

# Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Our Mission: To share Christ's love with the greatest number of people.

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024

The Service at 8:30 and 11 am



*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*



## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Prelude on "Rhosymedre" (Lovely) - Vaughan Williams*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand.*

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
 Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor 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.

Congregation **Amen.**

Pastor Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor Gracious God,  
 Congregation **have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have turned from you**  
**and given ourselves into the power of sin.**  
**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**  
**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,**  
**things we have done and things we have failed to do.**  
**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,**  
**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**


Pastor In the mercy of almighty God,  
 Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
 To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and  
 bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

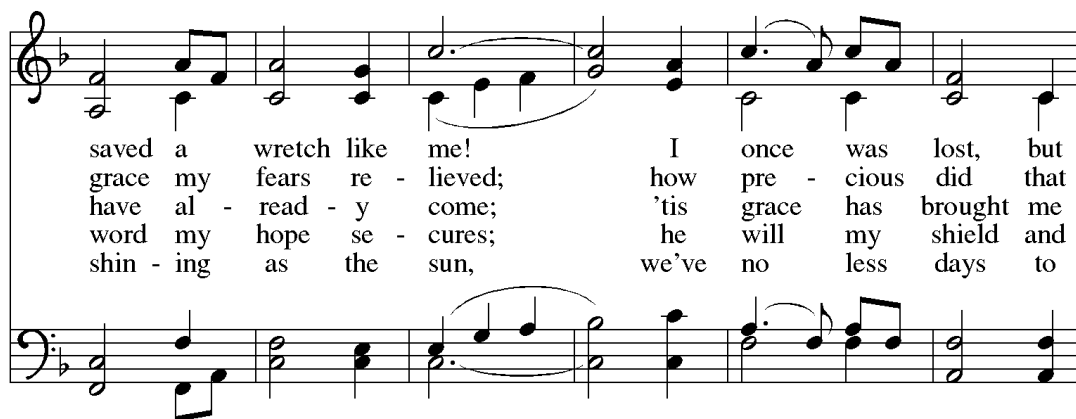
# GATHERING HYMN: AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND #779

*We invite you to turn and face the cross (as you are comfortable). Please turn to the front of the sanctuary after the cross has passed you. All sing.*

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



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.

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**KYRIE**  
*All sing.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



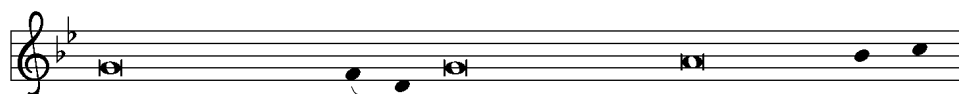
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



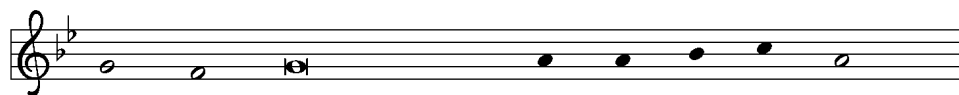
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor                    The Lord be with you.

Congregation    **And also with you.**

Pastor                      Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## THE WORD

### Reading: Numbers 21:4–9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader            Word of God, word of life.

Congregation    **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*Congregation sings words in bold.*



Give thanks to the LORD, for the <sup>1</sup> LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

gathering them in <sup>1</sup> from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and <sup>1</sup> from the south.

Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;  
through their sins they | were afflicted.

They loathed all man-<sup>1</sup>ner of food  
and drew near<sup>1</sup> to death's door.

**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD  
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

You sent forth your | word and healed them  
and rescued them | from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love  
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

Let them offer sacrifices<sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with<sup>1</sup> shouts of joy.

**Reading: Ephesians 2:1–10**

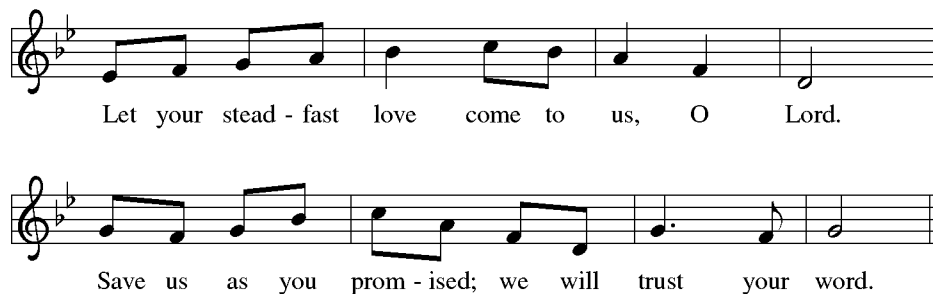
*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader	Word of God, word of life.
Congregation	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Please stand and sing.*



The Gospel is announced.

