



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
Divine Service, Setting 3
10:00 AM

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

465 Pond Path ~ East Setauket, NY 11733

e-mail: info@messiahny.org

website: www.messiahny.org

(631) 751-1775

Rev. David Wackenbuth ~ Covering Pastor

Rev. Charles Bell ~ Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon

Mr. Chris Cuvier ~ Organist

WELCOME TO MESSIAH!

To all who carry a burden of sin and need a Savior; to all who wish to rejoice and give thanks; to all who are strangers and need a Church home; to all who are lonely and long for companionship; to all who worship the Lord, our Creator; to all who hunger for the Word; to all who are weary and need rest, the people of Messiah, in the Spirit and Name of Jesus, say
WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, we ask you to please introduce yourself to our pastors (don't worry, they're friendly!) and please sign our Guest Register in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in your bulletin. This will help us to get to know you better!

If you would like us to pray for you (or with you), please see one of our pastors before the church service or write a prayer request on the back of the yellow card.

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church exists in order to lead people to faith in Christ Jesus and Fellowship in His family, to celebrate His presence in worship and the study of His Word, and to use all their God-given Time, Talents, and Treasures according to His Will in the ministry of His church and mission to the world.

PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORSHIP:

On entering a church

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Before worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

Before confession & absolution

Almighty, everlasting God, for my many sins I justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, who won for me forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant me a true confession that, dead to sin, I may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Before communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

After communing

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Prelude

Welcome

The order of service for today may be found in the Hymnal, page 184.

Stand

Opening Song: Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You. I want to see You. (*repeat*)

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You. I want to see You. (*repeat*)

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. I want to see You. (*repeat*)

I want to see You. I want to see You.

Text: Paul Baloche
Text: © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, admin. Integrity Music CCLI Song # 2298355. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 21243036. Used by permission: CCLI Copyright License no. 21243036

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

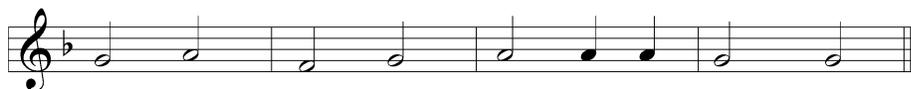
My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie

LSB 186



G Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



G A - men.

Sit

Children's Message

Any children present (and Mom and Dad, too!) are encouraged to come up to the chancel.

Lectionary Summary

By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. "For his righteousness' sake," He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns "the darkness before them into light" (Is. 42:16) because He is "the light of the world" (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh "while it is day," until that night "when no one can work" (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though "at one time you were darkness," now "you are light in the Lord" (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to "awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead" (Eph. 5:14).

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

C [O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the
shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse of the Day

Psalms 36:9

With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷He 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?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”

³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955
 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
 Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004183
 Tune: Public domain

Sermon ~ "Seeing the 'I' Doctor"

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

The response for the prayers of the church is as follows:

- P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

The Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3). You are invited to greet one-another in whichever manner you are comfortable.

Service of the Sacrament

In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. Therefore, we invite all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Christian faith and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table. If you have any questions about this, please speak to our pastor. He will be happy to discuss it with you.

If you do not wish to commune or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. When you come forward toward the altar, please ask the pastor if he would bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir-it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Prior to the communion liturgy, we ask that all attendees fill out the yellow attendance card in the pew.

When the usher dismisses your row to go to the altar, please hand your yellow card to the usher. Thank you!

Distribution Song: Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
Let us do His good will; He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Chorus:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross
But is blest if we trust and obey. (*Chorus*)

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows and the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey. (*Chorus*)

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey. (*Chorus*)

