

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

## March 30, 2025



**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin,  
and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Holy and gracious God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you this day.**  
**Some of our sin we know—**  
**the thoughts and words and deeds**  
**of which we are ashamed—**  
**but some is known only to you.**  
**In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness.**  
**Deliver and restore us,**  
**that we may rest in peace.**  
**Amen.**

*water is poured into font*

As tender as parent to child,  
so deep is God's compassion for you.  
As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.  
As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.  
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

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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.**

## KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING:**

A reading from Joshua the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM: 63:1-8

MLC Psalm tones by J. Abrams 2024

MLC Psalm Tone III



## PSALMODY 32 (sung)

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.

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

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you  
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

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

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> 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."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

## SECOND READING:

A reading from 2 Corinthians the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

<sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



# HYMN/SONG OF THE DAY ELW 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## CREED

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 OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world,  
and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ.  
As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of  
reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance  
and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.  
God of grace, **hear our prayer**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially*) Claudette Briere, Ed Costa, Jeanette Renna, Norm and Polly Cote, Deloris Jay, Carol Clark, Sandy Bahr, Elia Herlinda Soteldo Cuica, Kayann Laughlin, Terri Yensz, Timothy Alexander, Ed Costa Sr. The Wurst Family, Eveleen Barcomb, Rev Bob and Shirley Kocher, Carly Hoeni, Marge Ball, Shelly Stama, Richard Ball, David Rinas and Mary Heath (Pastor Erica Kennedy's mother), Family and Friends of James F. Rosse Sr. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst, such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries including Share, bless the efforts of AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, Border Servant Corps, His mansion. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (especially). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**

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

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

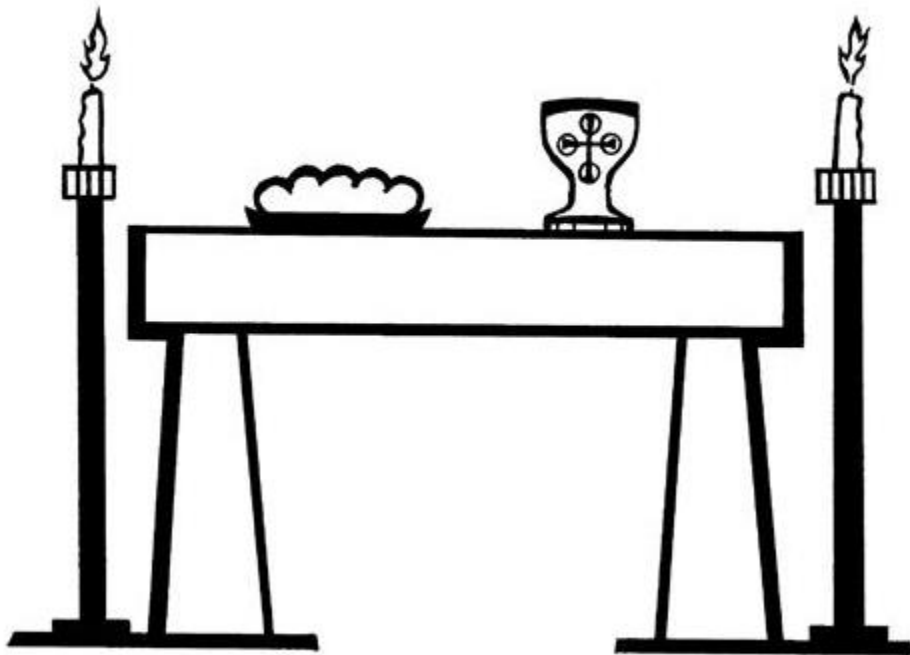
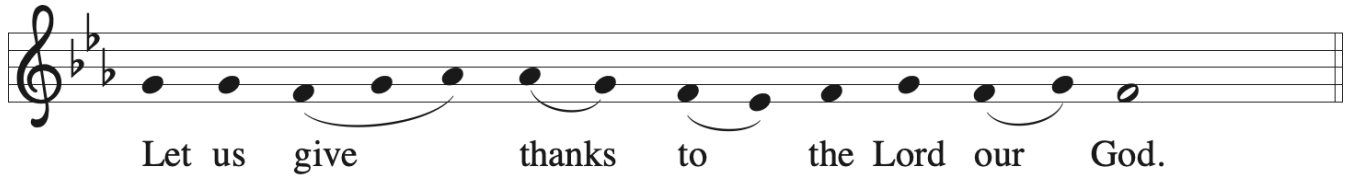
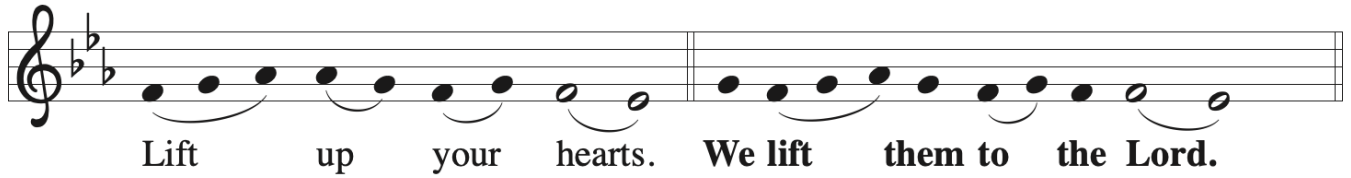
**And also with you.**

