

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



**The First Sunday of Lent
Installation of Church Council
Sunday 9:30am, February 22, 2026
Monday, 7:30pm, February 23, 2026
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool**

Rt. 25A and Sunken Meadow Road

Fort Salonga, New York 11768

(631) 269-6454

The People of God, Ministers

The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor

Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon

Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon

Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music

Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist

Dcn. Kathy Pucci, Ms. Jean Forberg, Mr. Brian Forberg, Ms. Kathy Smith, Ms. Karen Garone, Assisting

Mr. Paul Farber, Ms. Jane Stark, Ushers

Mr. Hendrick Peters, Greeter Monday Evening

Ms. Joanne Pitlick, Mr. Marc Sorensen, Ms. Betty Bose, Readers

Ms. Janice Norton, Altar Guild

Mr. Tristan Minton, Video Production

Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director



**Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America**

**Welcome to Worship!
The First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2025
9:30am**

Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE

“Jesus I Will Ponder Now”

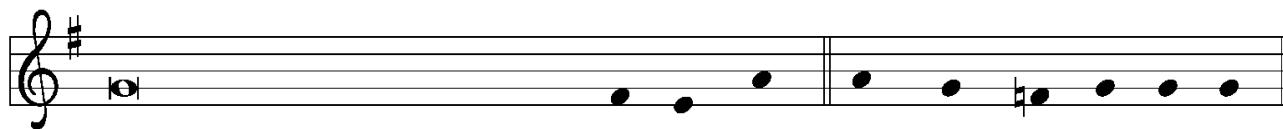
Setting by Paul Manz

GATHERING – The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

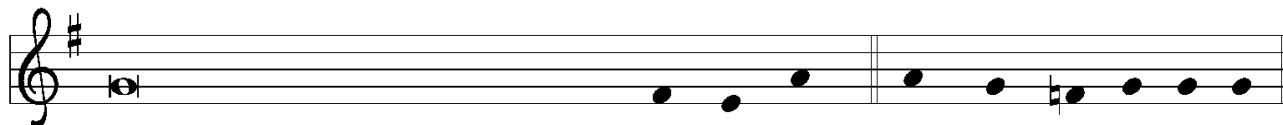
Please stand as you are able

In the name of the Father,
and of the  Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 238 “*The Great Litany*”

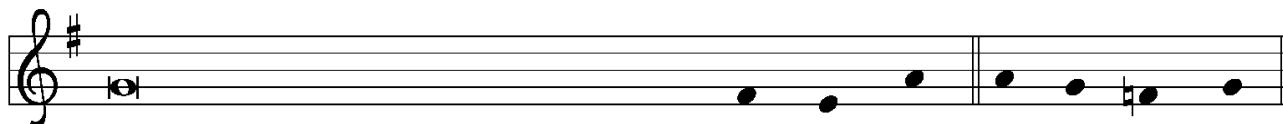


From all sin, from all error,
from all evil;
from the cunning assaults
of the devil;
from an unprepared and e - vil death: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**



From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedi tion and treason: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**

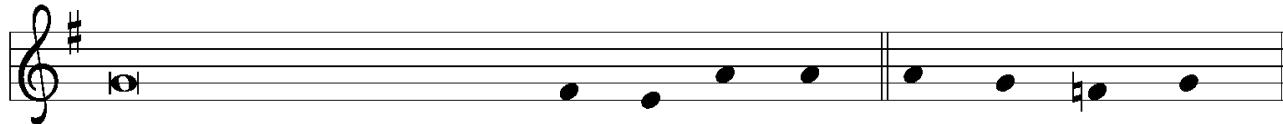
From epidemic, drought, and famine;
from fire and flood, earthquake,
lightning, and storm,
and from ever last - ing death: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**



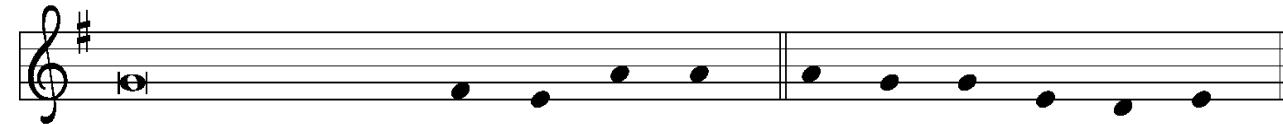
By the mystery of your incarnation; by your ho - ly birth: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial: **Help us, good Lord.**