Pastor	The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Congregation	<b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>

**Gospel: John 3:14–21**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Pastor	The Gospel of the Lord.
Congregation	<b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b>

**SERMON**

*Give Thanks to the Lord*  
*Pastor Sandy Kessinger*

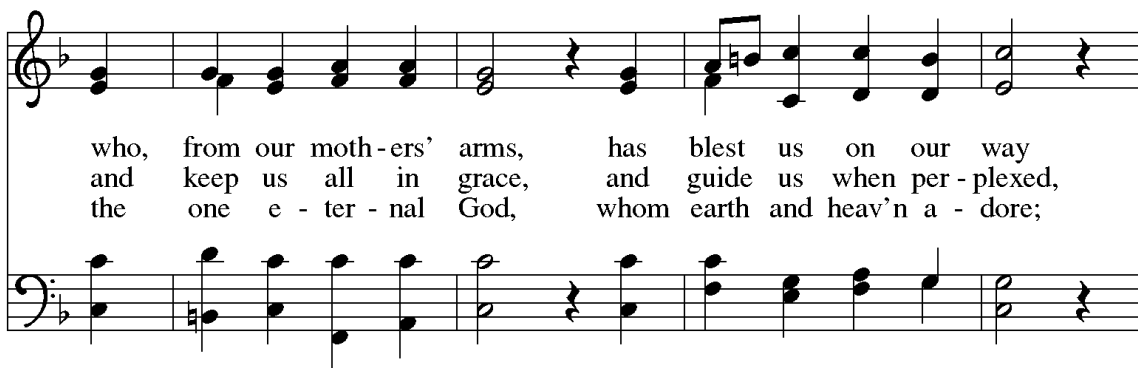
# Now Thank We All Our God



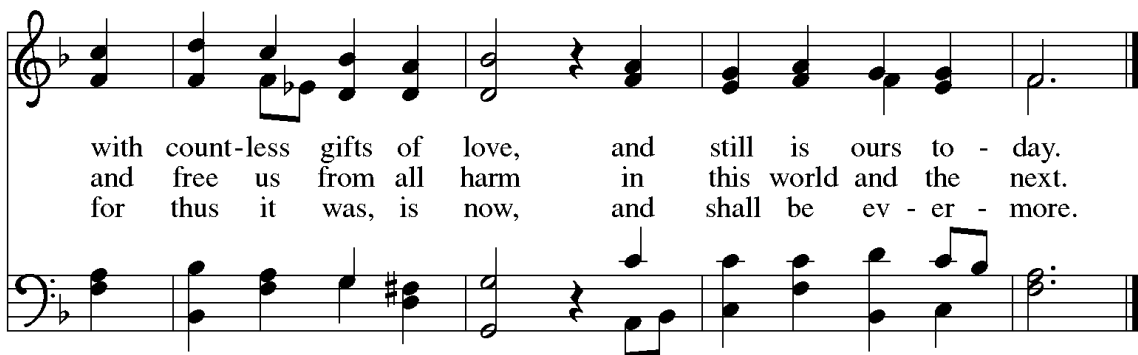
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

## APOSTLES' CREED

Seminarian With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Congregation **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

*Prayers are included for the whole Church, the nations, those in need, the parish and special concerns.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Seminarian Hear us, O God.  
Congregation **Your mercy is great.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

Pastor Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please give as you are able. We appreciate those who give in-person and those who give electronically.*

*Please sign the red attendance book and pass it down the pew.*

## OFFERTORY

*'What Wondrous Love Is This?' America Folk Hymn arr. by Mark Hayes*



## COME TO THE TABLE

### OFFERTORY SONG

*Please stand and sing.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

Let us pray.

**God our provider,  
you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life.  
Bless us and these your gifts,  
which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor                    The Lord be with you.  
Congregation        **And also with you.**

Pastor                    Lift up your hearts.  
Congregation        **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Pastor                    It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
                              that we should at all times and in all places  
                              give thanks and praise to you,  
                              almighty and merciful God,  
                              through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
                              You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
                              and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
                              that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
                              we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
                              And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
                              with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
                              we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*All sing.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Congregation