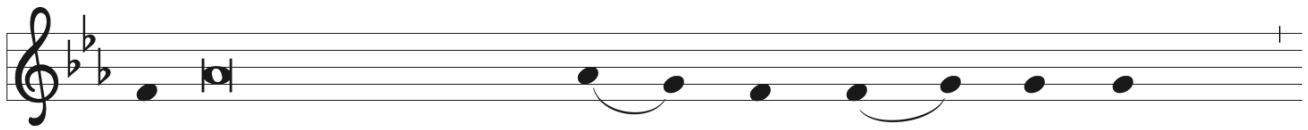
## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

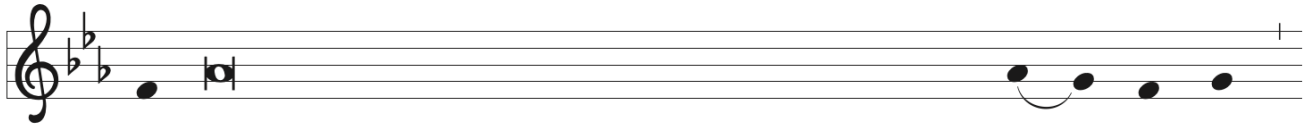
God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

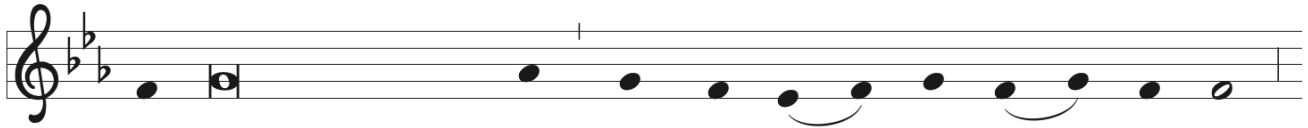




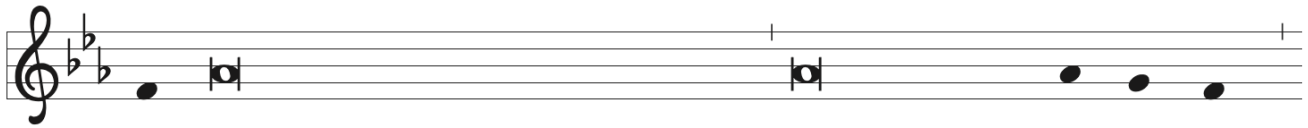
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



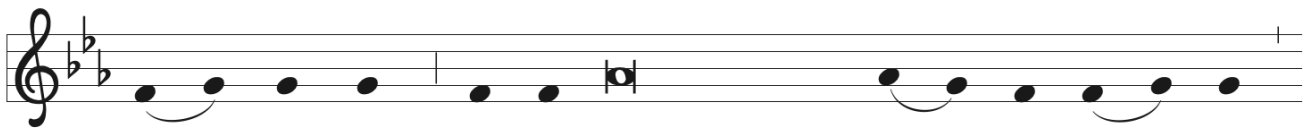
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



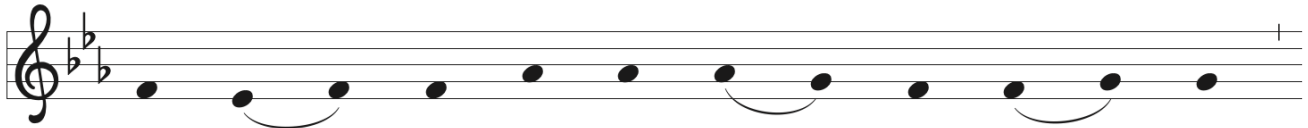
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