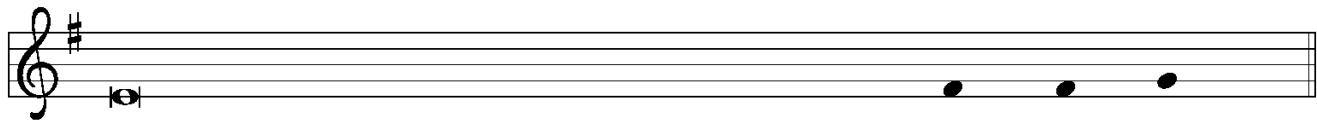
By your resurrection and ascension;
by the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Help us, good Lord.**



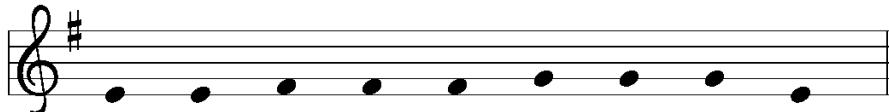
In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment: **Save us, good Lord.**



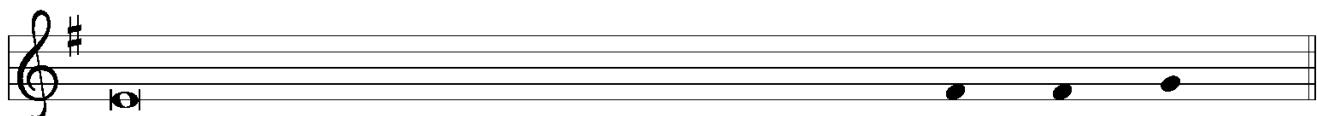
Though unworthy, we im - plore you to hear us, Lord our God.



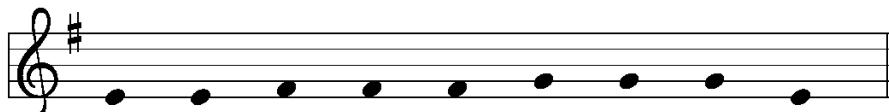
To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
to guide all servants of your church
in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms
and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone a - stray:



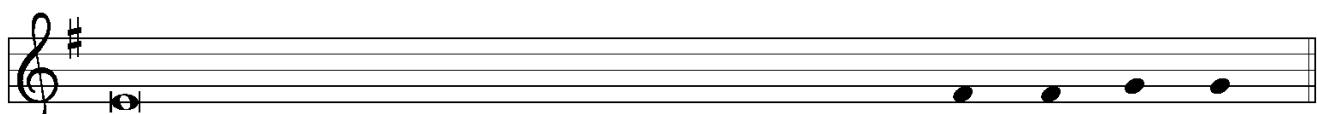
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



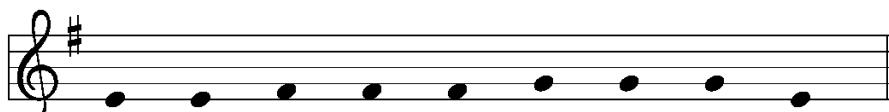
To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall
and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the dis - tressed:



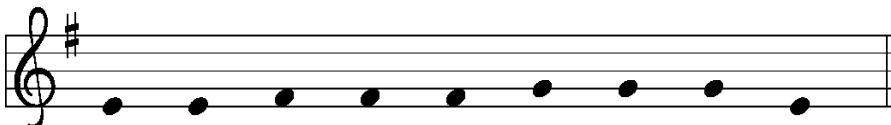
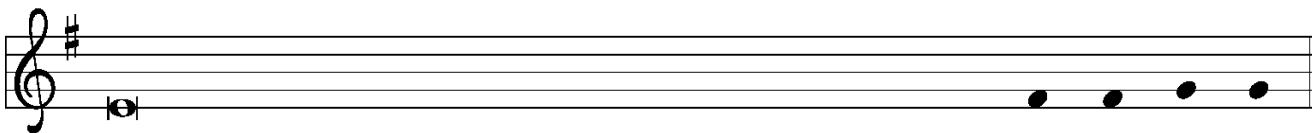
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