Text: John H. Sammis, Daniel B. Towner
Text: Public domain

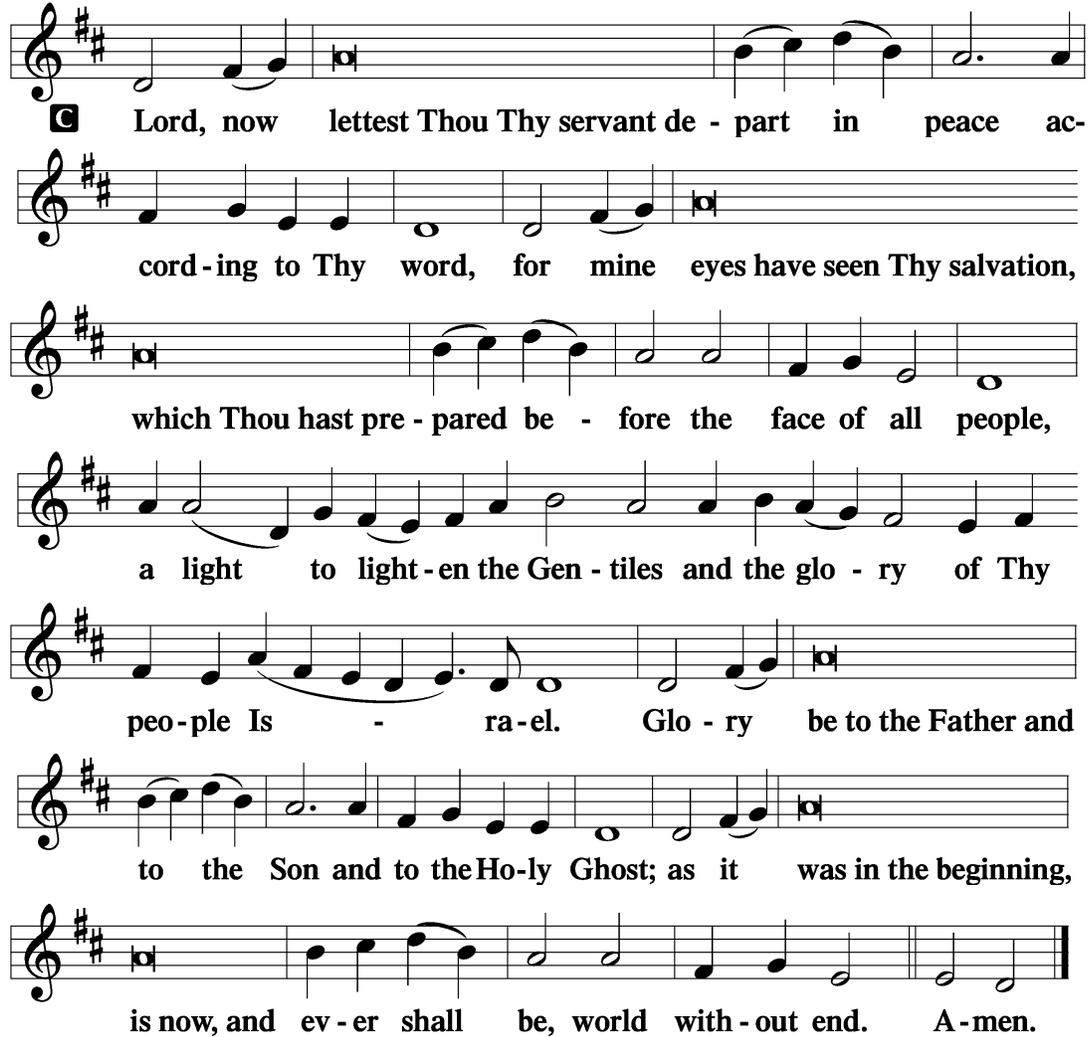
The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

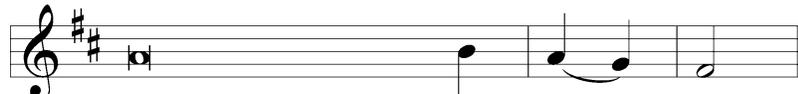
LSB 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,


C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

Matters of Importance

Stand

Closing Hymn: 697 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1	A - wake,	O	sleep - er,	rise	from	death,	And
2	To	us	on earth	He	came	to bring	From
3	Then	walk	in love	as	Christ	has loved,	Who
4	For	us	Christ lived,	for	us	He died,	And



Christ shall	give you	light;	So	learn	His	love,	its
sin and	fear re -	lease,	To	give	the	Spir -	it's
died that	He might	save;	With	kind	and	gen -	tle
con -	quered	in the	strife;	A -	wake,	a -	rise,
						go	



length	and	breadth,	Its	full -	ness,	depth,	and	height.
u -	ni -	ty,	The	ver -	y	bond	of	peace.
hearts	for -	give	As	God	in	Christ	for -	gave.
forth	in	faith,	And	Christ	shall	give	you	life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984
 Tune: Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829
 Text: © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004183
 Tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.