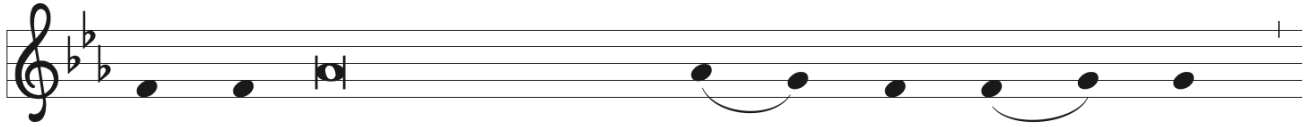
pas - chal feast, that, re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



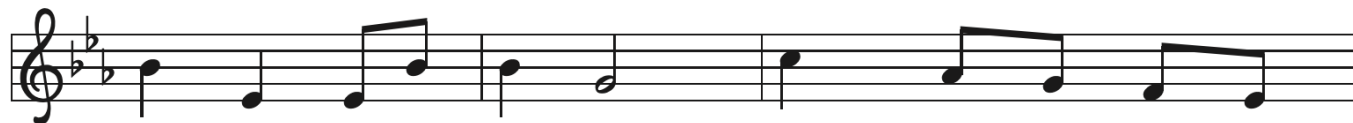
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



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



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty and merciful,  
your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.  
**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise  
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,  
granting them life and calling them to flourish,  
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,  
the colors of your love and faithfulness.  
Your mercy endures forever.  
**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise  
you bound yourself to your people of old,  
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars  
and calling them to be a blessing to others,  
showing them steadfast love in every generation  
and calling them to be a light to the nations.  
Your mercy endures forever.  
**Your mercy endures forever.**

By your promise  
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,  
grafting us into your living Vine,  
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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 his life laid down and lifted up  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless us to be a blessing.  
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.  
Send us to tend and cherish the earth  
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,  
in your Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

# COMMUNION



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN/SONG ELW 779

Amazing Grace

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

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

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

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



A - ho - ra, Se - ñor, se - gún tu pro - me - sa, pue - des de -  
At last, Lord, your word of prom - ise ful - fill - ing, you let your



jar a tu sier - vo ir - se en paz. Por - que mis  
ser - vant go forth in free - dom and peace. With my own



o - jos han vis - to a tu Sal - va - dor, a quien has  
eyes I have seen the sal - va - tion you have pre -



pre - sen - ta - do an - te to - dos los pue - blos: . . .  
pared . . . in the sight of all of the peo - ples: a



luz pa - ra a - lum - brar a las na - cio - nes, y  
light that will re - veal you to the na - tions, and the



glo - ria de tu pue - blo Is - ra - el.  
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

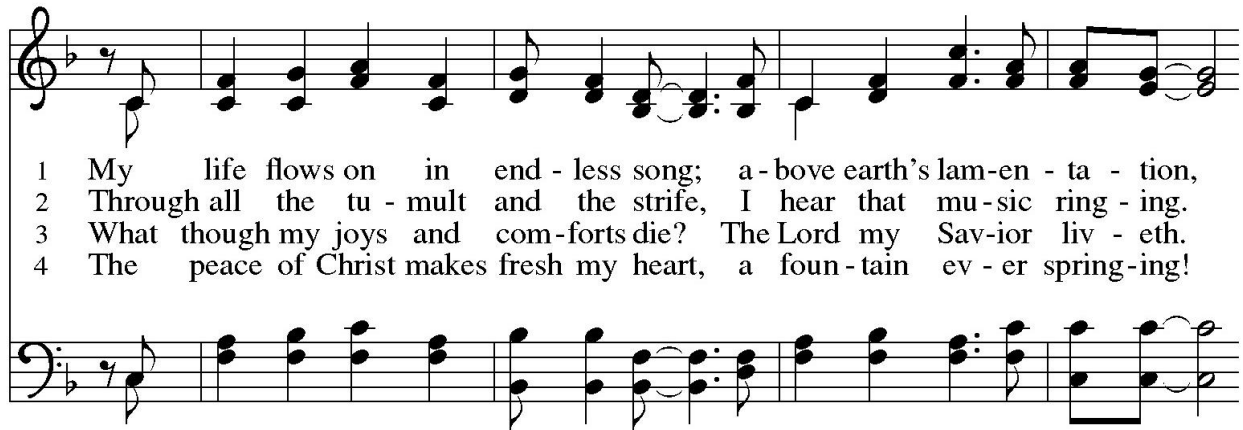
### **BLESSING**

God, the Source of glory,  
God, the Word of life,  
God, the Spirit of truth  
✠ bless you all, now and forever.