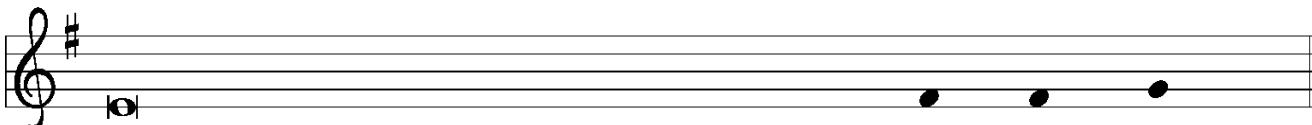
To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our peo - ple:



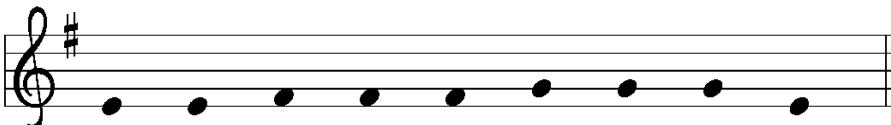
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



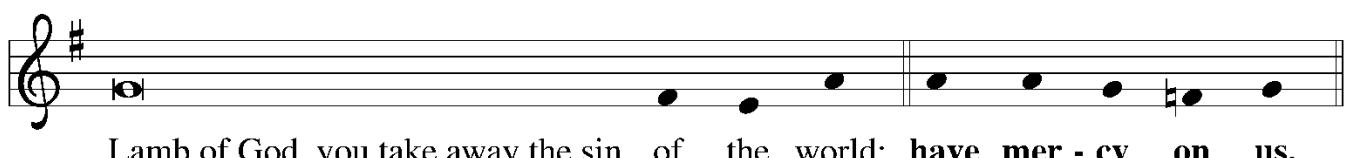
To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:



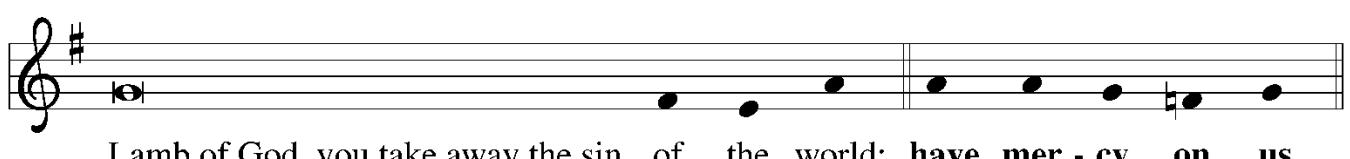
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



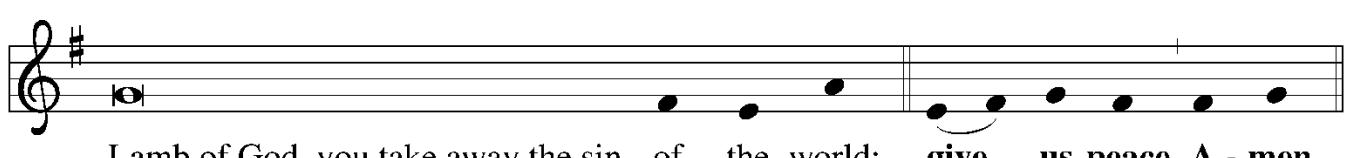
 Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we im - plore you to hear us.



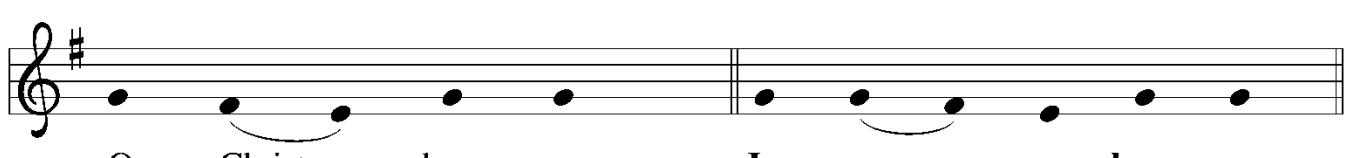
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



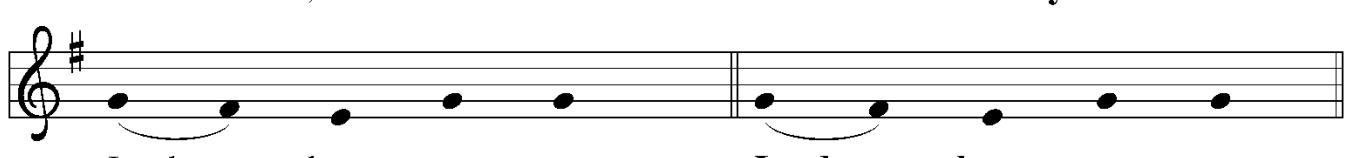
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