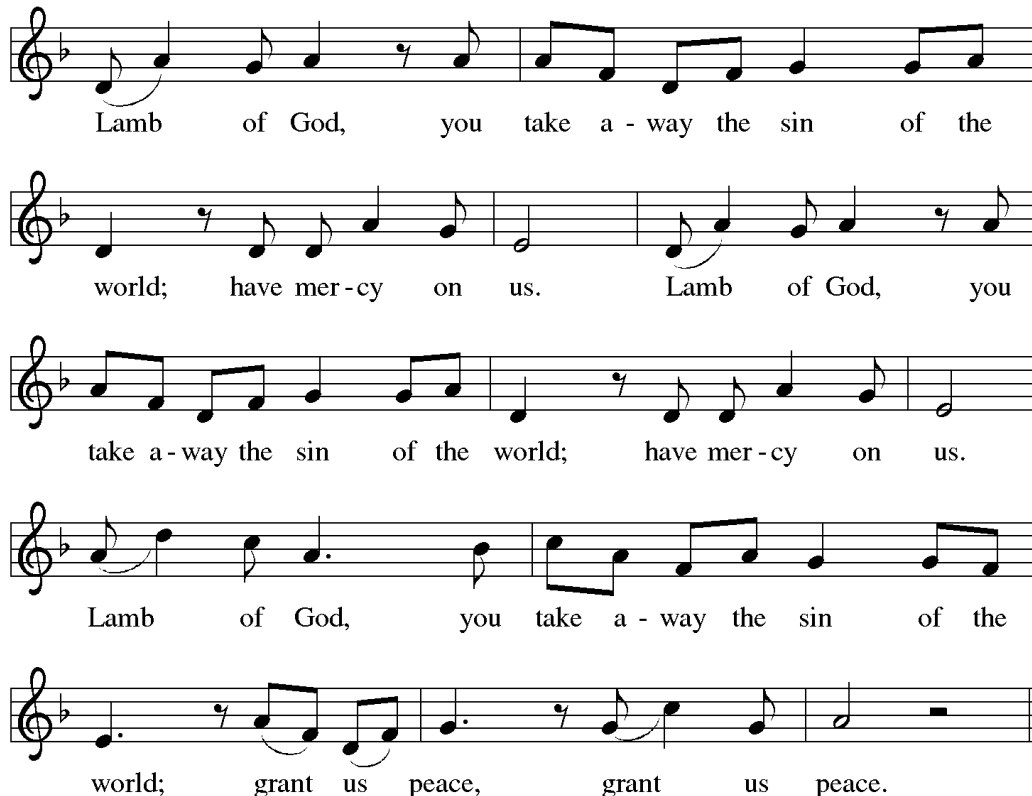
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*All sing.*



### INVITATION TO COMMUNE

#### COMMUNION

***All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.***

*We gather around the communion rail either kneeling or standing to receive communion.*

*Communion will be offered by intinction.*

*For those not comfortable receiving from the pastor's hands a separate tray with preset elements will follow.*

*Anyone not comfortable receiving the bread or the wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*You are an important part of our faith community.*

*In Holy Communion, we believe in the real presence of Christ in, with, and under the consecrated bread and wine.*

*All sing.*

# Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

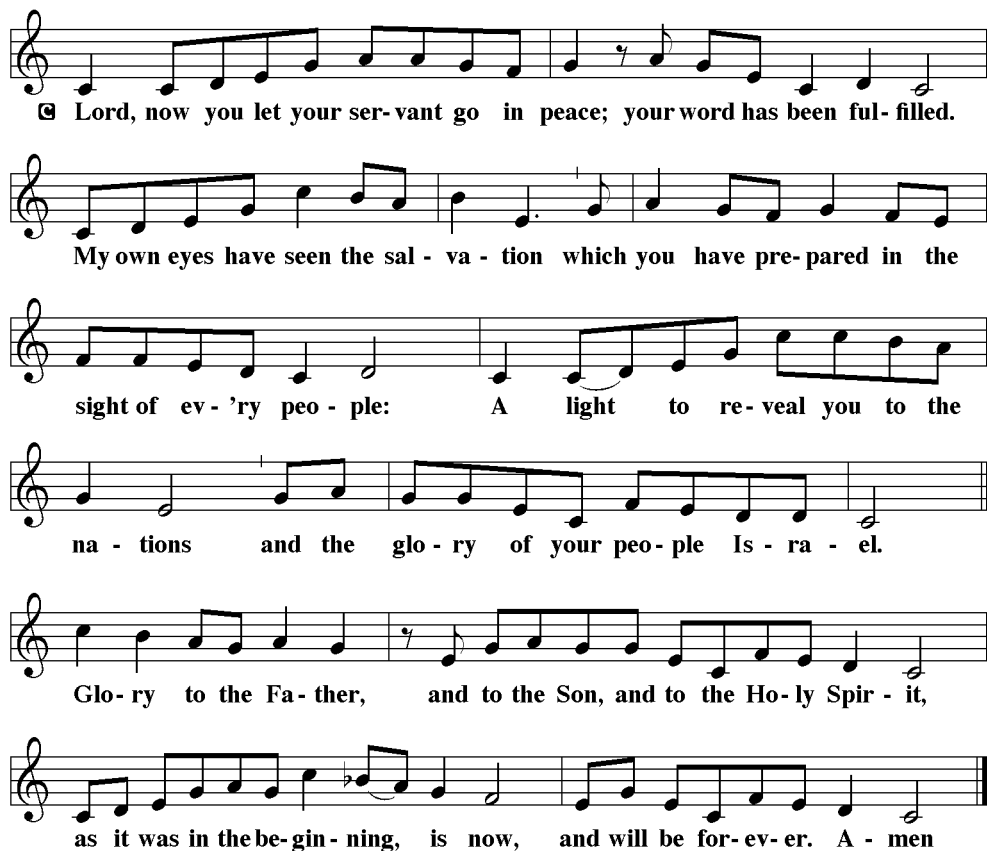
Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.  
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