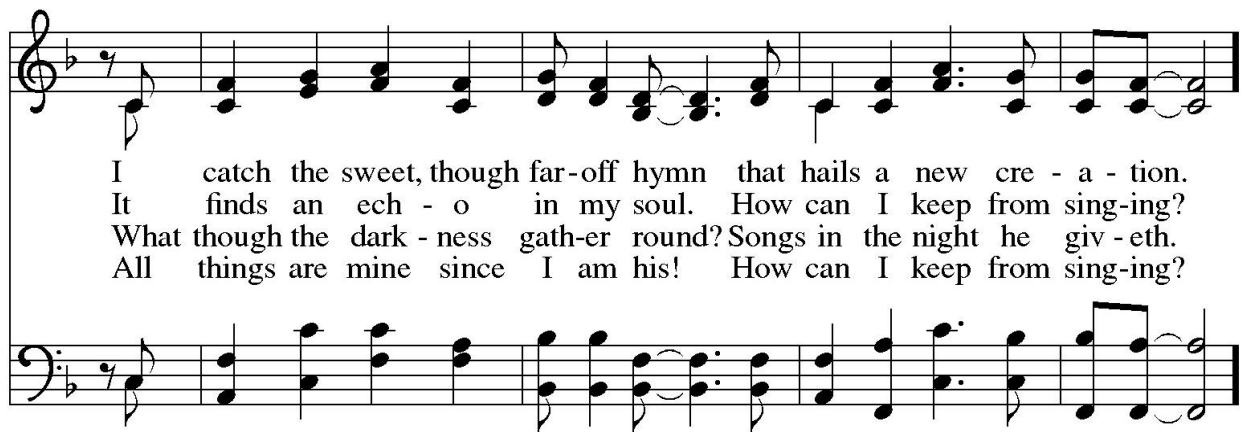
**Amen.**



SENDING HYMN / SONG ELW 763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

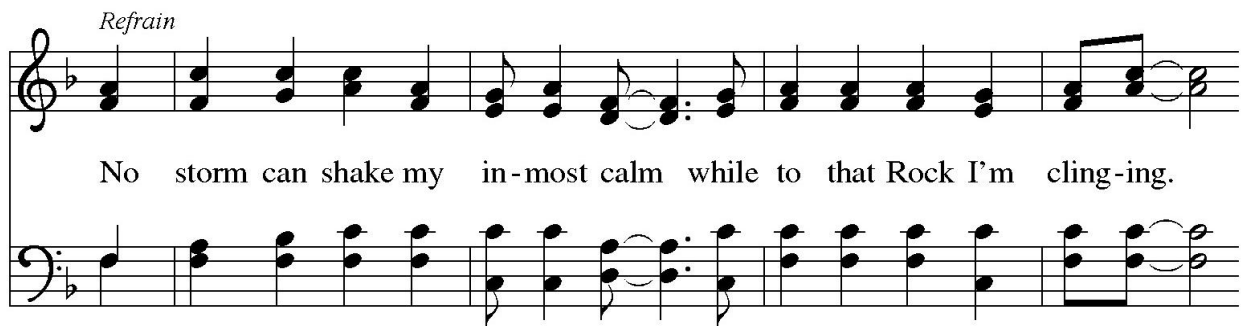


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE Lenten Meditation no. 8

by Jon Abrams



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### **Worship Assistants**

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b>	<b>March 30<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Lent</b>	<b>April 6<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Lent</b>	<b>April 13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday</b>
Preacher/Presider	K. Hester	K. Hester	K. Hester
Liturgist	Doreen Rinas	K. Seckinger	T. Costa
Music Director	J. Abrams	J. Abrams	J. Abrams
Reader	R. Ede	E. Stinnett	D. Cordts
Greeters/Ushers	Neukams	Schurs	Drakes
Altar	M. Ball	R. Meldrum	T. Drake
Bread	T. Costa	D. Integlia	S. Retelle
Tech	R. Neukam	R. Meldrum	K. Duesing
Snacks	Schurs	R. Meldrum/ Doreen Rinas	C. Wisneski
Lead Counter	D. Cordts	D. Schur	K. Duesing