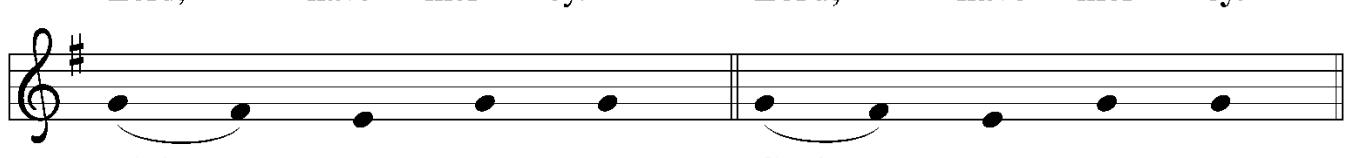
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; give us peace. A - men.



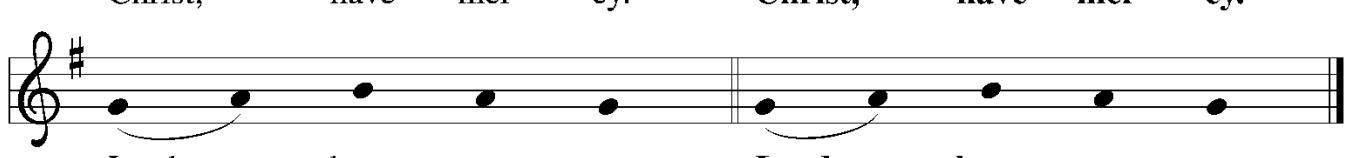
 O Christ, hear us. In mer - cy hear us.



 Lord, have mer - cy.



 Lord, have mer - cy.



 Christ, have mer - cy.



 Lord, have mer - cy.

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GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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 – God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please sit

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

A Reading from Genesis

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat

from any tree in the garden?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32

(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)

Response



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

Psalm 32:10

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¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **R**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. **R**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

A Reading from Romans

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the

gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL 769 (st. 1)

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

***If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.***

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

*'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of

the temple,⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL 769 (st. 4)

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

*Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully.
Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
you'll find this promise true to be.
This is our confidence indeed:
God never fails in time of need.*

Please sit

REFLECTION

Please stand as you are able



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

breathe with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: “Your mercy is great.”)

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding “your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, especially Vicky, Joseph, Aleen, Sally, Jane, Brooke, Dylan, Stephen, Betty, Laurie, Jennifer, Doris, Bill, Jim, Anthony, Karen, Joan, Matt, Grace, Richard, Lucille, Bobby, Mariette, Ella, Jessica, [], those on our prayer list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Please sit

ANTHEM

“Stand Up for Jesus”
Resounding Praise Bell Choir

Jason Krug

OFFERING

NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE



Please stand as you are able

OFFERING HYMN 339 (st.1)

“Christ the Life of All the Living”

*Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

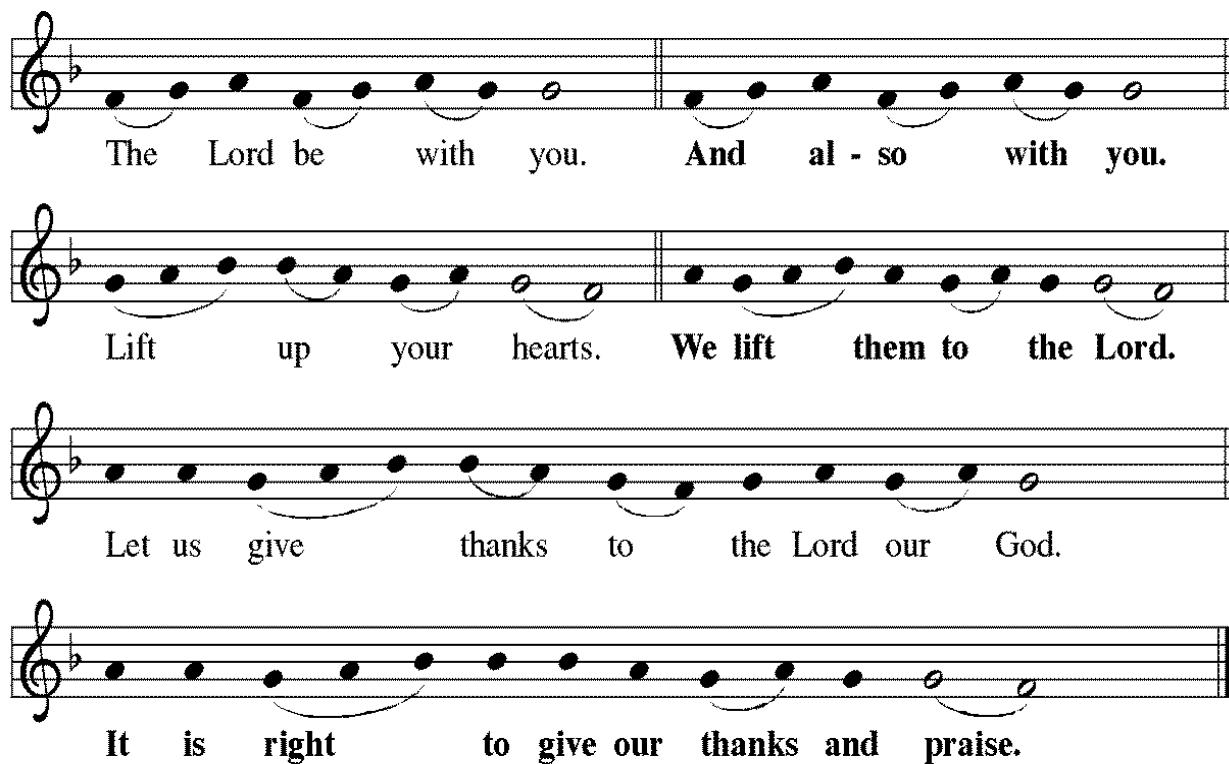
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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.

P: 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:

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 in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
 Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With Blessed Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, Peter the Apostle,
Mary Magdalene, the first to see the Risen Lord, and
your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.

O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and we shall be healed.

ANGUS DEI

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. A - men.

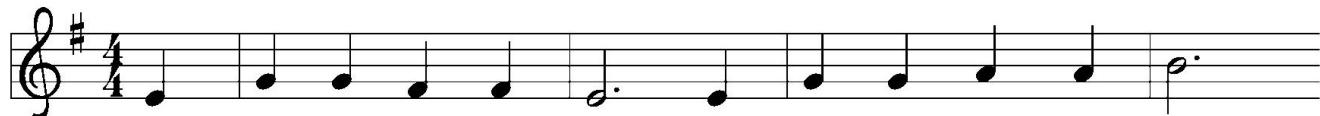
Please sit

THE DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that along with the bread and wine we receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to the Lord's table to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament will be distributed in one or two continuous lines at the main aisle. The bread is received in the hand and the communicant then proceeds to a gold chalice for intinction or to a crystal chalice to drink from the common cup, or if so desired, the communicant may receive only the bread.

Please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten free wafer. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

COMMUNION HYMN 599 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



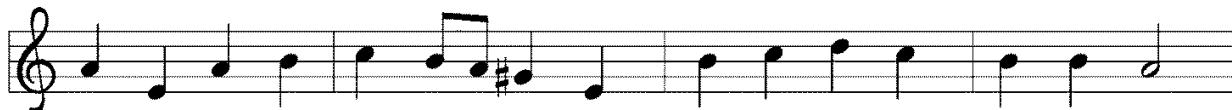
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom-ised rest.
through dark-ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the_e-ter - nal bright-ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

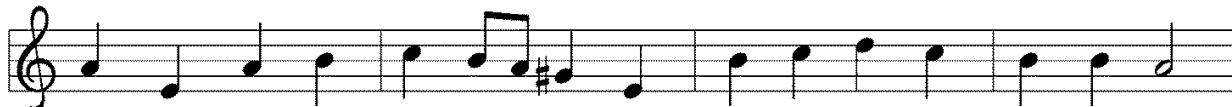
Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

