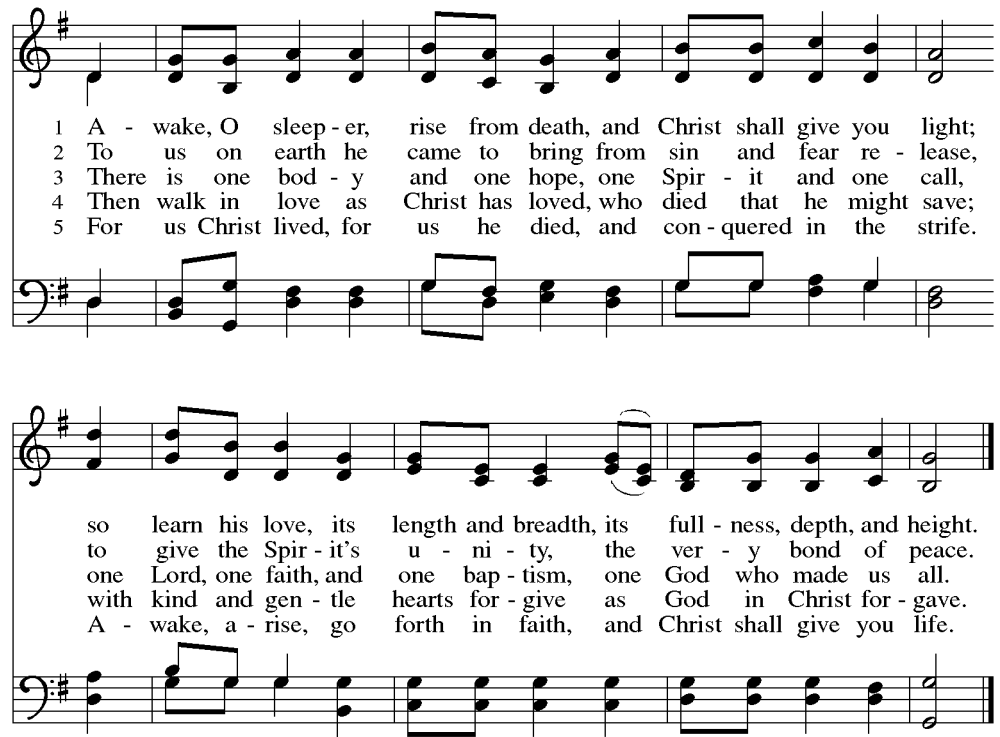
## - Sending -

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

**L:** Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, + bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN #452 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,  
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,  
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984  
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829  
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## DISMISSAL

**L:** Go in peace. Remember the poor. **A:** Thanks be to God.

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment.  
 The gospel for this Sunday is the story  
 of the man born blind healed by Christ.  
 "I was blind, now I see," declares the man.  
 In baptism God opens our eyes  
 to see the truth of who we are:  
God's beloved children.  
 As David was anointed king of Israel,  
 in baptism God anoints our head with oil,  
 and calls us to bear witness  
 to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

**Pastor Lisa Lewton & Pastor Joe Natwick, St. John Lutheran Dickinson, ND**

**Pastor Mike Pretzer, Peace Lutheran Dickinson, ND**

**Pastor Dorothy Stein, St John's Lutheran Killdeer, ND**

**Pastor Colin Neuharth, Our Redeemer's Lutheran New England, ND**

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