*Please stand.*

Pastor            The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Congregation    **Amen.**

#### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Please stand and sing.*



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo- ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Seminarian    Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting make us hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation    **Amen.**

#### THE SENDING

##### BLESSING

Pastor            God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
                         and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Congregation    **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING #631

*Please follow the cross, turning toward the cross as it passes by your pew. As the cross leads, so Christ leads us out into the community to share Christ's love.*

*All sing.*

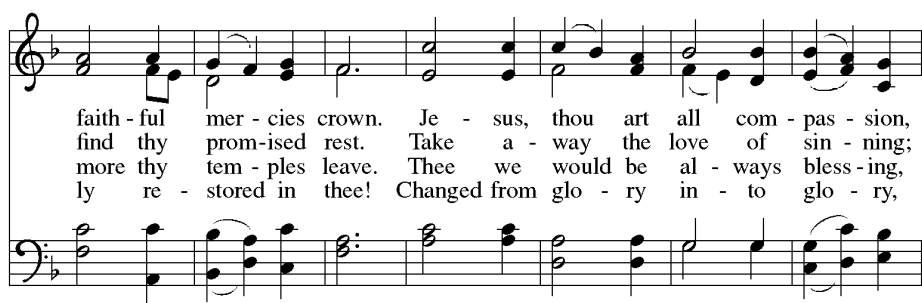
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



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



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - 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!

**DISMISSAL**

Seminarian  
Congregation

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on "Amazing Grace" - Chris Pardini*

**Lifted Up for Us**

“So must the Son of Man be lifted up,” Jesus says. There is a double meaning to this. Just as God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole to effect healing for the Israelites (Numbers 21:4-9), Jesus will be lifted on the pole of the cross. The image of Jesus crucified reveals how human power tries to dehumanize those who threaten the status quo or violate the norms decreed by those at the top of society’s ladder. It is a horror to consider this happening to anyone, but so much more when the victim is the perfect Holy One, God in the flesh. It confronts us with humanity’s rejection of God, in how we treat other human beings and in how we dehumanize ourselves by following our sinful impulses—what Ephesians calls “the passions of our flesh” (2:3).

This, though, is not the only meaning of Jesus being “lifted up,” for “God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” The cross is more than the humiliation of Jesus; it is also his glorious exaltation. The crucifixion of Jesus is his coronation as Lord of all, who rules by grace and mercy. By defeating death in the resurrection, he will indeed disrupt the status quo of shame, violence, and greed through the power of love, truth, and peace.

This was prefigured in the story of poisonous serpents. When the people looked on the emblem of their sin, a bronze model of the snakes that poisoned them after they grumbled against the Lord, they were healed. So, too, when we turn to the Crucified One, we do not find condemnation but salvation. Beholding the Savior lifted up on the cross by our sin, we receive mercy and healing. In the death of Jesus, God forgives and embraces us with eternal life. In the proclamation, prayer, song, and sacraments of our assembly, we remember and affirm that the crucified yet exalted Christ extends saving love to us and to the world.

# **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**

**Children** are welcome in our worship. There is a children's worship bulletin for them. If you prefer, a nursery and/or childcare is available for children up to age 3 during all worship services.

**Hearing help available:** We have for your use, personal hearing amplification units available in the narthex. Please refer questions or comments to an usher.

**Church Phone: 703-356-3346**

**Email: [Church@redeermclean.org](mailto:Church@redeermclean.org)**

## ***Sunday Services***

***8:30 and 11:00 am for the traditional service and 9:45 am for the contemporary service***

*Wednesdays in Lent, February 21-March 20*

*Holden Evening Prayer Service*

*Dinner 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, Service at 7:30 pm*

Next Sunday's Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

*The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthdays of Betsy, Diane, and Judy by Judy Kuhagen.*

*Today we are using Setting 9 from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.*

CCLI License# 1850655

*Please return this bulletin to the entrance hall for recycling if you choose not to take it home.*