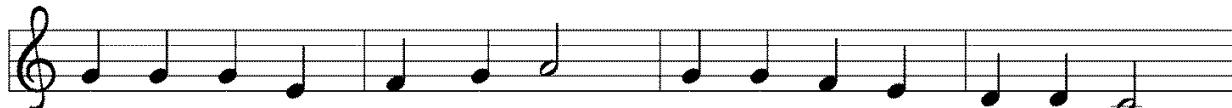
POST COMMUNION HYMN 811 “On My Heart, Imprint Your Image”



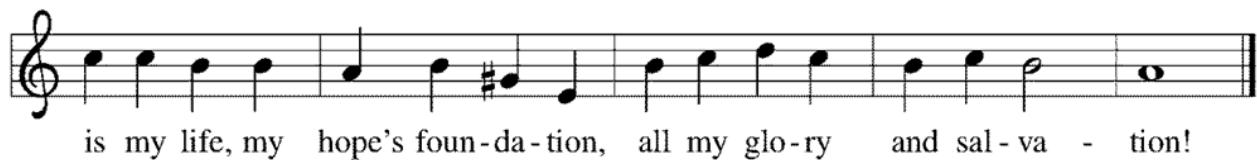
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless-ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING – God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

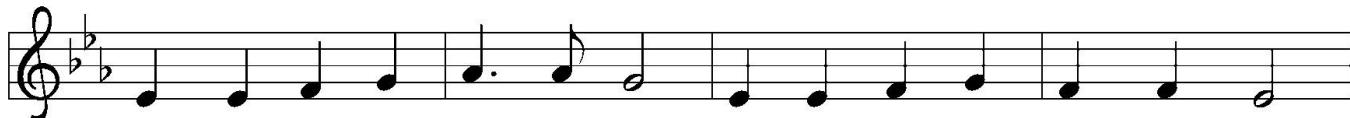
BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ⁺ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

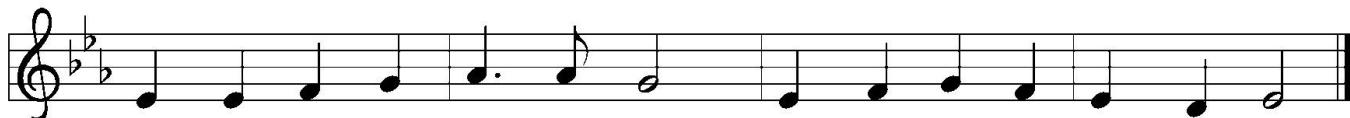
SENDING HYMN 609 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

DISMISSAL

Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve.

All are welcome!

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Prelude on the First Tone”

Jaques Boyvin

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IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING ARE: Alie, Rakel Anderson, Annette, Jean B., J. Bauer, Cael Begley, Margaret Belt, Rich Bender, Karin Bergesen, Betsey Berry, Anthony Bonello, Betty Bose, Brenda, Bobby Burns, Annabelle Carini, John Carini, Fran Casola, Claire, Anthony Ceriello, Christel Clausen, The Colozzi Family, Nancy Couture, Mitch Crowley, Jackie DeVille, Avery Doino, Mary Donnelly, Elaine, Wayne Erickson, Felix, Melinda Geis, Ella Giana, Sal Giannotta, Frank Gonzalez, Kristen Bruce-Gonzalez, Gregory, Thomas H., Ed and June Heidelberger, Charlie Hoffman, Jennifer Hoffman, Josephine Hoffman, Herbert Holzmann, Jennifer Howard, Dylan Israelian, Joanne, Joe, Cliff Johnson, Brian Kennedy, Judy Korsh, Erik Krisch, Kristen, Melissa L., Terry Lago, Douglas Lozel, Marissa Luethi, Loretta Lusteg, Laurie Mandel, Mason, Thomas Medlin, Mel, Melissa, Stancy Mentnech, Herb Menzel, Doris Meyer, Katy Monte, Terry Moore, Jennifer Morrell, Debra Morsello, The Murphy Family, Steven N., Matthew Naeher, Kim Nallan, Jane O'Brien, Lucille Ochal, Pamela, Rose P., Patrick, Paul, Richard Pecchio, Dorothy Philcox, Keith Philcox, Jessica Pucci, Ron Pucci, Joseph, Joan and Matt Reilly, Grace Revere, Lynn R., Margaret Rizzo, Doris Roche, Charlotte Roessle, Jim Rogin, Nancy Rosen, Ruth, Jordan S., Sal, Susan Salerno, The Seale Family, Joan Sepp, Jeff Smith, Jeffrey Starke, Stephen, Suzanne Stoklosa, Annette Swanson, Gavin Tarsio, Todd, Peter T., Anna T., Julie Tiberie, Michael Wagner, Peter Weichner, Bill Witte, Kathy Zieran, Erwin Zimmermann.

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS are dedicated by Mom and Dad for our angel daughter Jenn who continues to light up our lives with love and hope. You live forever in our hearts.

THE BREAD AND WINE are dedicated by Katie and Haley. Happy birthday in heaven Mom. Five years without you and not a day goes by that we don't miss you. We carry your love and strength with us in everything we do, and we hope you can feel how deeply you're missed and celebrated. We love you forever.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE burns this week with warmest love and joy for the gift of our beloved sister Jenn. You live strong in our hearts every day and continue to shine bright in our lives. Until we meet again, our precious Jenn. Eternal love, Laura and Karen

THE CANDLES OF GRACE are lighted in memory of our Aunt Jenn. Our favorite memories are with you, and we know someday we will be together again! We love and miss you so much, Tyler and Ana.

Daily Bible Readings for Year A (February 22 – March 1)
From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 2/22	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11
Mon 2/23	Psalm 32 1 Kings 19:1-8 Hebrews 2:10-18
Tues 2/24	Psalm 32 Genesis 4:1-16 Hebrews 4:14—5:10
Wed 2/25	Psalm 32 Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28 Matthew 18:10-14
Thurs 2/26	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:1-3 2 Timothy 1:3-7
Fri 2/27	Psalm 121 Micah 7:18-20 Romans 3:21-31
Sat 2/28	Psalm 121 Isaiah 51:4-8 Luke 7:1-10
Sun 3/1	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

Monday, February 23, 2026

7:30 pm

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the  Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

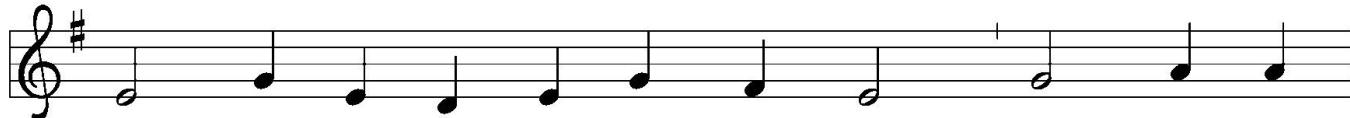
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

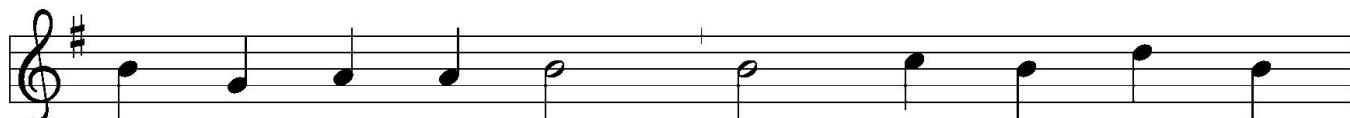
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your 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.

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. **Amen.**

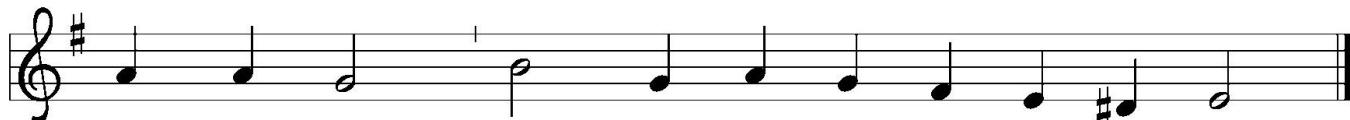
GATHERING HYMN 320 *“The Glory of These Forty Days”*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



breathe with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

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GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with

you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

REFLECTION

Please stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: "Your mercy is great.")

¹ Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding "your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, especially Vicky, Joseph, Aleen, Sally, Jane, Brooke, Dylan, Stephen, Betty,

Laurie, Jennifer, Doris, Bill, Jim, Anthony, Karen, Joan, Matt, Grace, Richard, Lucille, Bobby, Mariette, Ella, Jessica, [], those on our prayer list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?

SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE



OFFERING HYMN 339 (st.1)

“Christ the Life of All the Living”

*Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.

**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.**

**Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.**

Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he (+) who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

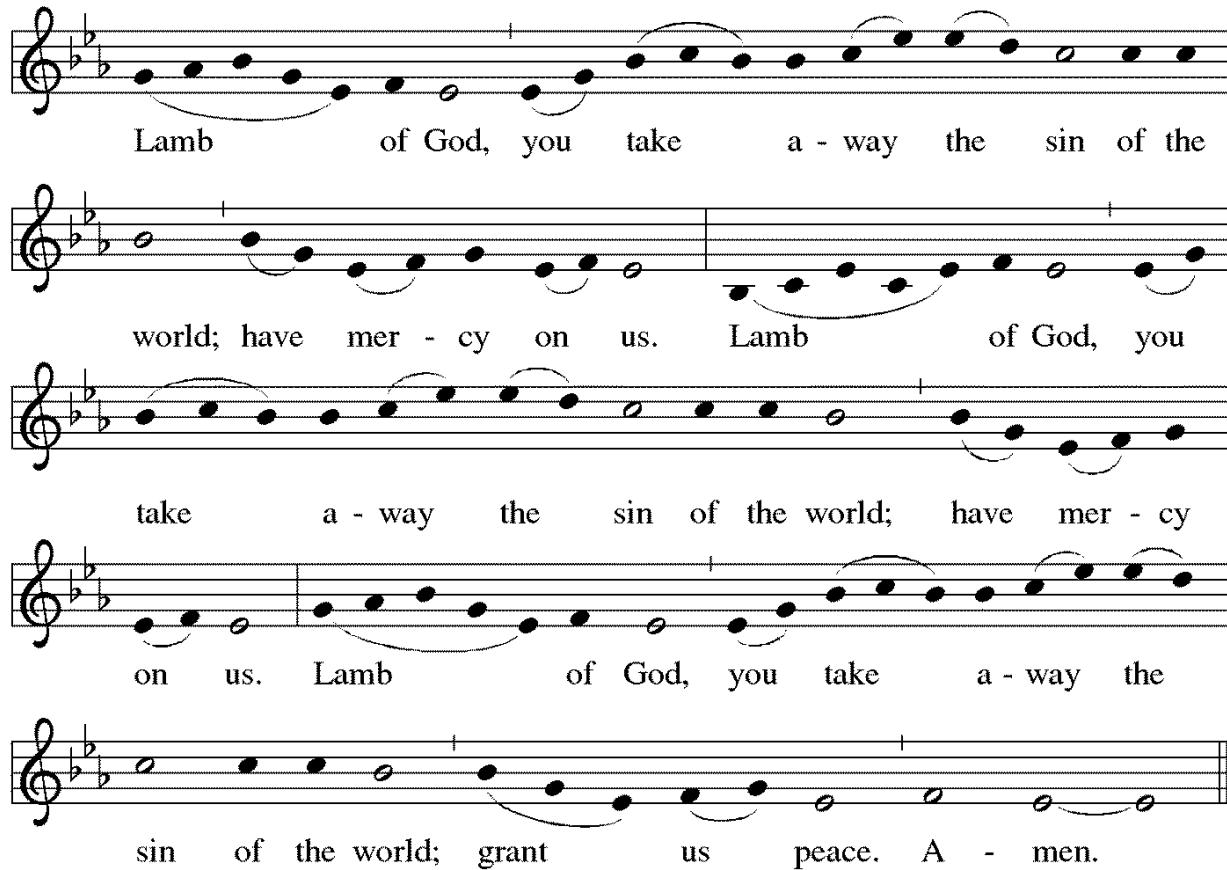
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.

O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and we shall be healed.

AGNUS DEI



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. A - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Gluten-free wafers are available. When you come forward, please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,

bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ⁺ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 609 *“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”*



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
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As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
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faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

SENDING

A: Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve

C: All are welcome!

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THE BREAD AND WINE are dedicated by Katie and Haley. Happy birthday in heaven Mom. Five years without you and not a day goes by that we don't miss you. We carry your love and strength with us in everything we do, and we hope you can feel how deeply you're missed and celebrated. We love you forever.

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THE CANDLES OF GRACE are lighted in memory of our Aunt Jenn. Our favorite memories are with you, and we know someday we will be together again! We love and miss you so much, Tyler and Ana.

Daily Bible Readings for Year A (February 22 – March 1)
From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

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